



Thomas W. O'Brien Memorial Scholarship

*Established by
the friends and colleagues of Thomas W. O'Brien
in partnership with the
PA Association for Career and Technical Education (PA-ACTE)*

2021 Scholarship Application



Who is Thomas W. O'Brien?

Tom O'Brien was an educator dedicated to career and technical education. His passion for education and strong belief in CTE were evident in his involvement at local, state, and national levels. In 2003, Tom retired from Indiana University of Pennsylvania after a long and distinguished career in CTE.

Tom's leadership, enthusiasm, and compassion were an inspiration to all who had the pleasure of knowing and working with him. This scholarship is offered in his memory and to continue his spirit of generosity and support of career and technical education.

Guidelines:

- The applicant must be a senior student enrolled in an approved secondary career and technical education program in Pennsylvania and planning to attend a post-secondary institution majoring in a career and technical field.
- If chosen as a finalist, the applicant must be available for a possible telephone interview.
- The \$1,500 award will be sent directly to the educational institution identified by the recipient.
- The scholarship is a one-time award and is non-renewable.

Instructions:

The following materials must be included with the scholarship application package. **Please submit all materials together in one package. Package must be postmarked by **Friday, April 2, 2021.****

- _____ Completed application form.
- _____ High school and career and technical school transcripts.
- _____ Personal essay (details on page 4).
- _____ Two letters of recommendation – one from a CTE teacher; one from another teacher, counselor, principal or employer. Letters should be printed on official school or business letterhead.
- _____ Letter of acceptance from the post-secondary institution you will attend.

Scoring:

Maximum score is 100 points based on the following:

- High School and CTE Transcripts – 15 points
- Work Experience – 10 points
- Career and Technical Student Organization Involvement – 25 points
- Personal Essay – 30 points
- Two Letters of Recommendation – 10 points for each letter



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2021 Scholarship Application

Please type.

I. Personal Information

_____	_____	_____
Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial

Date of Birth		

Address		

_____	_____	_____
City	State	Zip

_____	_____	
Home Phone	Email	

II. Education Information

High School		

_____	_____	
Career and Technical School	Director/Administrator	

_____	_____	
CTE Program Title	Instructor	

_____	_____	
Date of Graduation	Grade Point Average (GPA)	

Post-secondary institution you plan to attend		

Address		

_____	_____	_____
City	State	Zip

_____	_____	
Major/Program	Enrollment Date	

III. Work Experience

List your most recent work experience first. Include shadowing experiences, internships, cooperative education work experiences, community service, etc. if applicable.

Dates of Employment (Month/Year)	Business name, address, phone	Position and brief description of job duties

IV. Career and Technical Student Organization Involvement

Describe your involvement in career and technical student organizations (CTSOs). If involved in more than one CTSO, additional pages may be attached to this application.

Name of CTSO _____

How were you involved?

Member only (list years) _____

Class representative (list years) _____

Officer (list years and office held) _____

Did you compete in (check all that apply):

____ Regional/district competitions

Name of contest (ex: advertising design, carpentry, job interview, etc.) _____

Did you place? Yes / No

If yes, what years did you compete and what places did you receive?

____ State competition

Name of contest (ex: advertising design, carpentry, job interview, etc.) _____

Did you place? Yes / No

If yes, what years did you compete and what places did you receive?

____ National competition

Name of contest (ex: advertising design, carpentry, job interview, etc.) _____

Did you place? Yes / No

If yes, what years did you compete and what places did you receive?

Did you participate in any CTSO projects? _____ Yes / _____ No

If yes, please give the years and a brief explanation.

V. Personal Essay

The essay is a critical component of your application package. Please provide a professional, well written essay of approximately 500 words (one typed, double-spaced page) and free of spelling and grammatical errors. Your essay should address the following statement.

Explain why you chose your field of study, your career goals and aspirations, and how participation in a CTE program has impacted your life.

VI. Two Letters of Recommendation

Letter from a CTE teacher should include a detailed description of your involvement in the classroom and laboratory, CTSO, or work-based learning experiences. The letter should be one page and on official school letterhead.

Letter from a teacher/counselor/principal or employer should include a description of the relationship between the student and author and an assessment of the student's strengths. The letter should be one page and on official letterhead.

VII. Assurances/Signatures

Please sign below to indicate your agreement with the following statements.

- I understand that I may be asked to participate in a phone interview as part of the selection process.
- My name and/or information can be included in articles, videos, conference materials, association websites, press releases, etc. regarding this scholarship.
- I understand that the scholarship money must be used by May 1, 2022. Money not used by this date will remain in the scholarship fund for another student.
- All information in this application package is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____
Required if student is under 18 years old at the time of scholarship application.

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Email _____

COMPLETE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PACKAGE MUST BE POSTMARKED BY:

FRIDAY, APRIL 2 AND MAILED TO:

Scholarship Chair
IUP Center for Career and Technical Personnel Preparation
1110 Maple Street, Reschini Building
Indiana, PA 15705
Questions? Contact pandrei@iup.edu