

Outstanding Adult Student Award

Deadline for submission of all materials is MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026 BY 5:00 P.M.

PURPOSE

To recognize outstanding adult and veteran learners at Penn State University Park who have overcome obstacles juggling multiple roles, achieving academically while pursuing their first time undergraduate degree and serving as a role model for other students.

ELIGIBILITY

Nominees should have begun/resumed studies at or after the age of 24 or after having been out of high school for four or more years. Nominees must be enrolled at Penn State's University Park campus as either a full or part-time undergraduate status. Prior to nomination, undergraduate students must have completed a minimum of forty-five credits with at least thirty of these credits earned at Penn State, earned a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA and demonstrate participation in co-curricular or community organization.

NOMINATION PACKET

The nomination packet will include the following:

- Nominator's narrative;
- One additional letter of reference
- Current student issued unofficial transcript
- Nomination form.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The narratives written by the nominator, persons providing reference letters, and information should include all of the following details where applicable:

1. Contributions to the University and/or Community.
2. Success in coping with numerous roles. For example, is the student also employed? Full or part time? Does the student have family responsibilities? Community activities? Professional organization involvement?
3. Difficult circumstances overcome to pursue higher education. For example, does the student have a long commute? ...live away from his/her family to attend school? ...experience financial hardship? ...a disability? Has the student adopted innovative ways of overcoming obstacles?
4. Innovative approaches to meeting personal educational needs.
5. Special awards or honors earned in relation to his/her educational pursuits and/or how the student may have served as a role model to his/her peers.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Nominators must be University faculty or staff members, or currently enrolled adult learner at the University Park campus of Penn State. Additional letters of reference may be provided by faculty, staff, or students from any University location, work/or community colleagues, and family members. The Award Recipient must be able to attend the Adult Learner Award Reception as well as a division-wide ceremony to be held on a later date.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

Penn State is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status. UBR STA 25-035.

Nomination

Nominator Information

Name _____
Address _____
Phone Number _____
Email Address _____
Title or Position _____

Student Nominee Information

Name _____
Penn State ID _____
Penn State Email _____
Home Address _____
Phone Number _____
Major _____
College _____
Class Standing _____ Current GPA _____
Veteran Yes No
Branch _____ Years of Service _____

Submission Instructions

The student should provide a Penn State unofficial transcript, the nominator's letter of recommendation and one additional reference letter. The final award recipient will be determined by the Outstanding Adult Student Award Committee.

Completed applications are due by MARCH 12, 2024

Submit completed applications to:

- Leslie A. Laing
Director, Adult Learner Programs and Services
210 Boucke Building
325 Pollock Rd.
University Park, PA 16802

Nominee's Bio

Nominee's Name _____

Please write a biographical sketch of no more than two (2) pages. Please discuss topics such as: when you began or resumed college study; particular obstacles you face in pursuing your education; success in coping with numerous roles; innovative approaches you have employed in overcoming those obstacles to attain your education; contributions you have made to Penn State, your community, and/or your profession; special academic honors or awards received; and your short and long range goals. Use an additional sheet of paper if you wish.

Nominator's Narrative

Nominee's Name _____

Title, Email & Phone Number _____

Please refer to the Selection Criteria in composing your narrative.

Nominator's Signature _____

Nominator's Printed Name _____