**2025 OAKS Scholarship  Nominator Form**



**DEADLINE: APRIL 13, 2025**

**NOMINATION INFORMATION:**

Nominator Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nominator Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nominator Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Nominator Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Nominee \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Length of Time You’ve Known Nominee:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nominator Place of Employment/School/Organization\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate how this nomination process was initiated**:**

the student a classmate, family member or friend a teacher or coach a school counselor an employer a community organization other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Nomination is for a (CHECK ONE):**

High School student who will be graduating in Spring 2025 and attending RCTC in Fall 2025

First-Year RCTC student enrolled at RCTC during Spring 2025 and continuing at RCTC in Fall 2025

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**This nomination is a testimony that a student has shown exceptional resilience, tenacity and drive to continue in the face of adversity to pursue their academic goals.**

In your letter, please write your reasons for nominating this student for an OAKS scholarship. Please limit your nomination letter to no more than two double spaced pages. The nomination letter should include the following information:

1. Describe the circumstances, experiences, or challenges that the student has had to overcome.
2. Describe the positive changes or actions that the student has made to overcome these challenges.
3. What qualities or skills will help them to be successful at RCTC?
4. Why do you recommend them for this OAKS scholarship?

**To complete their application, students must apply for the scholarship through the RCTC Foundation scholarship portal at** [**www.rctc.edu/scholarships**](http://www.rctc.edu/scholarships). If selected to receive a scholarship, each nominee will be interviewed to tell their story of how the student has overcome adversity. Videos of previous OAKS recipients can be found at [**www.rctc.edu/the-oaks**](http://www.rctc.edu/the-oaks)**.***Both student and nominator are expected to attend the OAKS ceremony (Oct/Nov TBD).*

Nominator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

**While the OAKS Scholarship is still nominated by members of the community, scholarship applications will be accepted through the RCTC Foundation Scholarship portal at** [**www.rctc.edu/scholarships**](http://www.rctc.edu/scholarships)**.**

Nominated students will complete a ***single scholarship application*** that will apply for more than 300 RCTC Foundation scholarships, **including the OAKS scholarship.** *If a student is unsuccessful in being awarded an OAKS scholarship, their application will be considered for other scholarships that consider hardship among other factors (financial need, academics, major, experience with mental or physical illness, experience with foster care, surviving domestic abuse, single custodial parent, etc.)*

**Step 1: Confirm with the student that 1) the student plans to attend RCTC, 2) is happy to be nominated for the OAKS Scholarship and be recognized publicly, 3) and is willing to write an essay describing the difficulties they have experienced and how they have overcome them.**

**Step 2: Complete this nomination form. You can email it to** [**foundation@rctc.edu**](mailto:foundation@rctc.edu)**. Students may also submit this nomination form through the online portal until application close date of April 13, 2025.**

**Step 3: The student will submit a single scholarship application (which includes GPA, transcript, a statement of financial need, and essays about their future plans) through** [**www.rctc.edu/scholarships**](http://www.rctc.edu/scholarships).In the general application under Qualifying Questions, students will be asked: Have you experienced significant difficulties (such as personal or family hardships, abuse, neglect, medical issues, disabilities, chemical dependency, or language and cultural barriers) in life but have overcome them? **The student must answer YES. This question will trigger the OAKS follow-up request.**

1. Student applicants for an OAKS scholarship will be asked to attach an essay describing the difficulties they have experienced, how they have overcome these obstacles, and what has been learned from their struggles. Please limit the essay to no more than two double-spaced pages.
2. The student will be asked to complete an external request for your nomination form and letter within the portal. The student will input **your email address** into our scholarship software (AWARDSPRING)**. You will then receive an email requesting that you upload your nomination form and letter into the portal by April 13, 2025.**  **You may also email it to** [**foundation@rctc.edu**](mailto:foundation@rctc.edu)**.** Only then is the application for the OAKS Scholarship considered complete and submitted.

Students who are selected for the OAKS Scholarship interview process will be contacted by the selection committee in mid-to-late May, with finalists selected in June. Finalists and their nominators will be invited to “tell their story” in a brief video. Previous videos are available at [**www.rctc.edu/the-oaks**](http://www.rctc.edu/the-oaks). The OAKS Scholarship recipients and their nominators will be publicly recognized at the OAKS Scholarship Celebration. The scholarships are funded with generous donations from individuals and organizations raised at the OAKS Scholarship Celebration event.

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| Student applications and nomination forms and letters must be submitted by  **www.rctc.edu/scholarships**  April 13, 2025  **Questions?** Contact the RCTC Foundation at 507.281.7771 or [foundation@rctc.edu](mailto:foundation@rctc.edu) |