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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Middle Initial</th>
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Date of Birth

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<th>Address</th>
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<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
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<th>Home Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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### II. Education Information

**High School**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career and Technical School</th>
<th>Director/Administrator</th>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CTE Program Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tr>
<th>Date of Graduation</th>
<th>Grade Point Average (GPA)</th>
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**Post-secondary institution you plan to attend**

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<th>Major/Program</th>
<th>Enrollment Date</th>
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III. Work Experience

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

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