

# 2025 Queer Connect Scholarship Application

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This year, the Queer Connect Youth Scholarship is dedicated to the memory of **Michael deNeufchatel**, a beloved world language teacher at Mount Anthony Union Middle School in Bennington, Vermont for nearly three decades. A world traveler, sage, and scholar, Michael inspired generations of students to become curious, compassionate global citizens. His passion for arts, culture, and inclusion left a lasting impact on the Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union community. Though deeply missed, his legacy lives on in the lives he touched—and now, through this scholarship, which celebrates the values he championed.

## Qualifications

Thank you for considering Queer Connect's 2025 Scholarship! As we service the tri-state area, our mission is to provide visibility and resources for the LGBTQIA community, so your support is vital!

- Must be a high school senior
- Must be planning to attend a post-secondary school or program (ex: trade or apprenticeship) fall of 2025
- Must be a resident of Bennington County, Rutland County, Windham County, Windsor County, Berkshire County, Rensselaer County

## The Essay

Create an essay describing how you plan to be a positive role model for the LGBTQIA community in your life after high school. Our readers love narratives that include your story and background, so please share what motivates you to be part of this important work, especially if your history informs your practices.

The essay should not exceed 750 words. Please send your essay double spaced to: [jess@queerconnectbennington.com](mailto:jess@queerconnectbennington.com)

- Deadline for the application is **May 21, 2025**
- Your essay should not include your name or contact information
- In the body of your **email**, please include the following information:

Contact Information	
Name	
Address	
Phone	
High school	
E-mail Address	
Pronouns	

**The Award**

The winner of the scholarship will receive **\$500** paid directly to the college, university, or any post-secondary institution/program of choice prior to the beginning of the fall 2025 semester. The winner will be notified by June 1, 2025. The winner’s name will also be posted on Queer Connect’s website and social media platforms. As well, the winner will have the opportunity to read their essay at Bennington Pride on June 14.

**Agreement | Signature**

By signing this cover page, I affirm that the content of my essay is true and complete. I give permission to Queer Connect to publish my name and submission on queerconnectbennington.com.

- If you are able to print, sign, and scan this page on your application, great – but if not, please **type a statement of agreement** in the body of your email that accompanies your contact information above
- If you do not give permission, please indicate that in your email

Name (printed)	
Signature	
Date	