



Dr. William McLean Memorial Scholarship

Dr. William McLean is a legend among the many great teachers that Marshfield has had in more than a century of its existence. Dr. McLean was a teacher of social studies and a pioneer in the development of a student government program that is still strong and well respected throughout the state today.

Dr. McLean was born August 11, 1913 in Seattle, Washington. In 1936 he graduated from the University of Oregon and received a bachelor's degree in social sciences and secondary education. He later received a doctorate degree from Stanford University.

In 1945 he began teaching social studies, Problems of Democracy, political science, sociology, and economics at Marshfield. "Doc" McLean also served as an advisor to several student clubs, reserving a particular place in his heart for the Hi-Y Club. He spent many Friday nights in the concession stand at Marshfield football games, working alongside his Hi-Y Club members to raise funds for the club's annual trip to the Capitol in Salem. He also was a longtime advisor to the Marshfield Student Council and the senior class advisor until his retirement at the end of the 1982-83 school year when he was 70 years old.

Dr. McLean was a member of the Oregon State Board of Mental Health and was very active in the local Mental Health Association of Southwestern Oregon.

For 37 years he had perfect attendance at the local Kiwana's Club where he served as president and then secretary for 30 years. He was Kiwana's District 76 lieutenant governor for four terms.

In 1959 and 1969, he and other educators toured Russia to study their education system. He took a one-year leave of absence to teach at Oregon State University.

Not only did he teach political science, he practiced the art of politics. He was a Coos Bay City Council member in 1948 and ran an unsuccessful campaign for the mayor of Coos Bay. He served as a president of the League of Women voters.

Dr. McLean organized "Great Decisions" programs for the Bay Area for many years. This was a program developed by the Foreign Policy Association to encourage debate and discussion of the important domestic and foreign issues of the time. Surveys were taken and a report was presented to the White House, the departments of state and defense, and members of Congress.