

**Peer Share: 5/31/2025**

## **Vocational Scholarship**

Presented by: Jack Ferraro



The Bristol Exchange Club is the current administrator of the scholarship named in honor of Thomas M. Monahan and Philip R. Josolowitz, two longtime members of the former Bristol Kiwanis Club and dedicated citizens of Bristol, Conn. One high school senior, a Bristol resident who is pursuing advanced education at an accredited institution toward the study of technical, vocational, or trade degree or certificate, will be selected per year to receive approximately \$1,500. The committee felt that there was a financial need for our students that were pursuing a trade or vocation to be offered this chance. This program also kept with the tradition of the Kiwanis Club in presenting this type of scholarship.

### **HOW IT WORKS**

- The Exchange Club of Bristol inherited funds from the Kiwanis Club of Bristol when that club disbanded in September 2014. The funds were received on condition that the Exchange Club would continue the annual scholarship.
- In 2017, the Exchange Club set up an investment account for the inherited funds, and proceeds are drawn out each year to fund the scholarship.
- The first scholarship was awarded to a student in 2018. In 2025, the scholarship will be given to two students as the investment has continued to grow.
- Each spring, the Exchange Club Monahan/Josolowicz Scholarship Committee chairperson provides the scholarship application to the guidance staff at each of the city's three high schools.
- Top applicants are invited to an interview with the scholarship committee. Unlike some scholarship programs, the Bristol Exchange prides itself on the interview process for the students. They feel that reading an application

does not truly capture the student's worthiness. It also gives the students a chance to expound on their goals by answering questions posed by the committee. This process is also used for both the Youth & A.C.E. of the year programs.

- The Monahan/Josolowicz Scholarship winner is honored, along with the Bristol Exchange Club's Youth of the Year and ACE award winners, at the club's annual scholarship banquet in June.

### **Highlights of the Monahan/Josolowicz scholarship application:**

- Students are asked to describe their planned course of study and/or training after high school graduation
- They must also provide a brief essay of no more than 200 words describing how the scholarship will help them reach their career goals
- The application is also accompanied by transcripts and at least one letter of recommendation
- Top applicants are invited to an interview with the scholarship committee
- The funds are given contingent on the student being accepted to and enrolling in the eligible program of their choice

### **What have our students gone on to study and do?**

- Advanced manufacturing technology
- Electrical, Carpentry, Plumbing, etc.
- Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Automotive maintenance and repair
- Vocational programs also include Nursing, Dental Hygienists, Religious vocations, Veterinary assistants, Firefighters, Paramedics, Police Officers and other first responders.

**Questions?** Contact the Bristol Exchange Club at  
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