O’Brien Medical or Health Related Field of Study Scholarship

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Students seeking to continue their education in studies related to health care and medicine can apply for a scholarship newly created by Tom and Dee O’Brien through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln. The scholarship fund is named the O’Brien Medical or Health Related Field of Study Scholarship Fund.

Scholarships, available to graduates of a Sangamon County high school, will recognize Dee O’Brien’s professional career as a nurse educator and the couple’s shared belief in the importance of education.

Dee taught in nursing programs at Vanderbilt University, University of Illinois, Lincoln Land Community College, and St. John's College of Nursing. “I spent my professional life in nursing education, and I understand the importance of health care. I also understand the financial need of students in these programs,” she said. Tom and Dee O’Brien believe that higher education benefits both the individual who pursues it and the individuals who receive the gifts of trained professionals. “And when the area of study is health care, that includes us all,” Tom O’Brien said.

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“We take a lot of pride in creating this scholarship,” said Dee O’Brien, “and the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln is the perfect vehicle for us to use.” Tom added, “We chose the Community Foundation after considering a variety of ways to establish a scholarship. The Community Foundation does everything for us and includes highly professional management at every level.” The scholarship is available to every stage of medical and health-related studies after high school – from college to post graduate studies. This includes nursing, physical therapy, medical school, research, or technical fields.

“We want to find motivated, determined students for this scholarship,” Tom O’Brien said. “Ours is a need-based scholarship, and we prefer to reward evidence of hard work. We’re not just looking for the elite student with the highest grades.”

“The Fund is an excellent way to demonstrate confidence in the community and recognize our shared needs,” said Dee O’Brien. “I agree with that,” Tom said, “and we can also make our own contribution to the community that has been home to us and has provided so much to enrich our lives.”