

NEWS RELEASE

April 28, 2021

Omaha – Scholarship Fund to Honor Amber Suttle Tjaden

Former Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle and former Nebraska State Senator Deb Suttle today announced the development of a scholarship fund established on behalf of their daughter Amber Suttle Tjaden at Metropolitan Community College. This scholarship supports tuition, books, or other materials that students need for their program of study. The scholarship is open to all MCC students, but Gateway to College students are preferred. Financial need is not required, but it is a priority.

Amber Tjaden was a passionate teacher who spent her life helping students from middle school to college achieve their educational goals. She was a special education teacher in the Omaha Public Schools for two decades before becoming the Director of Metro's Gateway to College Program. According to her students, Amber brought stability to their lives and gave them hope to envision bright futures for themselves.

Amber was also a very devoted mother of four. Savannah is a senior at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Kellan is a student at Iowa State University, and McClain and Maximus are students at Conestoga Elementary in Murray, NE. Amber died unexpectedly in late January at the age of 48. Her parents, Jim and Deb Suttle, sister Adele Suttle along with her husband Mike Lewis and son Alex Lewis, as well as Amber's four children wanted to sponsor this scholarship fund to honor the memory of her devotion to young people and to education.

The first "Amber Suttle Tjaden Memorial Scholarships" will be awarded for the upcoming school year. There is both a short-term fund (expendable) for immediate awards and a long-term fund (endowment) to make this scholarship available for students in perpetuity.

Those interested in contributing to Amber's Scholarship Fund can access the Metro website listed here: www.mccneb.edu/Amber-Suttle-Tjaden-Memorial-Scholarship or contact Amy Recker Executive director, MCCF at 531-MCC-2743

For More Information Contact:

Aida Amoura Rezac, 402-680-9544 or Amy Recker, 531-MCC-2743