



Orange County Counselors' Association
Serving the needs of Professional Counselors in Orange County, New York

Orange County Counselors' Association Scholarships

The Orange County Counselors' Association will be awarding a total of four scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each to graduating seniors from participating high schools in Orange County. Two scholarships will be awarded to academic graduates, one to a CTEC graduate and one to a graduating special education student.

Academic Scholarship Criteria (2 @ \$1000): Open to graduating seniors, ranking in the top half of the class, planning a major and a career in a counseling or human services-related area. In evaluating candidates, consideration will be given to involvement in community service, positive qualities of character, strength of academic program and level of academic achievement. Candidates do not have to demonstrate financial need. **Please include one letter of recommendation & official transcript.**

CTEC Scholarship Criteria (1 @ \$1000): Open to graduating seniors planning to continue their education directly after high school in a college, trade school or tech school program. In evaluating candidates, consideration will be given to level of achievement in the CTEC program, overall school record, and positive qualities of character. Candidates do not have to demonstrate financial need. **Please include one letter of recommendation & official transcript.**

Perseverance (Special Education) Award Criteria (1 @ \$1000): Open to graduating seniors planning to continue their education after high school. Candidates should be a special education student who has worked hard, overcome physical, emotional or academic disabilities and has been a positive role model for their peers. Candidates do not have to demonstrate financial need. **Please include one letter of recommendation & official transcript.**

The Lauren Cummings Big Heart Award (Laptop Award): This award has been renamed in memory of Lauren Cummings, longtime OCCA Scholarship Chairperson and former President. Lauren also initially created this award as well. This is a nomination based award—students can not apply. This award will be given to a student who, like Lauren, has selflessly gone above and beyond to help other students in their school and make a difference in their lives. Candidates do not have to demonstrate financial need. **Please include one letter of recommendation.**

The Counseling Department from each high school will submit one candidate for the Academic scholarship, one candidate for the CTEC scholarship, one candidate for the Special Education scholarship, and one candidate for the Lauren Cummings Big Heart Award. These students will be their schools' candidates for the scholarship and will submit these four applications to the committee chairperson. The OCCA Scholarship Committee will select two academic, one CTEC, one special education, and one Big Heart from all these submissions. The committee will require a copy of the student's receipt of deposit in order to award the scholarships. Proof of enrollment must be given to the Chair no later than May 5, 2026, then the winners will be announced. Please email the applications, along with a copy of the student's transcript and a letter of recommendation to me at the email address below. Should you have any questions or problems please call me. I must receive everything by March 6, 2026.

Maureen Corcoran - OCCA Scholarship Chairperson

maureen.corcoran@pinebushschools.org | PH: 845-744-2031 ext. 4320

*Late applications or incomplete applications will NOT be accepted.



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Orange County Counselors' Association Scholarship
Application

Please check which Scholarship you are applying for, you may only choose one.

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- _____ Academic Scholarship Applicant
_____ CTEC Scholarship Applicant
_____ Special Education Scholarship Applicant

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____ City _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

High School _____ Counselor _____

Counseling Office Phone # _____

Career Goal _____

What institution do you plan to attend next fall? _____

Write a brief essay explaining your immediate and long term educational and career goals. (Please type on a separate sheet).

Complete this form and return it to your school counselor.

The counseling department will add your transcript and recommendation to the application.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____