

Brenyale Toomer-Byas Scholarship for Emerging Leaders

On November 5, 2022, the world lost a beautiful light, Brenyale Toomer-Byas. Brenyale was a loving daughter, a caring friend, a dedicated colleague, a passionate mentor, a talented strategic thinker, and so much more. The Orange County community is grateful that we had the privilege of knowing and working with Brenyale. She approached life and leadership with happiness and positivity. We will always remember her contagious laugh, listening ear, and warm smile.

Brenyale was a macro social work practitioner with extensive experience in program design, evaluation, training, grant making, and grant administration. Prior to creating her own consulting firm one year ago, Brenyale worked for 15 years with Orange County United Way, most recently as Executive Director of the United for Financial SecuritySM initiative.

Brenyale held Bachelor of Arts degrees in Religion and Political Science as well as a Master of Social Work degree with an emphasis in Community Organization Planning and Administration from the University of Southern California. She was proud to serve as lead consultant for the Orange County Eviction Diversion Collaborative while making plans to pursue her PhD.

*To honor Brenyale's life and legacy, we are establishing the **Brenyale Toomer-Byas Scholarship for Emerging Leaders**. Brenyale was so passionate about the pursuit of higher education. An annual scholarship will be awarded in the amount of \$2,500 to one Orange County non-profit leader seeking to pursue post-graduate studies.*

What is an emerging leader?

Emerging leaders are **high-potential professionals early in their careers**. These individuals are aspirational and energetic in their approaches to their continuing education and lifework.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Employed by a community-based, non-profit or tax exempt organization in Orange County, and enrolled in a school/university of higher education.

Timeline:

- **Release Date:** March 17, 2023
- **Due Date:** April 21, 2023
- **Award Decision:** April 28, 2023
- **Award Announcement:** May 2, 2023



In order to receive award, applicant must be available to attend in-person on **Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at our annual Scorecard event. Event details will be provided.**

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION:
Applicant Information

Name of Applicant:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Name of University:

Area of Study:

**Name & Email Address of
Person Nominating:**
(if self-nominating leave blank)

With this application, please include the following documents:

- Letters of recommendation from Post-Graduate Institution and/or Supervisor – no more than two (2) letters - include name, telephone number and email address.
 - o Post Graduate Institution (i.e., academic advisor, professor)
 - o Supervisor from place of employment
 - o *Letter of Recommendation Requirements:*
 - No more than 1 page
 - Email version of a letter is acceptable
 - Include area of study, emerging leader qualities, place of employment, professional title
- Your/Their resume (highlighting leadership/service experience, educational background, and work experience)
- A one-page essay describing, “why you/they deserve this scholarship?”
 - o How are you/they an emerging leader?
 - o What leadership qualities do you/they possess?
 - o How would this scholarship support and/or accelerate your/their post-graduate goals?

Submission Instructions:

To submit your application and its supporting documents, click here and upload your submission:
<https://ocuw.app.box.com/f/e9e24937cc2a4f5488353602d855881a>

For Questions:

Email Carol Kim, Senior Director, Community Investments and Evaluation at
CarolK@UnitedWayOC.org