

“Never Give Up”

The Life Story of Ms. Maggie Miller

Legendary School Counselor



Maggie Miller’s motto was “Never Give Up.”

A legendary counselor, compassionate educator and advocate of college for many who never considered it until she came into their lives, Maggie died at the young age 56 in November 2008 after a valiant battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease.) Before she died, the Maggie Miller Scholarship was established through MACAC as a tribute to her lifetime of contributions to college admissions counseling.

Maggie Miller, born Margaret Frances Miller in Battle Creek to two educators, Frances and Charles Miller, was dedicated to her students’ success. She believed in each student’s true potential – which is the greatest gift anyone can give to another person. She consistently said that character and service, combined with achievement and integrity, were paramount to college success. She shared her gift with thousands of Michigan students during her 30-plus-year career in education.

Her gift extended beyond the schools where she worked. College admission officers praised Maggie for her original letters of recommendations, often commenting on the humor, personal detail and thoroughness of each carefully crafted letter. Maggie was that favorite counselor, the one students remembered, the one who was invited to her student’s high school graduation parties. She attended almost every one, arriving at each with a handwritten, personal congratulations card, each based on her own relationship with that student. Maggie was full of charisma, had an incredible sense of humor and was the ultimate student advocate. She would light up every room she entered. Not surprisingly, students loved her spirit.

Maggie, known as Ms. Miller to her students, possessed an abundance of energy, humor, empathy and a keen understanding that endeared her to her students, co-workers and her multitude of friends.

She told them, “Never Give Up.”

For two decades, she served the professional associations devoted to student advising and college admissions. For her devotion, Maggie won many industry awards. The Michigan Association for College Admissions Counseling (MACAC) presented her with the Gramenz Award, its highest honor. The College of Education at Michigan State University awarded her the Crystal Apple Award for her excellence in and commitment to her profession.

Maggie began her career in education, first as a teacher at Harbor Springs High School and later as a guidance counselor at Dewitt High School and then Okemos High School; she remained at Okemos until 2006, when ALS forced her to retire. She earned both her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Michigan State University.

Outside of work, Maggie loved spending time with her partner, Stan Soffin. They preferred the beach along the shores of Lake Michigan in Ludington. Maggie made a big difference and inspired many students, colleagues, friends and family during her short life. Maggie’s legacy continues through this scholarship.

College and University Members of MACAC as of 01.13.25

Albion College
Alma College
Aquinas College
Art Academy of Cincinnati
Baker College
Baldwin Wallace University
Ball State University
Binghamton University
Bowling Green University
Butler University
Case Western
Central Michigan University
College for Creative Studies
Davenport University, Grand Rapids
DePauw University
Eastern Michigan University
Elon University
Ferris State University
Full Sail University
Grand Valley State University
Hillsdale College
Indiana University - Bloomington
Kalamazoo College
Lake Superior State University
Lawrence Technological University
Lourdes University
Macomb Community College
Marian University
Marquette University
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
Mid Michigan College
Muskegon Community College
Northern Michigan University
Northwestern Michigan College
Oakland University
Otterbein University
Purdue University
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Saint Mary's College
Saginaw Valley State University
Schoolcraft College
Stony Brook University
The University of Alabama
University of Detroit Mercy
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
University of Michigan-Dearborn
University of Michigan-Flint
University of Saint Francis
Valparaiso University
Wayne State University
Western Michigan University



Scholarship amount: \$500+
(non-renewable)

2025 Maggie Miller Scholarship Application

Scholarship Eligibility Criteria:

- High School senior attending a MACAC member high school
- Attend a MACAC or NACAC affiliate member post-secondary institution
- 3.2 unweighted GPA minimum
- Financial need may be a factor
- Essay or video as described below

Applicant Information:

Student Name: _____

Student Phone Number: _____

High School Name: _____

Address of High School: _____

Counselor Name: _____

Counselor Email:

Student unweighted GPA: _____

College Planning to Attend: _____

Activities, Honors, Awards and/or special circumstances:

(A personal resume may be attached in lieu of completing this section)

____ Yes, I give permission for the MACAC Maggie Miller Scholarship Committee to share my essay (video or written) with the membership of MACAC if selected. (Note this is not required in order to be selected).

Prompts:

Read the one-page document "The Life Story of Maggie Miller". Select and respond to one of the essay prompts below:

1. How does Maggie Miller's story inspire you? What have you done in your school or community in the spirit of Maggie Miller?

2. Maggie Miller's Motto was "Never Give Up". Share a story about a time you never gave up.

VIDEO: Option 1: You may record a video of no more than three minutes in length answering one of the essay prompts below. Be sure to state your full name, high school, and where you plan to attend college or university. Please send via email to jstahl@dcds.edu.

****OR****

ESSAY: Option 2: Please provide a written response of no more than 650 words using one of the essay prompts below. Please send your essay to jstahl@dcds.edu.

HIGH SCHOOLS MAY SUBMIT UP TO TWO (2) APPLICATIONS and must be SUBMITTED BY THE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR. Please send all documents as **pdfs** to jstahl@dcds.edu.

Documents must be received March 14, 2025. Please ensure your name is on every document.

Submit:

- Application Form
- Essay or Video
- High School Transcript