

THE STEVE ELLIOTT COMMUNICATION DISORDERS SCHOLARSHIP

Steve Elliott spent several years at the University of Wyoming Speech and Hearing Clinic receiving services and developing friendships with faculty and students. In the 1990s, Steve decided to start a small, nonendowed scholarship for speech-language pathology majors at the University of Wyoming. He wanted to give back to the division and show his appreciation for the support he had received from the students.

To raise money for the scholarship, Steve asked his colleagues, friends, and family members to collect cans to recycle for cash. Students majoring in communication disorders would then send their applications to Steve, and he would hand-pick the scholarship recipients.

In 2004 and 2015, Steve's lifetime friend Paul Lerwick donated \$50,000 to the scholarship. This amount was then matched by the State of Wyoming. Since 2005, the Steve Elliott scholarship has given more than \$40,000 to students with awards ranging from \$500 to \$1,500.

The Steve Elliott Communication Disorders Scholarship is available to communication disorders students.

"I am so grateful for this scholarship. I am an out-of-state student and completely financially responsible for my education and this scholarship has helped me immensely in paying my tuition."

- MIKAL FORSETH

"I am so honored to be a recipient of the Steve Elliott scholarship. I am beyond grateful for his generosity and support."

- ALLISON LONG

"The contribution of the Steve Elliott Scholarship Fund helped me attend graduate school for Speech-Language Pathology. I am very thankful for the opportunity that he has helped provide for me so I can accomplish my dream of becoming a SLP."

- BROOKE MASON



UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

"ONE IN A MILLION"



**A tribute to Steve Elliott
and all that he
has done for the
University of Wyoming
Division of
Communication Disorders**

STEVE ELLIOTT

1950-2008

Steve Elliott grew up in Laramie, Wyoming, with his older brother Roger. After graduating high school, Steve made his way to the University of Wyoming where he applied himself to classes and part-time jobs. Steve spent four years completing two years of study because of his writing and hearing impairments. He worked diligently by recording lectures and then transcribing notes after each class. Steve and Paul met at the university in the fall of 1970 and began a lifelong friendship.

After completing his education, Steve worked in the mailroom at the U.S. Forest Service in Laramie for 28 years. He was respected by his peers as both a hard worker and as a friend. His dedication led to being awarded the USDA Outstanding Handicapped Federal Employee award in 1981.



Steve Elliott receiving the USDA Outstanding Handicapped Federal Employee award for his work at the Medicine Bow Forest Service.

Steve Elliott became well known in the Division of Communication Disorders as a client, as well as a friend. Steve volunteered his time by giving speeches to students about the challenges of cerebral palsy. Students often stated that Steve was their favorite speaker. This led to Steve deciding to establish a scholarship. He was admired for his dedication toward learning, willingness to help students, and his outgoing personality.

“Steve was one in a million!”

- JANIS JELINEK

“Steve emphasized the potential that people with cerebral palsy have, and demonstrated it with his own success and career”

“Steve’s legacy lives on because he didn’t look at the disadvantages of his birth. He pushed past his physical limitations and wanted others to do the same. He wanted to give back because he had been given so much. Steve was a friend to everyone he met because he saw the good in all.”

- ROGER ELLIOTT

WHAT IS CEREBRAL PALSY?

Cerebral palsy is a nonprogressive, neurological disorder caused by damage to the brain as it is developing.

This motor disorder affects a person’s mobility, communication, and hand function. The effects on movement vary, but they can include:

- body movement
- muscle control
- muscle tone
- reflex
- posture
- balance

Cerebral palsy can affect the speech mechanisms. Individuals with cerebral palsy often have difficulty communicating, which can impact their functioning in daily life. Dysarthria and apraxia are two speech disorders commonly occurring in individuals with cerebral palsy.

Alternative methods of communication include sign language, gestures, and/or augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices. AAC can be used by individuals to supplement or replace their speech.

Though cerebral palsy can be defined, having cerebral palsy does not define the person that has the condition. This is the amazing legacy of Steve Elliott!