

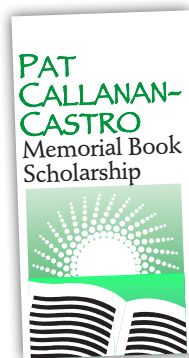


Application for the **2026** OCSEA Les Best Members' College Scholarship

MEMBERS' COLLEGE



Pat Callanan-Castro Memorial Book Fund



Members submitting a completed Members' College Les Best Scholarship application will also be considered for one of two **\$250 scholarships** to be used for textbooks, made possible through the Pat Callanan-Castro Memorial Book Fund.

Les Best Scholarship

Active OCSEA members who are full-time **OR** part-time undergraduate students are eligible.

Two \$1,000 awards OR four \$500 awards are available for the 2026/2027 school year, awarded 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, 2026

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.

Members' 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 2026

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:

"What does being a union member mean to you? How has your experience as an OCSEA union member impacted you and your family?"

The scholarship essays are a **major** part of your application score. We highly encourage you to draw from personal experiences, using examples from your own life and your families' lives to demonstrate your points.

☐ 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, 2026.**

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 in July. Winners will be contacted immediately after judging by phone or email. Judges decisions are final. To receive consideration, all completed application packets must be submitted and postmarked no later than **April 30, 2026.**

Questions or special circumstances?

Call OCSEA at **888-627-3211** and refer to the Les Best Scholarship.

About the Les Best Scholarship Program...

Dear Les Best Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the 2026 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 postmarked **no later than April 30, 2026.**

Should you have questions or would need to discuss special circumstances, call OCSEA at **888-627-3211** and refer to the Les Best Scholarship.

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

Angela Traylor

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

Members' College Scholarship Application

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

1. Member applicant name: _____ Member last 4 digits of SS# (required): _____
2. OCSEA ID: _____ Date of birth: _____
3. Agency: _____
4. Member address: _____ Apt. no. _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home phone: () - Work phone: () - Home e-mail: _____
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. serving as a chapter officer, labor walks, phone banking, attending rallies and pickets, writing letter 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, community or special interest groups, etc.

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

SELECTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY:

Member College Scoring

Essay _____ x 9 = _____

Community Service/ _____ x 5 = _____

Union Activism _____ x 5 = _____

Total score _____



Academic/Professional Reference

Due April 30, 2026

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, 2026**. Thank you.

1. Applicant's name: _____
2. Your name: _____ Job title: _____

3. School/Organization/Affiliation: _____
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: _____