



Students of Integrity Scholarship

A future workforce program of BBB's Center for Character Ethics that honors Central Ohio high school students who personify high character through leadership, community service, overall personal integrity and academic excellence.





"I feel like Courage accurately represents the trials I underwent to get where I am today. The past nine years have been a fantastic run, full of sweet victories and devastating losses. Even though it took some time to sink in, I realized that the most important step to take while facing an obstacle – no matter how difficult it is – is the next one."

Aditya Chittari
2022 Recipient

"The transformation in me was about becoming committed to a consistent, positive character. I realized that I was solely responsible for my own outlook, that the way I responded to an event was more important than the event itself."

Kenzie Hannahs
2023 Recipient

Find us on Facebook:
facebook.com/bbbcentralohio



Submit Your Application

What is the BBB Students of Integrity Award?

An award program for high school seniors who personify high character through leadership, personal integrity, and academic excellence.

Who is eligible to enter?

Each high school within BBB's 21-county service area may nominate one student from the 2026-2027 **senior** class with at least a 3.5 GPA. The awards will be presented in fall 2026, when the students are seniors.

When is the deadline for applications?

Deadline for submission is **September 25, 2026**. If submitting online please go to **BBBStudentsofIntegrity.com**. If entries are submitted via postal mail, they must be submitted by September 25, 2026.

What will the recipients receive?

Five students will receive a scholarship of \$1,000 each, to be presented at a special ceremony in the Fall of 2026.

Entry and judging criteria:

The contest is open to current **high school seniors**, who will be entering their seniors for the 2026-2027 school year of high school. Entries will be reviewed by a panel of judges comprised of business leaders and members of the academic community. Judges will select recipients based on demonstrated qualities of leadership and personal integrity, contributions to community and school, and a written essay.

Judges will score as follows: essay (35%), community service (30%), leadership (30%), and academics (5%). Guidance counselors must provide a letter verifying the student has at least a 3.5 GPA.

Each applicant should submit an Entry Portfolio that includes the following documentation of their commitment to ethical behavior. Entries can be submitted electronically or in hardcopy format. If submitting a hardcopy entry, the application should be typed on 8.5 x 11" paper, one-sided, with at least an 11 pt. font and 1" margins. The first page of the portfolio should be the completed entry form.

Section 1 - Leadership (30%)

- Describe activities inside and outside of school in which you've had a leadership role. You may include sports, student clubs or organizations, church or special community activities. Include awards/honors, offices held and length of time participated. Please use a resume format.
- Write a paragraph to reflect on what you learned as a leader as a result of your experiences.

Section 2 - Community Service/Work Experience (30%)

- Describe community service you have participated in (inside or outside of school). Include awards/honors or offices held and length of time participated. Please use a resume format.
- List any paid work experience with dates of employment and job description. Please use a resume format.
- Write a paragraph to reflect on how these experiences impacted your attitude and behavior.

Section 3 - Academics (5%)

- Describe awards received for your academic achievement. Please use a resume format.
- In a paragraph, describe your post-secondary education plans and career goals.

Section 4 - Essay (35%)

- Please read the UncommonSense Framework (p.4), then select one of the 20 principles and share a personal experience to explain why you have chosen it and how it is applied in your life. The essay should be a minimum of 500 words and a maximum of 750. Please include *UncommonSense* principle in the title of your essay.

Letters of Recommendation

- A letter of recommendation from a school official, church leader, employer or community leader that addresses the applicant's character.
- A letter from the school guidance counselor verifying that the applicant's GPA is 3.5 or above. (Transcripts are not necessary)

Don't forget anything!

Use the checklist below and be sure to proof read your submission.

- ☐ Sections 1-3 (left) leadership, service/work experience and academic resumes with reflection paragraphs.
- ☐ Essay based on one *UncommonSense* principle
- ☐ Letter of Recommendation
- ☐ Letter from counselor verifying GPA

Applications must be submitted by September 25, 2026.

For questions contact:
Keith Pickett Jr at
614-754-4563 or
kpickett@centralohio.bbb.org



UncommonSense® Framework

Ethical Principles to help students develop leadership character

While I will never be perfect, I will...

Be Principled & Genuine:

1. Seek Wisdom

I will seek something greater than intelligence (knowing information), I seek wisdom, knowing what is right or true.

2. Trustworthiness

I will strive to stay true to my beliefs and be who I say I am.

3. Integrity

I will strive to do what I say I will do.

4. Honesty

I will strive to tell the truth, with compassion for the feelings of others.

Value Others:

5. Respect

I will strive to treat others as they would want to be treated.

6. Compassion for Others

I will strive to extend kindness to others, even if not earned.

7. Forgiveness

I will strive to forgive others, even when undeserved, and ask humbly for others to forgive me.

8. Unity

I will strive to build relationships that foster harmony and collaboration.

9. Learning & Mentoring

I will strive to grow in wisdom and pass it on.

10. Serving-Leadership

I will strive to put the success of others and the group ahead of my own.

11. Honoring Authority

I will strive to respect boundaries and honor those given responsibility for others.

Seek Results:

12. Justice

I will strive to uphold the truth, expose error and correct wrongs.

13. Courage

I will strive to act on my principles, and persevere through difficulties.

14. Accountability

I will strive to self-evaluate and welcome feedback from others.

15. Stewardship

I will strive to act responsibly toward the world and all resources.

16. Seek Counsel

I will seek advice from others who have wisdom, especially when confronted with ethically ambiguous situations.

17. Responsibility

I will strive to fulfill my obligations as a family member and citizen.

18. Excellence

I will strive to be my very best as I do my very best everyday.

Display Growth:

19. Maturation

I will strive to learn from experience and improve over time.

20. Transformation

I will strive to be committed to consistent, positive character.



For a deeper discussion of these principles,
go to centerforcharacterethics.org

Preserving a character-builder is the only thing that is truly 100% within everyone's personal control, and is not dependent on change in others or in circumstances. Our conscience drives our convictions, which drive our conduct, regardless of our past or current situations.

Complete online [or](#)
send entry packet
postmarked by **September 25, 2026** to:

Keith Pickett Jr
1169 Dublin Rd.
Columbus, OH 43215



Entry Form

Student Name _____
First Last

Student Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Student Email Address _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____
First Last

Parent/Guardian Email Address _____

Home Phone _____ School _____

School Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School County _____ Graduation Year _____

Counselor's Name _____
First Last

Counselor's Email Address _____ Phone _____

Signature of Student _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____

Student Entrant: By signing this form, you confirm that the information is accurate, the essay is your work and the phrases taken from other sources (such as quotes) are properly cited. You (and your legal guardian if you are under 18 years of age) also give the Better Business Bureau and Center for Character Ethics permission to use your essay at their discretion to publicize and promote the Students of Integrity Program. You (and your parent) also give permission for any picture, audio, or video recording of the awards ceremony to be used for publicity or promotion of program. Your personal information will not be given to any individual or organization outside of the BBB Center for Character Ethics.

Questions?

Contact Keith Pickett Jr at 614-754-4563 or kpickett@centralohio.bbb.org

Application Check List:

- Sections 1-3 leadership, service and academic resumes with reflections
- Essay based on *UncommonSense*® principle
- Letter of Recommendation
- Letter from counselor verifying GPA

