
Transforming Lives 2023 Nomination Criteria

Description

The ACT Transforming Lives Awards recognize current or former students whose lives have been transformed by attending a Washington state community or technical college. The ACT Awards Committee will select six keynote speakers from the nominations submitted by the Washington community and technical colleges.

All nominees will be invited to attend, at ACT's expense, the ACT Legislative Contact Conference (January 23, 2023), at the Olympia Hotel at Capitol Lake in Olympia), where they will be honored during the Transforming Lives Awards Dinner. Award winners will be the keynote speakers, and each recipient will receive a \$500 cash award from ACT. The students who are not selected as keynote speakers will receive a \$200 cash award from ACT.

Every nominee will have their story and picture included in an awards booklet that will be shared with legislators, the higher education community, and posted on the ACT website.

Awards Criteria

Nominations must come from the student's board of trustees, based on the following criteria:

- The nominee may be:
 - a current or former Washington community or technical college student **[within 3 years (2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22) of completing a degree, certificate or transfer]**
 - Or a current student who is making significant progress toward completing a degree or certificate that is helping them prepare for success in their future endeavors.

- The nominee must share in written format (**maximum 600 words**) about overcoming barriers to achieve higher education goals and how the education and support received at their community or technical college was life transforming. **The following questions must be answered in order for the nomination to be eligible for consideration:**
 - ✓ **What compelled you to attend a community or technical college? And most importantly was there an individual(s) or program at the college you feel contributed to your success?**
 - ✓ **What was it about that individual(s) or program that made the difference in transforming your life? Please explain.**
 - ✓ **Were there any barriers or obstacles that originally prevented you from attending a community or technical college?**
 - **If so, please identify those barriers or obstacles and tell us what you did to overcome those barriers or obstacles?**

- ✓ **What is next for you and what are your goals for your future?**
- ✓ **If you could share one piece of advice for other students or for those who are unsure about their ability to attend a community or technical college, what would that be?**

Each college may develop its own process for soliciting and selecting nominations. One student from each college may be nominated by the local board of trustees. Multi-campus districts provide one nominee from each college in the district. **Once the board identifies its nominee, the college is encouraged to work with the nominee to edit/finalize the student statement for submittal.**

Nominations must include the completed nomination form, the student's final edited statement, a letter of support from the board of trustees outlining why the student's story was selected, and a head and shoulder photograph (300 DPI or higher) of the student. Materials must be sent electronically. The student's statement (600 word maximum) must be in a Word document.

Deadlines:

Nominations must be received by ACT by Friday, November 4, 2022

ATTN: Kim Tanaka at ktanaka@sbctc.edu

****Previous nominations submitted within the last 3 years are eligible to be resubmitted and reconsidered****

(Students previously chosen as ACT's keynote speakers are not eligible)

Awardees will be notified mid-December.

****Please note: all student stories and pictures will be published in the Transforming Lives Booklet and posted online. The booklet is widely distributed to Legislators, CTC Stakeholders and the Public. ****