

May 5, 2025

To: National Educational Opportunity Centers Association

From: NEOCA Scholarship Committee

Re: NEOCA Annual Scholarship Competition

The National Educational Opportunity Centers Association announces its 2025 scholarship competition. NEOCA will award scholarships to help cover recipients' educational expenses during the 2025-2026 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 who obtained a high school equivalency diploma during the 2024-2025 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 2025-2026 academic year.

2. Postsecondary Enrollment Scholarship

EOC participants seeking postsecondary enrollment during the 2025-2026 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, 2025. 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 on September 6th, 2025. Nominating EOC programs will be notified by August 22nd, 2025.

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

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

Lee Williams III

NEOCA Past President

Texarkana College
Texarkana, TX

TRIO
E D U C A T I O N A L
O P P O R T U N I T Y C E N T E R S

NEOCA Scholarship Activities List Information Form

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 our NEOCA Vice-president, Ashley Childs, 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:
 - a. Have successfully completed and received an HS Equivalency Diploma during the 2024-2025 academic year and will enroll in a college program of study in the upcoming academic year.

Or

 - b. Will enroll in a college program of study in the upcoming academic year.
2. Submit HS Equivalency Diploma verification and proof of enrollment if applicable.
3. Submit a typed personal essay 250-400 words, as outlined in the Scholarship Application.
4. Submit a letter of recommendation from the sponsoring TRIO program **on official letterhead**, which highlights academic growth and potential, personal qualities, and overall accomplishments.
5. 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, 2025

I am applying for:

- High School Equivalency to Postsecondary Enrollment*
 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
<p>ESSAY <i>Essay must be between 250-400 words (maximum)</i></p>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content • Communication skills (grammar, organization, creativity, punctuation, and spelling) <p style="text-align: center;">Total Possible Points – Essay =</p>	<p>Points:</p> <p>1 – 35 1 - 5</p> <hr/> <p>40</p>
<p>TRIO Staff Recommendation Letter</p>	<p>The extent to which the following mentions are discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth and Potential • Personal Qualities • Overall Accomplishment <p style="text-align: center;">Total Possible Points – TRIO recommendation</p>	<p>Points:</p> <p>0-10 points 0-10 points 0-10 points</p> <p>----- 30</p>
<p>Professional Letter of Reference</p>	<p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Total Possible Points – Professional Letter of Reference</p>	<p>Points:</p> <p>10</p>