

Thomas R. Brown Distinguished Scholarship

The Thomas R. Brown Scholarship is awarded to incoming freshmen who display excellence in academic and extracurricular endeavors. Only National Merit & National Achievement Semifinalists and Finalists, National Hispanic Scholars, and Flinn Semifinalists are eligible to apply. Students who are selected to the Brown Scholarship will be awarded \$5,000 per year. This scholarship is made possible by the generosity of the [Thomas R. Brown Foundations](#).

Tom Brown, co-founder of Burr-Brown Research Corporation, led Burr-Brown to worldwide prominence in the development, manufacturing and marketing of data conversion and mixed integrated circuits. Burr-Brown was eventually sold to Texas Instruments in a stock deal worth more than \$7 billion. At the time, this move was the semiconductor industry's largest-ever acquisition.

In 2001, Tom Brown was named Technology Executive of the year at the Technology and Management Awards in Phoenix, AZ. This occasion marked the collaboration between the University of Arizona's College of Engineering and the Eller College of Management. In a powerful acceptance speech, Tom Brown revealed the elements of success behind his company.

“We had to live within the discipline of engineering. We had to have good products, and you could not avoid Ohm’s law, and you had to understand feedback. In the management area, that’s not quite so precise and rigorous. But there are a lot of principles and laws that you have to understand to make that work also [to have a clear and noble purpose, reputation of integrity and confidence, respect for individuals]. And after you have done all that, and you’ve heard from people, you have to have a heavy input of serendipity and luck. And we had a lot of that. And you have to make enough mistakes to get your humility factor where it belongs. And you can learn from that too.”¹

The idea of success happening at the intersection of engineering, management and serendipity is the spirit of the Thomas R. Brown Scholarship. With this in mind, the Scholarship Committee requests your response to the following essay prompt [submitted using the [online application](#)].

Describe how you intend to make a significant contribution to society using your engineering degree.

Please keep your response between five and eight hundred words. All materials should be [submitted online](#) by March 1, 2017.

¹ Brown, Thomas R. (2001). Speech presented at the Technology and Management Awards, Phoenix, AZ. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqB8ptRfqos>