



## John A. Niemi Memorial Scholarship for Travel

### Name and Purpose of Fund

The purpose of the Fund is to provide financial support to a full-time or part-time degree seeking doctoral student, in the Adult Education program at Northern Illinois University, to visit other countries to study adult education.

### Honoree

Dr. John Arvo Niemi was born on December 6, 1932, in Ironwood, Michigan, the only son of Arvo Johannes Niemi, an iron ore miner, and Eva Remes, and the grandson of Finnish immigrants. Like most of the men in that close-knit Finnish community, he was adept as a youth in fishing, logging, trapping, and hunting.

John attended high school and a two-year community college in Ironwood before studying at Michigan State University for his bachelor's degree. He then left for Alaska, where he completed a master's degree at the University of Alaska, became Assistant to the President of the University, and, later, Director of Evening and Off-Campus courses for military personnel and civilians. It was there that he began his lifelong commitment to the study of Adult Education.

In 1975, John was offered a position at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois. There he taught courses in adult literacy, adult learning, and human resource development. During his thirty-year tenure at NTU, John recruited hundreds of students into the Adult Education program, and he led groups of students on study tours to Canada, Estonia, Finland, the Netherlands, and Russia. Their purpose was to examine various aspects of adult education in those countries.

In Finland, the land of his forebears, he taught courses and conducted research at the University of Helsinki and other Finnish universities, and he organized congresses that brought together American, Finnish, and Scandinavian adult educators. His publications consist of more than 150 articles and four books on adult literacy, mass media and adult education, and the use of technologies in the classroom. His honors and awards include the following: Fulbright scholar; Honorary Doctor of Philosophy, University of Helsinki; Distinguished Teaching Professor, Northern Illinois University; Distinguished Teaching Alumnus, University of California-Los Angeles; Honorary Professor, Shanghai Second Institute; and Commander of the Order of the Lion of Finland, that country's highest civilian honor.

John passed away on July 6, 2004, after a brief illness. His colleagues eulogized him as an "exemplary professor and student advocate." When asked about his legacy in an interview conducted several months before his demise, John replied simply, "I would like people to remember that I cared about students."

It is through the generosity of his loving and thoughtful widow, Dr. Muriel W. Niemi, that this endowed scholarship is being established in his memory.

(Updated Fall 2008)



### **Scholarship Criteria**

1. Criteria for this Fund are:
  - a) At the time the award is made, the preferred candidate will be: (1) in good academic standing with the University; (2) a full-time or part-time doctoral student in the Adult Education program with the College of Education; and (3) interested in visiting other countries to study adult education.
  - b) The candidate(s) must demonstrate a desire to visit other countries to study adult education by submitting a written proposal (at least 500 words) giving such details as reasons for wishing to visit the country or countries, individuals or organizations to be contacted, and the estimated length of stay in each country.
  - c) The selected candidate must agree in writing that, within six (6) months of returning to the United States, he or she must submit a written report that would include, but not be limited to the following topics: his or her activities during the visit, observations on the conduct of adult education in the country under review, conclusions and recommendations. The report would consist of not fewer than 2500 words, and would be placed in a permanent file in the office of the Chair, Department of Counseling, Adult and Higher Education.
2. All scholarships awarded shall be for one academic year; however prior recipients are eligible to apply for additional awards in subsequent years, but preference will be given to new applicants.
3. These scholarships shall be awarded without regard to race, color, ethnicity, religion, age, marital status, sex, national origin, disability, veteran status, or any other factor unrelated to the scholarship criteria.
4. In the event a recipient withdraws from the University, or is no longer a doctoral student in the Adult Education program, prior to receiving the scholarship funds, the funds allocated for the scholarship may be granted to another qualified student.

### **Instructions**

Deadline for applications is November 1. Please submit your proposal electronically to: [cahescholarships@niu.edu](mailto:cahescholarships@niu.edu) with the subject heading: John A. Niemi Memorial Scholarship. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Barbara J. Johnson at [bjohnson2@niu.edu](mailto:bjohnson2@niu.edu).

(Updated Fall 2008)



## John A. Niemi Memorial Scholarship for Travel Application Form

Last Name:	
First Name:	
Middle (Maiden) Name:	
Student ID #:	
Classification & Hours Completed:	
Department:	
Mailing Address:	
City, State, Zip Code:	
Telephone (Home):	(    )
Telephone (Work):	(    )
E-Mail Address:	

Please email to: [cahescholarships@niu.edu](mailto:cahescholarships@niu.edu) with the subject heading:  
John A. Niemi Memorial Scholarship for Travel

**All application materials must be received by: November 1**

(Updated Fall 2008)