



Thomas Eller Memorial Airport Management Scholarship

WAMA awards annual scholarships to candidates who are pursuing careers in airport management or a related aviation field, excluding professional pilot training. The student must have a proven record of academic achievement, a strong potential to succeed in the future, and a demonstrated financial need. The applicant must also demonstrate potential and show progress toward becoming an aviation professional. Applicants must be a Washington state resident and be enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, in an accredited aviation-related undergraduate program in Washington state for the period covered by the scholarship.

The Thomas Eller Memorial Scholarship program is in memory of Tom's professional service as the Airport Manager of Omak Municipal Airport from 1982-1993, his membership and service in WAMA, and the friendship he readily shared with his colleagues. Please see Tom's full biography on the next page.

Funding level: One student at \$1,000 in 2024.

Full details and application form can be found at

<http://www.wama.us/scholarships>

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Thomas Eller Biography

Tom Eller was born on January 16, 1932 and grew up in Twisp, Washington with his younger brother, Bob. Tom joined the military and served during the end of the Korean War. Upon returning to Washington State, he settled in Omak and found work. After several years at the local lumber mill, Tom joined the City of Omak in June 1982 as the Airport Manager of Omak Municipal Airport. He was an active WAMA member and served on WAMA's Board of Directors 1990-1993.

Tom's vision and impact on Washington state aviation greatly exceeded those few simple lines on his professional resume. As manager of the Omak Airport, Tom devoted energy and enthusiasm to both his and other small airports. He did so via his active membership in WAMA, including his three years as a board member.

On March 2, 1993 Bill Conley, WAMA President, presented a letter to Tom outlining the scholarship in his name "as a recognition of your many years of dedication and contribution to our industry. Much to your credit, the Omak Municipal Airport is an outstanding example of the many non-commercial airports that so well serve business and commerce in the non-metropolitan regions of Washington state through general aviation."

Accompanying Bill Conley and on hand for the presentation were Tom's wife Linda, his parents Howard and Mildred Eller, his brother and sister-in-law Bob and Jan Eller, Arnie Clark – Wenatchee Airport Manager, Mac McIver – WSDOT Aeronautics Program Manager, Omak Mayor Walt Smith, councilmen Waldo Gover and Clinton Watts, city attorney Mick Howe, and Reinhart Jung of Reid Middleton, an engineering firm.

Tom passed away after a brief illness on March 26, 1993. He is interred at Okanogan Valley Memorial Gardens in Omak, WA.

With his family in attendance, the first \$1,000 scholarship in Tom Eller's name was presented at WAMA's Fall 1993 Conference in Leavenworth, in Bill Conley's words, "...as a symbol of his love of aviation and our Association."



Thomas Eller Memorial Airport Management Scholarship

A candidate for the Thomas Eller Memorial Scholarship must be a Washington state resident and be enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, in an accredited Airport Management or related undergraduate program in Washington State for the period covered by the scholarship.

The scholarship is for a student who is majoring in Airport Management or a closely related aviation field. This includes Airport Management, Airport Maintenance, Airport Operations, Airport Engineering, or Airport Planning. It does not include Air Traffic Control, Commercial Aviation, or Flight Education.

The student must have a proven record of academic achievement, a strong potential to succeed in the future, and a demonstrated financial need. Demonstration of financial need is outlined below:

- As a pre-requisite for this scholarship the student must have completed the United States Department of Education Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and received a statement documenting the student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- The student shall provide a statement from the financial aid office of the student's academic institution, which documents the student's Cost of Attendance (COA), any financial aid awarded/received, and the EFC for the academic period which this scholarship will cover.

The applicant must also demonstrate potential and show progress toward becoming an airport professional.

Application forms are available on the WAMA website at:
<http://www.wama.us/scholarships>

**Thomas Eller Memorial
Airport Management Scholarship**

Application Form

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Academic Institution Name/Address _____

Degree Sought _____ Planned Graduation Date _____

Cumulative GPA _____ FAFSA EFC _____ FAFSA COA _____

Requirements:

Must, at the time of application:

- Be a full-time student majoring in airport management or a related field (flight training programs are ineligible).
- Be a resident of Washington State or attending school in Washington State.
- Demonstrate financial need and provide documentation for the academic institution financial aid office as outlined above.
- Demonstrate potential for and progress toward becoming an aviation professional.
- Possess a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.

Provide a copy of this application and a concise narrative addressing the following:

- Why you want a career in Airport Management or related field.
- Honors and/or awards you have received.
- Your civic and/or extracurricular activities.
- Your educational goals.
- Your career goals (short and long term).
- How you are financing your education and how this scholarship will be used.
- Why you deserve a scholarship.
- Any special considerations you wish to bring to the attention of the selection committee.

Award Amount: \$1,000

Submittal deadline: March 31st of this year

Submit application to the WAMA Scholarship Committee via e-mail:

scholarship.grants@wama.us