



## OAR Awards Scholarships to 39 Students with Autism

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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](http://www.researchautism.org).

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