

The American Water Resources Association's Richard A. Herbert Memorial Scholarship is named in honor of Rich Herbert, a former member of AWRA's Board of Directors. Rich had a great interest in water-resources education.

Rich began his career in hydrology in 1976 with the Bureau of Land Management in Denver, and became State Hydrologist two years later. In 1980, he transferred to the Colorado District of the US Geological Survey. He moved to the Louisiana District office in 1982, and while there, became active in AWRA. He was President of the Louisiana Section during 1983-84 and was elected to the AWRA Board of Directors as West-South-Central Director in 1985.



Returning to Colorado, Rich continued on the AWRA Board of Directors as Mountain District Director from 1986 to 1988. He served on many committees, including the Conference Planning Committee, which he chaired in 1988, and the Education Committee, which he chaired in 1989. In recognition of his contributions to AWRA, Rich was given the President's Award for Outstanding Service in 1989. He also received the Icko Iben Award for promotion of communication among water-resource disciplines in 1991.

Of his many accomplishments, Rich was most proud of his role in developing the Water-Resources Education Initiative. He had long been concerned about the lack of interest in water science and the lack of awareness about water resources issues among secondary and elementary students. In 1989, he instigated a joint AWRA/USGS program to promote water-resources education at these levels and to help teachers develop appropriate and interesting curricula. Within five years the Education Initiative had expanded to include four more federal agencies, including the US EPA, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the US Forest Service, as well as the National Science Teachers Association. The products of the Education Initiative continue to be available through the USGS [website](#) and are highly regarded.

As a member of the committee planning of the 1990 AWRA Annual Conference in Denver, Rich convinced the AWRA Board of Directors to split the proceeds of a fund raising auction between the AWRA Endowment-Memorial fund and the Colorado State Section.

Rich left Colorado to become Chief of the USGS Kansas District in 1992. He was diagnosed with cancer in 1993, and died 8 months later, in March 1994.

In June of 1994 the AWRA Executive Committee approved a proposal to rename AWRA's Endowment-Memorial fund to the Richard A. Herbert Memorial Education Fund in honor of his inspiration and essential contributions to water resources education. The proposal was approved unanimously and sent to the Board of Directors who also unanimously ratified it at their next meeting.

Scholarships are available to undergraduate and graduate student member of AWRA who were pursuing research in any aspect of water resources. The first \$1,000 scholarships awarded from the fund were made in 1996 to two students who just so happened to be from the University of Arizona where Rich received his B.S. and M.S. in Watershed Management. In 2004, the AWRA Board of Directors increased the scholarship pool to \$4,000. Today, the base scholarship total is still \$4,000 with an addition amount of half of the donations from the previous year.

We are proud that the Richard A. Herbert Memorial Fund has funded \$68,250 in scholarships over the past 18 years. Thanks to all who have donated to the fund!