



18012 Mitchell South
Irvine, CA 92614

949.660.7600
UnitedWayOC.org

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 passionate about the pursuit of higher education. To honor Brenyale's life and legacy, we have established the **Brenyale Toomer-Byas Scholarship for Emerging Leaders**.*

Scholarship(s) will be awarded for \$2,500 to at least 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 (**note:** government employees are not eligible)
- Must have an associate or bachelor's degree
- Accepted and/or enrolled in a school/university of higher education, i.e., Master's level or higher

Timeline:

- **Release Date:** Monday, February 2, 2026
- **Due Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2026 by 12 p.m.
- **Award Decision & Announcement:** Friday, April 3, 2026
- **Award Presentation:** Thursday, April 9, 2026

In order to receive award, applicant must be available to attend in-person on Thursday, April 9, 2026 at our annual Scorecard event (UC Irvine Beall Applied Innovation at the Cove, 5270 California Ave, Irvine, CA 92617)



Orange County
UNITED WAY

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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 Supervisor and/or Undergraduate Institution – no more than two (2) letters - include name, telephone number and email address.
 - o Undergraduate 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/88763df248f2437887004a62c957f2ec>

For Questions:

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