

La Junta High School Spirit Award



Paul J. "Dusty" Rhodes

Dear La Junta High School Students and Parents:

Students planning on college or specialty school after high school have an opportunity to earn much of the cost of college by participating in the La Junta High - School Spirit Essay Scholarship Competition. Local La Junta home town legend, **Paul J. "Dusty" Rhodes** is being remembered by his friends and associates at **Mutual of Omaha** who are sponsoring the essay contest in Paul's honor. Paul, who was well known in the La Junta community was a member of the "Rhodes Gang" and was the son of life long residents, Amos and Anna Rhodes, and his 3 brothers John, Marvin and Vernon.

Paul loved and worked in the La Junta community and spoke fondly of his childhood and many years working in La Junta. He was a big believer in the value of education wanted only the best education for his family including four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Making higher education possible through financial planning and preparation was one of the cornerstones of his highly successful insurance and financial service career.

Paul was a great friend and co-worker and it is our great honor to sponsor the **"La Junta School Spirit Essay Competition"** for La Junta High Students planning on attending college or trade school after graduation.

The winner will earn a merit-based endowment scholarship sponsored by Lisa and I valued at **\$40,000 over 4 years** for the student who meets and **follows the rules to receive maximum assistance**. All students Freshmen through Seniors should participate and all former LHS graduates or in college students with a year or more ahead of them may participate too.

The contest begins **NOW**, and the application and essay must be submitted by **November 15, 2025**. In the case of a tie, the student who submits their **application and essay** earliest will break the tie. There is **no cost** to participate in the contest.

To apply, students should request the application by clicking [HERE](#). The application and contest information will be provided to you immediately. All candidates receive a FREE award-winning college planning guide just for participating.

Questions? **520 979 2041**

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Rules and Requirements

Dear La Junta High School Students and Parents:

As a former Colorado business associate of Paul "Dusty" Rhodes, long-time resident and home town boy in La Junta, it is our great honor to sponsor the **"La Junta High, School Spirit Essay Competition"** on behalf of our long-time friend and business leader.

The winner will earn a merit-based endowment scholarship sponsored by our Family valued **at \$40,000 over 4 years** for the student who meets and **follows the rules to receive maximum assistance**. All students Freshmen through Seniors should participate and all LHS graduates or in college students with a year or more ahead of them may participate too.

The awards, which come **directly from the endowment funds of the colleges the winner could select** to attend, are based on talents, fields of interest and career goals, NOT on income and assets. This is about your School Spirit and the value of the education opportunities your school offers and what it means to you the student. This essay scholarship award is our way of showing appreciation for the community and the opportunities available through quality education.

We want to encourage every student to make the most of their unique potential in appreciation for the education and inspiration at **La Junta High** as expressed in your essay. Your application and essay of 350 - 500 words, must be submitted on or before **Midnight – November 15, 2025**.

Your **application** and **essay (no links)** MUST be attached to your email and sent to: LHS@edfunds.org **Make certain you application and essay contain your name** and reflect your school spirit and why you are proud to be attending LaJunta High School.

The rules are outlined in our PURPOSE AND RULES below and the scholarship selection committee, made up of community members, **will announce the winners, November 30, 2025**.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND RULES

We know there are many people in the La Junta high school community who give above and beyond what is required to promote and uphold the traditions of excellence and spirit of your school. Think of someone, student, parent, staff member or others and describe how that person has had an influence on your life. Please expand on the inspiration that person supplies to encourage you to lead by example as you move through, and beyond high school. Be creative, be original and keep in mind that 70% of the score will come from the content of your essay so give it thought. Have fun and think of someone from your high school who has had an influence on your life and in our community.

1. **You must be accepted at 6 or more schools.**
(We will show you how to apply without fees)
2. **You must file the FAFSA and other required school applications.**
(Required for ANY scholarships)
3. **You must follow our recommended negotiation strategies throughout your college career.**

A. Send the application and essay by **Midnight November 15, 2025**

B. email to: LHS@edfunds.org
(no links - Please attach actual documents required)
Resume' optional but earns extra credit

Questions? Call **520 979 2041**

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[Click Here to Download Application](#)