



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Orange County, California

Orange County Wine Society Awards \$50,375 in Scholarships for 2026–27, Surpassing \$1 Million Milestone

The Orange County Wine Society (OCWS) is proud to announce **\$50,375 in scholarship donations for the 2026–2027 academic year**, supporting students pursuing careers in enology, viticulture, wine-related studies, and culinary arts across California.

With this year’s awards, OCWS has now contributed **more than \$1,008,795 in scholarships since 1981**, benefiting students at **eight California colleges and universities**. Reaching the \$1 million milestone is especially meaningful as OCWS celebrates its **50th Anniversary in 2026**, marking five decades of advancing wine education and supporting the future of the wine industry. “OCWS is deeply committed to investing in the next generation of winemakers, grape growers, and culinary professionals,” said **Dr. Damian Christian, OCWS Scholarship Chair**. “Our scholarship program reflects our long-standing mission to foster education and opportunity within California’s vibrant wine community.”

2026-27 Scholarship Donation Breakdown

Institution	Program	Donation Amount
Allan Hancock College	Enology and Viticulture	\$6,000
Cal Poly Pomona	Enology and Viticulture	\$5,805
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	Enology and Viticulture	\$5,805
Cal State University - Fresno	Enology and Viticulture	\$5,805
Cal State University - Sonoma	Wine Business	\$5,805
Napa Valley College	Enology and Viticulture	\$9,405
Orange Coast College	Culinary Arts	\$5,845
University of California - Davis	Enology and Viticulture	\$5,905

Advancing Wine Education for 50 Years

OCWS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting wine education for both its members and the public. In addition to its scholarship program, OCWS fulfills its mission through the OC Fair Commercial Wine Competition and Home Wine Competition, now in their 50th year. During the OC Fair, OCWS volunteers operate the popular Wine Courtyard, where fairgoers can taste award-winning California wines, attend educational seminars, and engage directly with featured wineries. Throughout the year, OCWS also offers educational programming for its 1,000 wine enthusiast members, covering wine tasting, evaluation, commercial wine production, and home winemaking.

About the Orange County Wine Society

Founded in 1976, the Orange County Wine Society, Inc. is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to enhancing the understanding and appreciation of wine, enology, and viticulture. For the past 50 years, OCWS has proudly served as the nonprofit partner and co-sponsor of the OC Fair's wine competitions and continues to champion wine education across California. Learn more at [**ocws.org**](http://ocws.org).