FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ARLINGTON, VA – The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) takes great pleasure in announcing the recipients of the Lisa Higgins Hussman Scholarships and Schwallie Family Scholarships for 2017. The two scholarships attracted over 400 applicants and the 39 awards total $117,000. Through this program, OAR has now provided scholarships to 268 students with autism diagnoses – a total financial contribution of $815,500 since the program started in 2007.

This year’s edition of OAR’s scholarship competition is marked by Edward Schwallie’s passing. Edward Schwallie was a Member Emeritus of OAR’s Board of Directors and created the Schwallie Family Scholarship in 2007. His son, Chris Schwallie stated, "This year's OAR Schwallie Scholarship has particular significance for our family with the recent passing of our father, Edward Schwallie, on Father's Day. He dedicated his life to improving the lives of people with autism. It's with great pride that our family continues to honor his enduring legacy thru these scholarships."

Both scholarships provide one-time $3,000 awards to students with autism diagnoses pursuing post-secondary education at a variety of different institutions. This year, OAR is awarding 20 Schwallie Family Scholarships to students attending four-year and two-year colleges. OAR is awarding Lisa Higgins Hussman Scholarships to 19 students, who will be attending four-year or two-year colleges, vocational/technical schools, or co-operative life skills programs. To be eligible for one of the scholarships, an applicant must have a confirmed autism diagnosis (DSM-IV or later), be accepted for enrollment in the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semesters, and submit three short personal essays along with an application form and recommendation letter.

This year’s scholarship recipients are:

Lisa Higgins Hussman Scholarship
Jabreel N. Brandon, University of North Carolina, Greensboro
Colby Edward Childers, Winthrop University
Ashley Coffey, Gallaudet University
Gemma A. Guthrie, Minnesota Life College
Conor Bradford Howard, University of Central Missouri
Noah E. Hrynewych, University of North Carolina, Greensboro
William Keavey, College of Charleston
Grant Kovas, Winthrop University
Edward M. Manville, Wake Tech Community College
Sunny Meadows, Clemson LIFE Program
Demarcus Mobley, University of North Carolina, Greensboro
Peyton Miller, Harrisburg Area Community College
Cory Oshay Neely, University of North Carolina, Greensboro
Rane Newcomb, Jackson College
Brodie James Rawson, Mississippi State University
Tamera Robinson, Harper College
Wayne Rosenfeld, Chapel Haven
Halle Solstis, University of Central Missouri
Josiah Vega, Florida State University

Schwallie Family Scholarship
Brandon D. Beltran, Florida Atlantic University
Peyton Berardi, Southern Illinois University, Evansville
Jessica Bonner, Southern New Hampshire University
Raven C. Brock, Rochester Institute of Technology
Adrian Cohen, Berklee College of Music
Matthew Conrad, Rivier University
Sara Cooley, Colorado State University
Jacob Coughenour, Frostburg State University
Nicholas Aaron Diehl, Pittsburgh Technical College
Giselle Epstein, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Meghan Hochhalter, Columbia College Chicago
Justin Krejcha, Portland State University
Max Leibowitz, University of Arizona
Benjamin Mowrey, Sacred Heart University
Bryce Norden, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Thomas Ray-Smith, University of Maine, Machias
Andrea Rose, Tufts University
Lauren Roth, Ball State University
Cooper Stanley, Rose State College
Shane Warren, SUNY Delhi

OAR congratulates each of the 39 recipients listed and extends its gratitude once again to the Lisa Higgins Hussman Foundation and the Schwallie Family Foundation. These scholarships
would not be possible without their generous support.

**About OAR:** The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is a national nonprofit organization formed and led by relatives of children and adults with autism. OAR is dedicated to promoting research that can be applied to help families, educators, caregivers, and individuals with autism find much-needed answers to their immediate and urgent questions. Learn more at their Web site: www.researchautism.org.

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