

Dave Donley Memorial Scholarship

In 2018 the Donley Family established the Dave Donley Memorial Scholarship in loving memory of their son, Dave Donley Jr. We are happy to announce the second year of this scholarship.

Amount – \$4,000.00

Application Deadline – April 30, 2019

The scholarship's recipient will be notified by July 31, 2019.

Eligibility

Open to all Canadian post-secondary students who have been accepted or are attending an information technology or computer studies program in a post-secondary institution in Canada. The student can be enrolled in any year of study at a university, college, or technical school. This includes Tetra Tech employees and their children in Canada.

Criteria

1. Demonstrate a passion for information technology or computer programming
2. Demonstrate the ability to problem solve through creative thinking
3. Demonstrate an enthusiasm to help others

Application Process

Complete the Dave Donley Memorial Scholarship Application Form and attach a written statement substantiating the above criteria. Email it to Donleyscholarship@tetrattech.com with proof of enrollment in a Canadian university, college, or technical school.

Dave Donley



Dave was born in Edmonton, Alberta, and when he was 18 months old, his family moved to an acreage in rural Strathcona County, Alberta. Dave's love of computers began before he was 5 years old when his dad brought home a Commodore 64 computer from a pawn shop. Dave needed very little help, and before long, he was hooked on computers! He loved spending time on the computer even before he could read and needed someone to read him the instructions on games he was learning to play. He picked it up so quickly that everyone was amazed.

Dave attended rural schools in Strathcona County up until high school. He played hockey from the ages of 5 to 17, swam on the competitive swim team in high school, and completed all his swimming and lifesaving courses to become a swim instructor and lifeguard for a few years. This training helped him save a life when he performed CPR on a 55-year-old moving company employee who suffered a heart attack at Dave's company. Shortly before his passing, Dave was honored with saving the man's life.

When thinking about his future, Dave always resisted a career in the IT industry as he did not want to be a “computer geek.” Eventually he started working in the IT field and found his passion at Telus and then Longview. In October 2010, he worked as an IT contractor at EBA Engineering in Edmonton, Alberta. He continued as a contractor when EBA was acquired by Tetra Tech, but it soon became obvious to the new leadership that they wanted and needed Dave to join their IT team. In 2012 Dave was hired as a full-time employee by Tetra Tech and he quickly became a well-liked, dependable, and go-to guy on the IT team.

Following are some comments from Dave's colleagues and his immediate supervisor at Tetra Tech.

Dave's role initially involved support and configuration of our networks, improvements to network performance, and design/management of backup and daily IT operations. Over his time with EBA and along the evolution of Tetra Tech's IT shared services, Dave became a support to numerous groups, supporting Tetra Tech's Enterprise Backup Systems, designing special large storage solutions, management of large virtualized environments, assisting with several Tetra Tech company integrations, and migrating enterprise applications to the cloud. Dave was a huge positive influence on his group, as he always tried to think of alternate ways to solve problems, had a can-do attitude, was always available for the team, never complained, and always asked for new challenges in the group. He was literally our technical backstop. If it couldn't be figured out, the common answer was "talk to Dave, he'll know." Dave was involved in working on several migration projects, including porting Legacy applications into new technical systems and moving complex client facing systems from branch offices into our datacenter. Dave was also involved in many aspects of transitioning Coffey systems into Tetra Tech, specifically working closely with colleagues across oceans and time zones to complete his tasks. He touched many people in his role, made friends easily, and could be counted on to help when needed by those he worked with.

He had an energy that will never be replaced. We liked to call Dave our "firehose." You literally had to point him in the direction of a problem, and no matter how complex it was, he could solve it. He was also known to help solve problems no matter how small or insignificant they may have seemed. When people called him with a "stupid question" his answer was always "there are no stupid questions."

He was a leader of the best sort. He motivated his team by his enthusiasm, commitment, and energy. His wisdom and consideration of others could always be relied upon along with his polite manner. He was a man that got things done and was ready with advice.

Outside of work, Dave was known for encouraging and supporting friends and occasionally people he had just met to follow their dreams and believe in themselves. He was always there to support them in the decisions they made.

Dave was most known for his **passion for all things IT**. He became adept at **problem solving** and **creative thinking**.

Dave had recently discovered a new passion in life—scuba diving—while on a visit to San Andres Island the year before his death. At the time of his passing, he was planning a return to the island to get his diving certification.

Dave passed away on June 29, 2016, at the age of 32. He is sadly missed by his family, friends, and many work colleagues. It is the hope of Dave's family that the recipient of the Dave Donley Memorial Scholarship will pursue opportunities and goals with the same enthusiasm, passion, commitment, and joy their son had.