**Matthew Donovan**

**NEOCA President**

Morehead State University

Morehead, Kentucky

**Ashley Childs**

**NEOCA Vice President**

Texarkana College

Texarkana, TX

**Melissa Rosa-Alvarez**

**NEOCA Treasurer**

Seminole State College

Sanford, FL

**Megan Mantz**

**NEOCA Secretary**

Morehead State University

Morehead, Kentucky

**Lee Williams III**

**NEOCA Past President**

Texarkana College

Texarkana, TX



May 20, 2024

**To: National Educational Opportunity Centers Association**

**From: NEOCA Scholarship Committee**

**Re: NEOCA Annual Scholarship Competition**

The National Educational Opportunity Centers Association announces its 2024 scholarship competition. NEOCA will award scholarships to help cover recipients' educational expenses during the 2024-2025 academic year. Six scholarships will be awarded, $1000 each.

**General Information:**

**Only applicants whose sponsoring EOC TRIO program has a current NEOCA institutional membership will be considered.**

1. **HS Equivalency Diploma to Postsecondary Enrollment Scholarship**

EOC participants seeking a high school equivalency diploma during the 2023-2024 program year can compete for a one-time award of $1000 if they have successfully completed a high school equivalency diploma and will enroll in college during the 2024-2025 academic year.

1. **Postsecondary Enrollment Scholarship**

EOC participants seeking postsecondary enrollment during the 2024-2025 academic year can compete for a one-time award of $1000.

* Nominations are limited to one per award per NEOCA Institutional Membership.
* Nominations may be sent electronically by email to the Scholarship Committee by the program director or staff member by July 31st, 2024. A $1,000 check will be presented to the winners’ EOC staff at the annual conference.

Applications will be evaluated according to the criteria outlined below.

The official announcement of the winners will be made at the NEOCA conference to be held in September 7th, 2024. Nominating EOC programs will be notified by August 25th, 2024.

Should you have any questions or need additional information feel free to contact the NEOCA Scholarship Committee.

**What to Submit:**

1. Scholarship Application Form accompanying this memorandum.
2. Applicant Essay: Discuss a challenge you have faced during your academic journey and how you have worked to overcome that challenge. Explain how EOC has assisted you in your education journey.
3. HS equivalency diploma verification and enrollment verification, if applicable.
4. Letters of recommendation as indicated in the accompanying general and specific program qualifications.

Please email the above materials to Ashley Childs, NEOCA Vice-president at ashley.childs@texarkanacollege.edu

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

**Evaluative Criteria:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Applicant’s Essay: based on content, organization, creativity, and grammar** | **Up to 40 points** |
| **Recommendation Letter from EOC Program** | **Up to 30 points** |
| **Professional Letter of Reference** | **Up to 10 points** |
| **Total possible points** | **80** |
|  |  |

**Scholarship Qualifications**

**General Qualifications**

All Scholarship Applicants Must:

1. Be currently enrolled in an Educational Opportunity Center Program with a current NEOCA institutional membership and:
	1. Have successfully completed and received an HS Equivalency Diploma during the 2023-2024 academic year.

**Or**

* 1. Will enroll in a college program of study in the upcoming academic year.
1. Submit HS Equivalency Diploma verification and proof of enrollment if applicable.
2. Submit a typed personal essay 250-400 words, as outlined in the Scholarship Application.
3. Submit a letter of recommendation from the sponsoring TRIO program **on** **official letterhead** which highlights academic growth and potential, personal qualities, and overall accomplishments.
4. Submit a letter of recommendation from a community or professional affiliate (employer, clergy, social worker, etc.).

**National Educational Opportunity Centers Association**

**Scholarship Application**

**Deadline: July 31, 2024**

I am applying for:

[ ]  *High School Equivalency to Postsecondary Enrollmen*t

[ ]  *Postsecondary Enrollment*

Please attach all supporting documents:

* Scholarship Application Form
* Applicant Essay
* High school equivalency/GED verification and proof of enrollment if applicable
* Letters of recommendation as indicated in the general qualifications.

**RECOMMENDING EOC PROGRAM INFORMATION:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Program Name:  |       |
| Contact Person:  |       |
| Phone: |       | E-mail Address: |       |
| Street Address: |       |
| City/State/Zip |       |

**APPLICANT INFORMATION:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: |  |
| Phone: |  | E-mail Address: |  |
| College Name: |  |
| Campus Address: |  |
| City/State/Zip |  |
| Personal Address: |  |
| City/State/Zip |  |

**Applicant Signature\***

\*I understand that my application essay may be used in future TRIO-related activities or publications. If chosen to receive a scholarship, I understand that I may be asked to provide proof of enrollment.

**Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**EOC Staff Signature\***

\*By my signature, I certify that the student applying for this scholarship is a participant in the project that I work for and that they are otherwise eligible to compete for this award.

**\*Program Staff Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**NEOCA Scholarship Scoring Rubric**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ITEM** | **DETAILED POINT VALUES** | **Possible Points** |
| ESSAY***Essay must be between 250-400 words (maximum)*** | **Essay Prompt:** **Discuss a challenge you have faced during your academic journey and how you have worked to overcome that challenge. Explain how EOC has assisted you in your education journey. The essay is rated as follows:*** **Content**
* **Communication skills (grammar, organization, creativity, punctuation, and spelling)**

Total Possible Points – Essay = | **Points:****1 – 35****1 - 5****40** |
| TRIO Staff Recommendation Letter | **The extent to which the following mentions are discussed:*** Growth and Potential
* Personal Qualities
* Overall Accomplishment

Total Possible Points – TRIO recommendation | **Points:****0-10 points****0-10 points****0-10 points****----------****30** |
| Professional Letter of Reference | As long as a professional reference letter is provided then all points will be awarded. Without a professional letter of reference, zero points will be awarded.Total Possible Points – Professional Letter of Reference | **Points:****10** |
|  |  |  |