

Joseph S. Garske Legacy Scholarships Awarded for 14th Consecutive Year; MGCSA Legacy Scholarships for 12th

The Legacy Award named after the founder of Par Aide Products Company, Joseph S. Garske, located in Lino Lakes, Minnesota is committed to further the education of children and grandchildren of MGCSA members through financial contributions. This is the 14th consecutive year for these awards.

This year \$1,000 MGCSA Legacy Scholarships have been awarded to Ian Almquist and Christine Diegnau, a \$1,500 Joseph S. Garske scholarship to Kelsey Krause and a \$1,500 Garske scholarship renewal to Elle Clunis.

The late Mr. Garske, who died at the age of 76 in 1982, started Par Aide in 1954 with plans to make a "good" ball washer. A foundry man and avid golfer, he knew little about the golf business, tried to sell his ideas for design and tooling to two accessory companies, was turned down by both and so began Par Aide Products Company.

The Legacy Scholarship was started by Steve Garske, son of the late Joseph S. Garske, in 1996.

"I am pleased to have our company provide these scholarships since for many superintendents, providing a college education for their children requires true sacrifice. I am fortunate to have the opportunity and ability to help," Garske said.

"As a long-time member of the Scholarship Committee some years ago, it always bothered me that we had lots of scholarships available for turf students but nothing for the legacy of current members," Garske said. (Heeding the comments of a long-time Minnesota Superintendent that our committee was working to put him out of a job.) While Steve thought this was a bit of paranoid thinking, it did make him realize that supply and demand works in this industry as well, and if nothing else, an oversupply of eager new superintendents could definitely undermine salaries. However, it was the following that motivated Par Aide to initiate a legacy scholarship program:

"1) Many Superintendents are underpaid, in my opinion, and they truly work a labor of love. Sending a child to college is likely a real hardship. These same Superintendents who now have college age children were the very ones who had been so responsible for supporting our company through all the years and had helped us attain our success. We wanted to thank them.

"2) Our founder, Joe Garske, did not have any formal education and was always conscious of that fact. He had quietly supported at least one young man in gaining a degree. 3) There were lots of turf student scholarships but few if any Legacy awards."

So it seemed obvious to Steve to initiate a legacy program and it was discussed at numerous scholarship meetings. The problem was how to administer such a program. Suppliers to our industry did not want to be in a position of judging one potential recipient/customer against another, and Superintendent members were not comfortable with reviewing personal information and making judgments on each other either.

The idea lay dormant until the discovery of the Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America, now called Scholarship America, an organization that does nothing but review and award scholarships. It's completely impartial and considers all information confidential. The MGCSA quickly agreed to accept the cost of administration and the Joseph S. Garske Legacy was born. The idea was to provide two two-year scholarships to deserving legacy of current MGCSA Members. This program is

thought to have been successful by all and has been in existence since 1996, helping numerous sons and daughters of Superintendents pursue their college educations.

Par Aide Products Co. has continued to prosper and as an expansion of its Minnesota program it now also offers a similar program nationwide through the GCSAA.

Winners of this year's Garske Legacy Scholarships are:

Kelsey Krause, daughter of Rick and Katie Krause. Rick is the Assistant Superintendent of The Minikahda Club in Minneapolis. Kelsey attends the College of St. Benedict.

Elle Clunis, daughter of Kevin and Nancy Clunis. Kevin is the Superintendent at Tanners Brook Golf Course in Forest Lake. Elle is a graduate of Mahtomedi High School and is now enrolled at the University of Minnesota.

Winners of this year's MGCSA Legacy Scholarships are:

Ian Almquist, son of Jon and Beth Almquist. Jon is employed by MTI Distributing, Inc. Ian is a graduate of Wayzata High School. Ian attends the University of Minnesota.

Christine Diegnau, daughter of Paul and Cindy Diegnau. Paul is employed by The Keller Golf Course in St Paul, Minnesota. Christine will attend the University of Minnesota.



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