



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)*

2025 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, March 28, 2025.**

- _____ 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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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. You may submit a resume in place of completing information in the table below.

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?

If you are participating in the state SKILLS competition (April 3) and place, please notify pandrei@iup.edu as soon as possible.

____ 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.
- 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, MARCH 28 AND MAILED TO:

Scholarship Chair
IUP Center for Career and Technical Personnel Preparation
104 Davis Hall, 570 South Eleventh Street
Indiana, PA 15705
Questions? Contact pandrei@iup.edu