



**New England Association
for College Admission Counseling**

Opening Doors to Higher Education in New England

2026 NEACAC Annual Essay Contest

High school juniors, seniors, and PG students from **NEACAC-member schools** in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont are invited to submit an **essay (500 word limit)** on the following topic:

Describe a trusted mentor (counselor, teacher, coach, or peer) who has had the greatest impact on your decision to attend college.

***How has this individual supported your educational goals?
Please reflect on their influence/effect on your college process.***

Essays may be submitted online through **April 1, 2026**.

One Winner from each state will be awarded a **\$1,000 scholarship** and one Overall Winner will be awarded a **\$2,000 scholarship**.

Priority will be given to applicants who hold an identity that has been historically excluded from higher education.



Visit or scan the QR code
to be brought to the website and application link!

*For helpful tips on writing a winning essay, please read these [guidelines](#).
Questions? Contact Lauren Broderick at lbroderick@champlain.edu.*