

Maria West Memorial Scholarship



Established in 2018, the Maria West Memorial Scholarship honors this former Brownsburg Community Schools special education teacher.

Maria graduated from Jefferson Community College and Nazareth University in Rochester, New York where she received a degree in elementary education and sociology. She received her Masters from Albany State with a degree in behavior management.

Maria had a rewarding and diverse work career. She worked as a special education teacher in New York, New Hampshire and Indiana. She opened and ran her own nursery school and worked as the Parent Services Coordinator at the New York State School for the Deaf in Rome, New York.

While working as a special education teacher in Indiana, Maria recognized a need that was not being met when it came to educating children with autism. Maria was instrumental in creating a program at the Brownsburg Community School Corporation specifically for children with autism called the Bridge Program. Later, Maria's skills were put to use within Brownsburg as a special education consultant, working with teachers and administrators to create the most effective learning environment for all of Brownsburg's special needs students. Maria was a gifted educator, parent advocate and problem solver who always put the needs of her students first. She accepted people where they were and worked with them to make things better. She never saw limitations, but only potential in everyone with whom she interacted.

Maria is survived by her husband Rick and children Amelia, Andreana and Tyler.