

THE BROMMEL-MILLER TEACHING AS TRANSFORMATION SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship in the School of Education at Northeastern Illinois University honors Dr. Kenneth Miller and his wife Brenda. Ken, a wonderful former student Brommel selected out of the thousands of students that he taught in a 46-year teaching career. Brommel wanted to create a scholarship that honored not only Ken but all the other students that he taught in his first eight years of teaching in high schools at Rowley, Iowa, and Keokuk, Iowa. Brommel believes that these high school experiences shaped his entire career. He taught English and Speech, directing speech and theatre students in competition at the state level, plus coaching debate teams.

Brommel chose Ken because of a combination of attributes that he respected in his students. Ken will tell you that he was not one of Brommel's top students in the beginning. Ken had a zeal to learn and would out work others. He wanted criticism, corrections and kept asking how he could do better work. Ken had a wonderful, outgoing personality that made him a joy to teach. He had leadership skills, too, and classmates chose him president of their junior class.

Dr. Miller came to Brommel's 80th birthday party at Northeastern. Ken wrote, "I met Brommel in 1953 when he came to KHS. He was a quizzical young man enthusiastic, creative, imaginative and energetic. In a short time he developed a special rapport with the students."

Ken continues, "Following my father's sudden and unexpected death, Dr. Brommel was a beacon of inspiration and mentor. I had ambition and determination and with his guidance I became more confident and responsible. After graduating from Northeastern Missouri State College in Biology and Chemistry I entered the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine and graduated in 1962." In order to go to college, Ken worked in the summers two back-to-back 8-hour shifts six days a week at Keasling's Pharmacy and night shifts at Hubingers Factory.

Now in 2015 Dr. Miller works full time in a clinic he created in Spring Green, Wisconsin. He loves his work and has no intentions to retire. He specialized in rural medicine in surgery and obstetrics. Over the years Ken founded a number of clinics in several states. In many of these towns he also created a free care center for the poor; for migrant workers, patients in a blind school, etc.

Ken's wife, Brenda, has assisted his career. She has been a surgical nurse, an oncology nurse, a dialysis nurse, etc. They take trips around the world and Brenda buys fabrics that become beautiful quilts. In 2012 Brenda made a special "Communication Quilt" to honor Dr. Brommel. There are fabrics from 47 countries and 5 continents in it. With their permission this beautiful brightly colored quilt will go to the Pedroso Center of Diversity at Northeastern when Brommel dies. There students from many countries that attend Northeastern can appreciate it.