

D.J. Slack & Margery C. Slack Educational Foundation

Scholarship Value: \$3,000

Mr. D. Jerome Slack graduated from Western Michigan College in 1939. After obtaining his degree in Industrial Arts Mr. Slack taught High School Industrial Arts for three years until the outbreak of World War II. After being drafted he served with the Army Air Corp until his discharge late in 1946.

At that time, his father-in-law had a very small hardware store and, due to poor health, suggested that Jerome move to Thompsonville and take over his little store. With \$3,000 raised from selling his house he took over the hardware and began expanding into building supplies.

The business took off with the post war economy and did very well. Offering special services, custom lumber and other products customers soon came from as far away as Traverse City, Manistee, and Manton. After six years, with business booming, while vacationing over the 4th of July in Wisconsin word came that somehow on the Fourth, the building in which they had their office and lumber had caught fire and burned to the ground. With only \$11,000 of insurance, just enough to pay off loans from the bank he was otherwise penniless. He thought his business had ended.

To his amazement, when he returned instead of finding rubble and ashes, he found more than twenty-five men and boys working to clean up the site. Over three days the mess was cleared away, including more than 100 barrels of cement that had set up when the water was sprayed on the fire, all without power equipment. With the help of these good people, working with picks and shovels, and with the help of the bank and his suppliers he was back in business. Word of the fire actually seemed to act as an advertisement and again the business flourished. He later expanded to Cadillac and sold the Thompsonville part in 1970. He remained in business until his retirement and as he said, was fortunate to have "done well".

Because of the help he had received and his belief that education is of vital importance to young people, he and his wife Margery established the D. Jerome and Margery C. Slack Foundation to offer Educational Scholarships to young people to help them prepare themselves for their life and work.

Criteria for "Slack Educational Foundation Scholarship"

1. The student ought to have better than grades, but need not necessarily be a top student. The student ought to be of good moral character
2. The student should have a plan as to what they would like to do or become and have the desire and will power to accomplish what they would like to do. Preference given to students intending to study Industrial Arts.
3. The students will be attending Northwestern Michigan College,

Essay Topic

The scholarship application must be accompanied by an essay on the goals the student wishes to pursue.

Checklist for Application

Application

Typed Essay