



Scholarships for COD Students with Developmental Disability Career Goals

Four \$2500 scholarships, in the form of a cash award, will be given to students at College of the Desert who are planning a career helping people with developmental disabilities. Such careers may involve medical or mental health care, education, counseling, social work, or law.

Two of the scholarships are being awarded in memory of Christina “Tina” Baldwin. Tina advocated for decades for appropriate services for her daughter, Kenyon Cornelius, who had Down syndrome. She also advocated during the last decade of her life for reforms in the adult guardianship system – promoting systemic changes in policy and practice to ensure that the rights of adults with developmental disabilities are respected and protected.

Two of the scholarships are being awarded in memory of Kenyon Cornelius. Despite being caught up in an overly protective and restrictive guardianship system in Washington State, Kenyon did her best, with her mother’s advocacy, to lead a dignified and fulfilling life. Kenyon died in 2024.

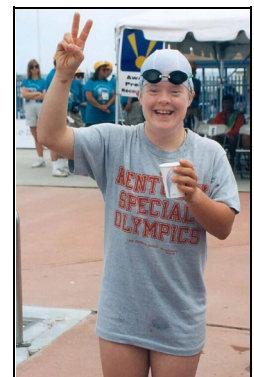
The scholarships are funded by Michael Haseltine, the husband of Tina and stepfather of Kenyon.

The scholarship funds are being administered by Spectrum Institute, nonprofit organization for which Tina served as chairperson of the board of trustees for several years prior to her death in 2025. Tina’s colleagues Thomas Coleman, John DiPietro, and Kyle Irwin now manage the nonprofit.

Scholarships are being awarded with the recommendation of a scholarship review committee. The committee is comprised of Bill Lewis, Barbara Imle, and Peter Brumlik. Bill works with autistic youth. Barbara is the State Plan and Self-Advocacy Manager at the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Peter is an autistic self-advocate attending Raritan Valley Community College.



Christina Baldwin



Kenyon Cornelius

For more information about these scholarships
contact Thomas F. Coleman.

Email: tomcoleman@spectruminstitute.org

Application for Tina Baldwin and Kenyon Cornelius
Developmental Disability Scholarship
(for academic year 2025-2026)

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Telephone _____

Email address _____ Age _____

High School Attended _____ City _____

Year of Graduation _____ Grade Point Average _____

Are you enrolled in College of the Desert for 2025-2026 _____

What is the highest degree you plan to obtain from any college or university:

___ AA ___ BA ___ Masters ___ Ph.D. ___ JD

Are you currently employed _____ Name of employer _____

Current position _____ List any previous jobs you have had

Organizations for which you have volunteered _____

Please give someone as a reference: Name _____

Contact Info _____ Relationship _____

Your intended career: (check if applicable)

___ medical care ___ mental health care ___ social work ___ education ___ law

___ other (explain _____)

Financial aid you will receive for 2025-2026: \$ _____ loans / \$ _____ grants / \$ _____ other

Along with this completed form, please submit an essay in which you describe why you are interested in using your education and chosen career to help people with developmental disabilities such as autism, down syndrome, etc. Include information of any previous involvement with people who have developmental disabilities.

Send application and essay to: tomcoleman@spectruminstitute.org