



## OAR Announces the 2012 Schwallie Family Scholarship Winners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARLINGTON, VA – The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) takes great pleasure in announcing the recipients of the Schwallie Family Scholarships for 2012. Each of this year's 24 winners will receive a \$3,000 scholarship for the 2012-2013 academic year. OAR makes awards in three categories: students attending a four-year college, those attending a two-year college, and those attending a vocational/technical school that leads to a certification. To be eligible, an applicant must have an autism diagnosis, be accepted for enrollment in the Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 semesters, and submit a personal essay along with the application form.

In addition to the Schwallie Family Scholarships, OAR was able to provide two additional scholarships through the California Spirit of Distinction (CSD) scholarship awards for female students with autism enrolled in the California State University (CSU) system for the fall semester this year. Established through the inspiration and generosity of an anonymous donor, whom herself is the mother of a young woman with autism, the program will provide one-time scholarships of \$500.00 for two students this fall.

The program was administered under OAR's Schwallie Family Scholarship Program, which offers one-time scholarships of \$3,000.00. All eligible CSU students were considered for both the Schwallie Scholarship and the CSD Scholarship.

This was the second year OAR utilized an online application, and it paid off in huge dividends by attracting an amazing and record-breaking 725 applications!

The 24 fully approved Schwallie Family Scholarship and two California Spirit of Distinction Scholarship recipients are:

### Four-year Undergraduate Studies

**Aaron Danielpour**, Case Western Reserve University  
**Adam Jones**, Abilene Christian University  
**Alexander Mellinger**, Pittsburgh Technical Institute  
**Anthony Pesole**, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater  
**Brittany Virgallito**, Bowling Green State University  
**David Colby**, University of California  
**Emily Starnes**, The University of Tennessee  
**Garrett Hoshor**, DeVry University  
**Jerard Richards**, Fairleigh Dickinson University  
**Joanna Perez**, Manhattanville College

**Jordan Handler**, State University of New York - Purchase College  
**Ryan Slaby**, Mercyhurst University

Two-year Undergraduate Studies

**Amanda Morgan**, Tarrant County College  
**Jacob Hoffman**, Thames Academy at Mitchell College  
**Julia Simko**, North Idaho College  
**Keith Bailey**, Finger Lakes Community College  
**Kentrell Graham**, Lincoln College  
**Marcus Fahey**, Kanakee Community College  
**Tremaine Shelton**, Henry Ford Community College  
**Tyler Keller**, Normandale Community College

Technical, Trade, or Vocational School

**Christopher Chapman**, Exceptional Minds  
**James Barto**, East Valley Technical Institute  
**Kelsey Whitaker**, Skagit Valley College  
**Michael Griffis**, The Joe Kubert School of Cartooning and Graphic Art, Inc.

California Spirit of Distinction Scholarship

**Amy Estines**, Sonoma State University  
**Stephanie Erwin**, California State University Sacramento

Congratulations to each of the winners, and the parents and teachers who contributed to their development and success along the way!