Dr. Estelle Owens Endowed Scholarship

This scholarship, given by an anonymous donor, recognizes both Dr. Estelle Owens’ long service to Wayland and her influence during the donor’s time at WBU. Born in Buna, Texas, she graduated from Jasper High School and received degrees in history from Wayland (1971), Baylor (1973), and Auburn University (1983). She received numerous accolades as a student and faculty member, including Teacher of the Year five times; the Maloney Award and the Sears Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching; the Association of Former Students’ Distinguished Alumni Service Award; and the Legacy Leadership Award. Auburn named her as an outstanding female graduate in 1992. Dr. Owens received a first-place award for her history of the Panhandle-Plains Pastors’ and Laymen’s Conference from the Texas Baptist Historical Society of which she formerly served as president. In 2009, she completed the official centennial history of Wayland. Having joined the faculty in 1974, Dr. Owens was serving as Professor of History, University Historian, and Dean of the School of Behavioral and Social Sciences at the time of the endowment. She was a longtime active member of First Baptist Church-Plainview. The scholarship is awarded to a female student who, like Dr. Owens, personifies strong Christian leadership in the local church and solid Christian witness to the surrounding community; commitment to completing a behavioral or social sciences major or minor; academic excellence and dedication to scholarship; and a willingness to risk the unconventional.