

## Louise Daniel Scholarship

### Amarillo College

Louise Daniel (1931 – 2003) was a lifelong Amarillo resident, a teacher, an advocate, a feminist, a community activist, and a landscape photographer of her beloved Texas Panhandle. Amarillo College was part of her life from the time that her family moved across the street from the campus when she was five (5) years old. A graduate of Amarillo High School (and a Sandie Hall of Fame honoree), she attended Amarillo College from 1949-1951, earning an associate degree that launched a superlative career in education. The photography department at Amarillo College provided her with an enjoyable hobby, a new career, and many friends. One of her photographs was memorialized by a mosaic mural on the Student Service Center Building on the Main Campus. Daniel was elected to the Amarillo College Board of Regents in 1996 and was re-elected for a second term. She served as chair of the Board in the fiftieth year of her graduation from Amarillo College but resigned because of complications with ALS. Daniel was recognized with the 2003 Amarillo College Distinguished Alumna Award.

A graduate of West Texas State College, Daniel began her teaching career at Avondale Elementary in 1953. She moved to Olsen Park Elementary after six years. She was a teachers' advocate, pushing for better pay and better working conditions for more than thirty-five (35) years. Daniel served as president of the Amarillo Classroom Teachers Association and was a member of numerous committees for the Texas State Teachers Association.

Passionate not only about Amarillo College and teaching, Daniel was also devoted to her community. For ten (10) years, she chaired the City of Amarillo Community Development Advisory Board. She was instrumental in the creation of the Tyler Street Resource Center that assists low-income and homeless individuals. In addition, she served as director of Wildcat Bluff Nature Center and as chair of Pantex Citizens Advisory Committee. Daniel brought her skills as parliamentarian to every board on which she served. She was always ready to help, from offering her home to Chinese exchange students to volunteering with civic organizations such as the Amarillo Branch of American Association of University and the Amarillo League of Women Voters.

Daniel opened many young minds to the wonders of science during her years of teaching. Her influence did not cease upon her retirement. Louise encouraged thousands of students to reach their academic and career potential. Her service as an Amarillo College regent emphasized the importance of the gift of education—the gift of a lifetime for many students.

Daniel was also a strong advocate of women's rights and worked tirelessly toward this mission. The last wish she expressed to her friends was that some event be established to remind women of all ages in our community of their unique history. Her concern was that women were no longer familiar enough with the efforts of earlier women to overcome barriers to equality. Before her death, Louise agreed that an annual women's history lecture could address her concerns and achieve her last wish. Her friends raised the funds to start the luncheons and the scholarship.

The annual luncheons coinciding with Women's Equality Day, the day that women received the vote, and recognizing Panhandle women in various careers began in 2010. Sufficient funds had been

generated to establish the scholarship by 2019, and the first scholarships were awarded in 2021. The scholarship is awarded to women who major in fine arts (preferably a photography major) or a science. The student must maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA and must be enrolled in a minimum of six hours at Amarillo College.

The Louise Daniel Women's History Scholarship is a tribute not only to Daniel but to the women who shared her concern and who gave their time and labor to her vision through the luncheons and scholarship.

Sources:

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