



OAR Announces 2021 Scholarship Recipients

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ARLINGTON, VA – The Organization for Autism Research ([OAR](#)) is pleased to announce the 2021 recipients of the Lisa Higgins Hussman Scholarships and Schwallie Family Scholarships. This year, these two scholarships attracted nearly 600 applicants, and the 51 awards total \$161,000. Through this program, OAR has provided 440 scholarships, maintaining its commitment to furthering the education of remarkable and determined autistic students since its start in 2007. With these additional scholarships, OAR has awarded a total financial contribution of more than \$1,331,000 since the program began.

Both scholarships provide one-time \$3,000 awards to students with autism diagnoses pursuing post-secondary education at a variety of institutions. This year, OAR is awarding 24 Schwallie Family Scholarships to students attending four-year and two-year colleges and 27 Lisa Higgins Hussman Scholarships to students attending two-year colleges, vocational/technical schools, or cooperative life skills programs. The recipients of these highly competitive scholarship awards are individuals who have demonstrated their ability to overcome personal challenges in pursuit of their ambitions.

Thanks to the generosity and support of ONEHOPE Wine, OAR and ONEHOPE were pleased to continue the ONEHOPE Award program for the second time. This year, ONEHOPE Awards provided \$5,000 each to the top two applicants in each scholarship program whose personal stories most inspired the respective scholarship committee. This year's ONEHOPE Awards went to Lisa Higgins Hussman Scholarship winners Adam McChesney from Warren, PA, and Sophia Pearce from Venice, FL, as well as Schwallie Family Scholarship winners Erin Pyper from Parkland, FL, and Griffin Mims from Joliet, IL.

Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients.

Lisa Higgins Hussman Scholarship

Braeden Allen, Columbus State Community College - Columbus, OH
Abigail R. Bailey, Bryant and Stratton College - Albany, NY
Bridget Blackwell, CarolinaLIFE at University of South Carolina - Columbia, SC
Dominic Fisher, College Internship Program-Bloomington - Bloomington, IN
Robert Fredericksen, Gateway Community College - New Haven, CT
Christian Gade, Coastal Carolina University - Conway, SC
Nathan Gallenbach, College of DuPage - Glen Ellyn, IL
Liam Horner, Indiana University of Pennsylvania - Punxsutawney, PA
Christian Hull, College Living Experience at Columbia State Community College - Franklin, TN
Landon Jones, South Plains College - Leveland, TX
Cain Kaiser, Bismarck State College - Bismarck, ND
Payton Kraft, University of North Florida - Jacksonville, FL
Kyra Lund, The College of Southern Idaho - Twin Falls, ID
Alpha Ma, University of Cincinnati - Cincinnati, OH
Adam McChesney, Slippery Rock University - Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania
Nia McFadden, University of Missouri-St. Louis Succeed Program - St. Louis, MO
Tevin Mershon, State Fair Community College - Sedalia, MO
Nathalia Navarro, Fashion Institute of Technology - New York, NY
Sophia Pearce, College of the Florida Keys - Key West, FL
Connor Petrillo, Butler County Community College - Brockway, PA
Damien Pitt, Bellevue College - Bellevue, WA
Rebecca Preneta, Slippery Rock University - Slippery Rock, PA
Ezra Rifkin, Mansfield Hall - Burlington, VT
Colin Shaffer, University of South Carolina - Columbia, SC
Noah Veasman, Union EDGE at Union University - Jackson, TN
Craig Warren, University of Arkansas - Fayetteville, AR
Keith Winters, University of Arkansas Pulaski Tech - North Little Rock, AR

Schwallie Family Scholarship

Fenya Bartram, Cornell University - Ithaca, NY
Giovanni S. Bortone, Palm Beach State College - Lake Worth, FL
Marissa Branch, Beacon College - Leesburg, FL
Alexandra Chand, Lawrence University - Appleton, WI
Mason Chandler, College of William & Mary - Williamsburg, VA
Andrew Danda, Illinois Institute of Technology - Chicago, IL
Korey Deans, Michigan State University - East Lansing, MI
Gavin Duhe, Northern Virginia Community College - Alexandria, VA
Elle C Fishburn, William Jewell College - Liberty, MO

Ethan Franklin, Berklee School of Music - Boston, MA
Michael Haldeman, Yakima Valley College - Yakima, WA
Justin Anthony Hall, Stanford University - Stanford, CA
Madison Jakub, California State University, Northridge - Northridge, CA
Zachary Malkowski, Northern Illinois University - DeKalb, IL
Zachary Medeiros, Kean University - Union, NJ
Ian N. McKenna Goncalo, The University of Texas at Austin - Austin, TX
Halley McNair, Wittenberg University - Springfield, OH
Griffin Mims, Aurora University - Aurora, IL
Miranda Noren, Trinity University - San Antonio, TX
Erin Pyper, Florida Atlantic University - Boca Raton, FL
Mikala (Kai) Shirey, Ball State University - Muncie, IN
Joshua Shoemaker, Columbus State Community College - Columbus, OH
Matthew Spong, Milligan University - Milligan, TN
Lauren Elizabeth Swain, Sonoma State University - Rohnert Park, CA

OAR congratulates each of the 51 recipients listed and extends its gratitude once again to the Lisa Higgins Hussman Foundation, the Schwallie Family Foundation, and ONEHOPE Wine. These scholarships would not be possible without their generous support. Every year, OAR's scholarship awards help autistic students pursue their educational goals. Applications for next year's scholarship competition will open in December 2021; more information, including the link to the application portal once it opens, can be found on [OAR's Scholarship Page](#).

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