



***The Nolan Prize***  
**In Adult and Higher Education**  
***Award Guidelines***

***The Nolan Prize Fund***

The purpose of the Fund is to encourage innovation in Adult and Higher Education by offering The Nolan Prize, an annual award of \$1,000 for the creation of new approaches that can impact adult learning, advance adult and higher education delivery systems, and/or assist in recruiting more professionals into the field of Adult and Higher Education.

**Donors**

Thomas L. Nolan, Jr. received his Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Applied Health Sciences at the University of Illinois in 1959. Forty years later, he received his Ed.D. from Northern Illinois University (NIU) in Adult Continuing Education. Dr. Nolan has a long history in education, beginning as training director for two NYSE brokerage firms and later as an Allied Member of the New York Stock Exchange. He has also worked as an investment adviser, consultant, and has written two books about retirement planning. Since graduating from NIU, Dr. Nolan has written and produced adult learning programs ranging from cardiac rehab education to nursing job satisfaction. In 2006, he received a four-year appointment to the Institutional Actions Council of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Moreover, Dr. Nolan co-authored “Coaching: A different approach to the nursing dilemma” published in the January 2007 edition of *Nursing Administration Quarterly*.

Upon graduating from the Chicago Theological Seminary and Ordination, Joanne Nolan served as a hospital chaplain for the Swedish American Health Systems in Rockford, Ill. Her specialty area was the emergency room.

The Nolan’s believe that adults today are planning to continue and improve their education in future years. In addition, they are convinced that new and inspired methods of education and its delivery systems are needed for all adult learners. The Nolan Prize is their response to these needs.

**Award Criteria**

The candidate must be a current graduate student, faculty member, or staff member at Northern Illinois University, or a graduate of the NIU Adult and Higher Education program. If a current graduate student, he/she must be in good academic standing with the university.



### **Selection of Recipient**

The selection of a recipient will be made under the guidance of the Dean of the College of Education, utilizing a committee that includes the Chair of the Department of Counseling, Adult, and Higher Education (CAHE); two faculty members with status in Adult and Higher Education at NIU; and an adult and/or higher education professional working in the field. The decision of the selection committee will be final. Successful candidates will be notified in writing.

Only one \$1,000 award may be granted in a single year.

Awards shall be made without regard to race, color, ethnicity, religion, age, marital status, sex, national origin, disability, veteran status, or any other factor unrelated to the award criteria.

### **Application Procedures**

1. Complete the application form
2. Write or co-write an original essay with necessary references (2000 word minimum, double spaced, 1-inch margins, 12 point font) describing your fully-developed, new approach that can impact adult learning, advance adult and higher education delivery systems, and/or assist in recruiting more professionals into the field of Adult and Higher Education. No more than two authors will be considered for each application, and, if an essay with two authors is selected, the award will be split evenly between the two authors.

The entry cannot have been previously published in academic literature or be a part of current professional practice, but instead should offer new ways to enhance students' learning experiences and improve adult and higher education practice.

3. Submit all application materials no later than **March 15**.
4. Prior recipients shall not be eligible to apply for an additional award.

**For further information, please contact:** Dr. Barbara J. Johnson  
Chair, Counseling, Adult & Higher Education  
Northern Illinois University  
200 Gabel Hall  
DeKalb, IL 60115  
Email: [bjohnson2@niu.edu](mailto:bjohnson2@niu.edu)  
Telephone: 815.753.1448

(Updated Spring 2009)



**NOLAN PRIZE FUND**

**Application Form**

Name (Last, First Middle):	
Student/Employee ID #:	
Classification/Title:	
Department:	
Mailing Address:	
City, State, Zip Code:	
Telephone (Home):	(    )
Telephone (Work):	(    )
Email Address:	
Grade Point Average (current students only):	
Degree Program (current students only):	

Please complete this application form and submit electronically along with your essay to:  
**[cahescholarships@niu.edu](mailto:cahescholarships@niu.edu)** with the subject heading:  
**Nolan Prize Fund**

**Application materials must be received by: March 15**

(Updated Spring 2009)