HELENA COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

The Rick Purcell Memorial Scholarship

After graduating from Capital high school, Rick attended diesel mechanic school, launching a career built on skill, determination, and pride in honest work. He spent many years working as a diesel mechanic, earning respect for his knowledge, work ethic, and willingness to help others. Later in life, Rick chose to share his hard-earned experience by teaching diesel mechanics, passing along not just technical skills but also the values of responsibility, patience, and doing a job right the first time. He found great fulfillment in helping students learn a trade and prepare for their own futures. Rick retired in 2025, closing up a career he was deeply proud of. A scholarship is available to a student who is pursuing a degree or vocational certification in Diesel Mechanic at Helena College. The scholarship has been made available to assist with the direct costs of school.

Amount: $500.00 to one student for the Fall/Spring 2026/27 term

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Students enrolled in the Diesel Mechanic program
2. Students who have been successfully admitted to Helena College;
3. Students who are enrolled at Helena College seeking a degree or vocational certification;
4. Student needs to be successfully working towards their degree and on track to graduate

Application Materials:

- 1-2 page essay on why you love Diesel Mechanics and why you want to work in the field of Diesel Mechanics.
- Student resume
- Two letters of recommendation with contact information (one faculty & one community member)

Selection Decision:
Rick's family will help in selecting the winner along with Helena College Staff & Faculty. The scholarship recipient must write an acknowledgement letter (thank you) to the donors.

Application Procedure & Criteria:
Complete the application form and return it to the Financial Aid Office at Helena, 1115 North Roberts Street, Helena, MT 59601 by Oct. 16th , 2026 at 5 pm.

Deadline: Nov. 30th, 2026

The Rick Purcell Memorial Scholarship Application Page

Applicant Name
_____

Mailing Address_____ **City**

_____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Telephone Number
_____

Program of Study
_____

The scholarship committee/Helena College may submit a notice of the award to the local newspaper or use the award information in public relations documents. The award information may include your name, program and dollar amount awarded. By signing this form you acknowledge and agree that this information may be disclosed.

Signature _____ **Date**
_____