

## Criteria for the Dr. Dan & Donna Connell Adult Learner Scholarship

[Award: \$500]

### APPLICANTS MUST BE

- ✓ **Participant in an Eligible Program:** **EOC or VUB**
- ✓ **Admitted or currently enrolled** at a postsecondary institution and plan to be enrolled the following semester (i.e. must be admitted and planning to attend college during the fall semester of the 2025-2026 academic year).

### APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT

This scholarship focuses on a **personal essay (750 words max):**

**Please write about how you benefitted from the program (EOC or VUB);** how committed you are to academic growth; and how dedicated you are to your college/career goals. Why are you the best candidate to receive a scholarship?

Applicants should submit the required materials to their **Nominator** (a TRIO employee who is a paid member of KY TRIO), who will submit the application on the applicant's behalf.

**Nominators must submit to KY TRIO no later than 4:00 PM CST/ 5:00 PM EST on Friday, March 28th, 2025.** Therefore, Nominators should **set earlier deadlines** for application requirements to ensure Nominators can meet the March 28th deadline. Applications that are incomplete or missing required information **WILL NOT** be considered and will be disqualified.

## SCORING RUBRIC

### 2025 – 2026 Adult Learner Scholarship Rubric (EOC or VUB)

Personal Essay (750 word max)

**Personal Essay** (750 words max) - Please write about how you benefitted from the program (EOC or VUB); how committed you are to academic growth; and how dedicated you are to your college/career goals. Why are you the best candidate to receive a scholarship?

Score Categories:	Possible Points:	Score:
<b>Basic writing mechanics</b> (spelling, grammar, and punctuation).	<b>30 points</b>  (each applicant starts with 30 and loses one point per error)	
<b>Quality of writing</b> (organized thoughts and flow, all parts of the topic were addressed, concise/focused, and clearly written).	<b>30 points</b>  0 – 10 points – organization 0 – 10 points – thoroughness 0 – 10 points – concise, clear message	
<b>Impact of writing</b> (engaging/attention-grabbing , demonstrates clarity of goals, encompasses the spirit of scholarship purpose)	<b>40 points</b>  0 – 15 points – engaging message 0 – 15 points – clear vision for the future 0 – 10 points – spirit of scholarship	
<b>100 total points possible*</b>		<b>/100</b>