



Application for the **2023**
OCSEA Les Best
Spouses' College Scholarship

SPOUSES' COLLEGE



Les Best Scholarship

For OCSEA members' spouses who are undergraduate students entering or already enrolled full-time OR part-time in a college/university.

Two \$1,000 awards OR four \$500 awards for the 2023/2024 school year, beginning in the fall. Applicants can apply in one category (member, spouse or dependent) for the Les Best Scholarship. Applications in more than one category will not be accepted.

Scholarship Deadline: April 30, 2023

Who was Les Best?

Les Best was an Ohio Civil Service Employees Association state officer and former math teacher at the Ohio Veterans Children's Home. Believing in OCSEA's dedication to improving the quality of life for its members and their children, Best felt an obligation to promote higher education and training.



In 1989, he proposed that OCSEA begin a scholarship for the children of active members and retirees.

Les Best died that same year, having served OCSEA for 10 years as an officer and 22 years as a member of its Board of Directors. Best was loved by many and his memory and dedication lives on through the Les Best Scholarship.

Spouses' Scholarship ✓ Checklist

1. Complete the application form

Include the requested last four digits of your Social Security number (OCSEA requires only the last four digits of members' Social Security numbers.)

Don't overlook No. 8 on the application: name and address of educational institution. We must have this information to send the award checks.

2. Submit acceptance letter or proof of enrollment for the Fall of 2023

If you haven't been accepted to an institution of higher learning yet, please give proof of application and estimated date of acceptance notification.

3. Submit an essay

Compose a 500-1,000 word essay on the following question, and print your essay on a white 8.5" x 11" paper:

"Approval of unions is at an all-time high of 70 percent. Why do you think the union approval rating is so high? What is going on the country that is causing such a shift?"

The scholarship essays are a **major** part of your application score. We encourage you to draw from personal experiences, using examples demonstrating how this issue would affect working families like your own.

4. Submit the Academic/Professional Reference form in this packet

Ask a person who can be a reference whether it be a boss you've worked for, your college advisor, or course instructor/professor to complete the **Academic/Professional Reference** form included in this packet. They may either return it to you to send in with the rest of your application materials, or they may send it directly to OCSEA.

5. Meet the application deadline

All application materials must be sent to **OCSEA Les Best Scholarship Fund 390 Worthington Road- Ste. A Westerville, OH 43082**

All application materials must be postmarked **no later than April 30, 2023.**

A group of distinguished educators and labor union representatives not affiliated with OCSEA comprise the Scholarship Selection Committee. This independent committee will select the eight to ten scholarship recipients. Their decisions are final. To receive consideration, all completed application packets must be submitted and postmarked **no later than April 30, 2023.**

Questions or special circumstances?

Call OCSEA at **800-969-4702** or locally, **614-865-4733** and refer to the Les Best Scholarship.

About the Les Best Scholarship Program...

Dear Les Best Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the 2023 Les Best Scholarship Fund.

This application contains everything you need to apply for this scholarship. To be eligible, qualified applicants must submit all required application materials. Use the checklist above to ensure you have all the requested requirements. You are strongly encouraged to write the required essay early to avoid getting "bogged down" near the deadline. The selection committee members report that they enjoy reading essays that include personal experiences in addition to ones that draw from historical data or current trends.

All required application materials must be received **no later than April 30, 2023.**

Should you have questions or would need to discuss special circumstances, call OCSEA at **800-969-4702** or locally, **614-865-4733** and refer to the Les Best Scholarship.

We wish you the best as you seek to further your education.

Nachael Church

OCSEA Public Relations & Membership Committee Chair, Les Best Scholarship Fund

Spouse's College Scholarship Application

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

1. Applicant's name: _____ Applicant SS#: _____ OCSEA Member last 4 digits of SS# (required): _____
2. Applicant's date of birth: _____
3. OCSEA member's name: _____ Agency: _____
Member's address: _____ Apt. no. _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home phone: () - Work phone: () - Home e-mail: _____
4. Applicant's street address (if different from member spouse's above): _____ Apt. no. _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home phone: () - Work phone: () -
5. High school: _____ Graduation date: _____
Other/post secondary: _____ Graduation date: _____
6. *Union Activism (past or present). List ways in which you have supported your union (ex. labor walks, phone banking, attending rallies and pickets, writing letters to the editor.)*

7. *Community Service (past or present) list ways in which you have made a positive impact in your community, such as volunteering, activities in your church, school, community or special interest groups, etc..*

8. Name of educational institution: _____
Address: _____
Scholarship office phone: _____
9. Your projected college/technical school graduation date? Month: Year: _____
10. College/technical school major/minor or area of study? _____
11. Name of your hometown/local newspaper: _____
Newspaper phone: () - _____
12. Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

SELECTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY:

Spouse College Scoring

Essay _____ x 9 = _____
Community Service/
Union Activism _____ x 5 = _____

Total score _____



Academic/professional preference

Due April 30, 2023

Return to applicant before this deadline or mail directly to:

OCSEA LES BEST SCHOLARSHIP FUND

390 WORTHINGTON ROAD - STE. A

WESTERVILLE, OH 43082

Dear Scholarship Reference:

The individual who provided this form to you is an applicant for an Ohio Civil Service Employees Association Les Best Scholarship. OCSEA/AFSCME Local 11 represents 27,000 state and other public employees. To learn more about our labor union, visit **OCSEA.org**. To aid the selection process, the Scholarship Selection Committee must obtain the following information regarding the applicant's character, abilities and performance. The information will be used only by the Scholarship Selection Committee. If more space is needed, please attach a sheet. You may give this form back to the applicant or mail it to OCSEA yourself (address above) by **April 30, 2023**. Thank you.

1. Applicant's name: _____

2. Your name: _____ Job title: _____

3. School/Organization: _____
Address: _____

College/phone: () - _____

4. How long have you known the applicant?

5. What is your general evaluation of the applicant's character academically/personally?

6. Sometimes special circumstances should be considered when evaluating applicant's professional and academic achievements, records and test scores. If there are any, please specify.

Signature: _____ Date: _____