

2026 MRNRC Missouri River Conference

March 17-19, 2026
K-State Alumni Association Center, Manhattan, KS
[Missouri River | MRNRC](#)

Robert A. Klumb Student Travel Grant Award

Call for Applications

The Robert Klumb Memorial Travel Scholarship was established in memory of Dr. Rob Klumb, former Project Leader for the US Fish & Wildlife Service and Adjunct Associate Professor at South Dakota State University. The award provides financial assistance for deserving students to attend the annual MRNRC Missouri River Conference.

Rob Klumb was an exceptional colleague and friend whose life tragically ended on July 8, 2013 in Pickstown, South Dakota. A Wisconsin native, Rob received his B.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1990 and his M.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1997. Rob joined the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University in 1997 where he studied bioenergetics and near-shore habitat use by larval and juvenile alewife at the Cornell Biological Field Station, earning his Ph.D. in 2003. In 2002, Rob joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Pierre, South Dakota as a Fisheries Research Biologist and was promoted to Project Leader of the Great Plains Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office in 2009.



Rob was a talented biologist who led a variety of research projects on fishes of the Missouri River. In addition to his Federal job duties, Rob also served as an Adjunct Associate Professor at South Dakota State University, where he played a fundamental role in coordinating federal research needs with student education.

Colorful, energetic and always positive, Rob was inspirational to students and colleagues. He always took the time to avail himself to other people to help them in their professional and personal endeavors. As a mentor, he led by example, and his hands-on approach earned him a large and loyal group of colleagues. His legacy will live on in the example he set for students and future professionals.

Rob's passion for science, politics and Milwaukee-made beer ran deep and wide. His inclusiveness and open-mindedness extended to both his work and his social life, and he will be remembered for the enthusiasm he exhibited in his approach to both. From the technicians that worked under his guidance to the students he mentored to the colleagues he left behind, his loss leaves a big

void in the fisheries community. The Robert A. Klumb Student Travel Grant was established in memory of Robert Klumb, an ardent supporter of Missouri River Natural Resources. The travel grant recognizes outstanding student contributions in fisheries science.

Application Information

Eligibility:

Any college student in their junior year or higher or graduate student studying Missouri River Science or a related field at an accredited college or university in the Missouri River basin. **Preference will be given to applicants presenting their research during the annual conference.**

Number of travel scholarships available:

Multiple travel scholarships may be given out each year.

Applications will include:

A brief essay of 200 words or less, describing the student's research on the Missouri River, their career goals, and a professional letter of reference.

Application:

Must be submitted to the MRNRC Awards Chair, Kirk Steffensen (kirk.steffensen@nebraska.gov) by Monday, February 2nd, 2026.

Selection:

The travel scholarship recipients will be chosen by the state delegates of the Missouri River Natural Resources Committee based on an evaluation of the information submitted and successful applicants will be notified in mid-February. **Awarded recipients are asked to present at the conference.**

Travel scholarship award:

The travel scholarship includes conference registration (including meals and socials) and two nights of lodging at the conference venue but does not include travel expenses (e.g., vehicle or airfare).

Successful candidates will be recognized by the Missouri River Natural Resources Committee at its annual conference.