

ARCHIE C. TOWLE AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP



FUND BACKSTORY . . .

Archie Towle was born in Merrill, Wisconsin, in 1900. During World War I, he proudly served his country as an Army truck mechanic. After returning from the war in 1920, Archie settled in Wausau, where he continued to work as a mechanic. His curiosity and determination soon led him to a new frontier: aviation. On May 16, 1929, Archie soloed for the first time, marking the start of a lifelong family tradition in flight.

That same summer, Archie shared his love of flying with his wife, Margaret, and their daughter, Marie, who soloed at the age of 16. This moment began a remarkable family legacy - seventeen of Archie's descendants have since taken to the skies, many completing their first solo flights on or near their sixteenth birthday.

Archie played a key role in the early development of Wausau's Alexander Municipal Airport, now known as the Wausau Downtown Airport. As a respected flight instructor, he logged over 3,000 hours in the air, training and inspiring countless new pilots. After his passing in 1945, his daughter Marie and her husband continued managing the airport until 1970, ensuring that Archie's passion for aviation remained at the heart of the Wausau community.

In recognition of their contributions, both Archie and Marie Towle were inducted into the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame in October 2003.

To honor Archie's pioneering spirit and to support the next generation of aviators, the Archie C. Towle Aviation Scholarship was established in 1998 within the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin. The initial gift was made in honor of Archie's eldest son, Larry P. Towle, and the fund continues to be sustained by the Towle family and organizations who share their commitment to fostering aviation excellence.

Through this fund, Archie Towle's legacy lives on, empowering aspiring pilots and mechanics to follow their dreams skyward.



Archie C. Towle in a 1938 photo, at the age of 38 in an American Legion plane.

ELIGIBILITY

- Resident living within a 50-mile radius of the greater Wausau area
- Pursuing a career in aviation/aerospace
- Must be able to pass at least a 2nd class FAA medical examination for flight training. *No exam is necessary for maintenance training*

AVIATION FIELDS INCLUDE (BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO):

- Airline Pilot
- Aircraft Mechanic
- Air Traffic Controller
- Aerospace Engineer
- Astronaut
- Aeronautical Engineer
- Mechanical Engineer
- Flight Instructor
- Airport Manager
- Flight Surgeon
- Electronics Technician

For more information go to cfoncw.org