

# TRIBAL COLLEGE

JOURNAL OF AMERICAN INDIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

*TCJ Student & TCJStudent.org*  
2016 Creative Writing Contest

## DEADLINES

**Creative Writing Contest:** February 12, 2016

**Publication Date:** August 14, 2016

**Who:** The contest is open to ALL tribal college students currently enrolled at an AIHEC-member institution

## OVERVIEW

Each year, *Tribal College Journal* seeks exceptional creative writing by tribal college students for its student writing contest. The top writing submissions are featured in both the fall print edition of *TCJ Student* and online at *TCJStudent.org*. We encourage students to submit their best work (proofread and edited) for consideration. We prefer that instructors participate in the submission of their students' work so we can have a contact name and email address.

Publication in *TCJ Student* and at *TCJStudent.org* provides students with incentives, national exposure, and material for resumes. TCJ also awards prizes for the winning entries. Student winners have received netbooks, Kindle Fires, iPods, gift cards, certificates, plaques, and pens. Additionally, a nationally recognized Indigenous writer serves as the guest editor for the writing contest, selecting the winners and introducing the issue. Past introductions of the student issue have been written by Sherman Alexie and Pulitzer Prize recipient N. Scott Momaday. This year's guest editor is Joan Naviyuk Kane (Inupiaq).

## CONTEST CATEGORIES

*TCJ's writing contest is organized into three categories: 1.) Fiction; 2.) Nonfiction (Memoir/Narrative); 3.) Poetry*

The top three winners in each writing category will receive an award (such as a Kindle Fire, iPod, gift card, etc.) and their entries will be featured in the annual print magazine, *TCJ Student*. Additionally, winning entries and those earning honorable mention will be featured on TCJ's student website, *TCJStudent.org*. Honorable mentions have also appeared in subsequent issues of the main journal under the regular department "TCJ Student." Certificates/awards for the writing contest will be presented during the AIHEC Student Conference in March 2016.

## CONTEST RULES

### **All Contestants**

- All students entering the contest must be registered at an AIHEC-affiliated tribal college.
- A student's name must NOT appear on the entry itself but rather on a separate cover sheet.
- Students must submit a short 100-word bio and an Official Entry Form with each entry.
- The deadline cannot be extended, and entries received after the deadline will not be considered. Since the winning entries appear within *Tribal College Journal* and/or at *TCJStudent.org*, we must adhere to our publishing schedule.
- Entries must not have been previously published, excepting those published on *TCJStudent.org*.
- Entries submitted to the TCJ writing contest in past years will not be accepted.
- Entries not conforming to contest rules will be disqualified.
- Entries must be emailed as attachments in Microsoft Word. Use 12 point Times New Roman font only, double space entries, and include the writing category in the upper right corner of the first page.

- Maximum Length: 1,000 words (about four double-spaced pages). Entries over 1,000 words will not be considered.
- Entries containing passages in a Native language must be accompanied with an English translation and an appropriate Native language font when necessary.
- Only one entry will be accepted from each student per writing category.
- A separate TCJ Official Entry Form must accompany each entry.
- TCJ may edit submissions for space, style, or appropriateness.

## **JUDGING CRITERIA**

- The winning entries of the TCJ Student writing contest are selected by *TCJ Student's* guest editor. Judging criteria may include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:
  - Presentation (appropriate format, adherence to contest rules, neatness, spelling, punctuation, grammar).
  - Suitability (correct content for category and appropriate length).
  - Tightness, clarity, structure, strength of lead/beginning, transitions, impact, satisfactory close.
- Other helpful hints for students:
 

**Nonfiction** (Personal Narrative/Memoir): Text should exhibit compelling logic, have an effective order of ideas, and convey a provocative message. The lead and the closing should develop and reinforce the overall theme. Entries may be in a memoir or narrative style.

**Fiction** (Short Story): The story should have entertaining and creative characters, meaningful conflict, well-drawn dialogue, effective plot, a strong beginning and ending, and well-developed figurative language and imagery.

**Poetry**: The poem should explore a fresh and interesting concept, it may possess a provocative cadence or rhythmic beat, selectively use a variety of devices (such as figurative language) to appeal to the imagination or engage the reader's senses. If traditional verse is used, the poem should adhere to form.

**OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM**  
**2016 Tribal College Student Writing Competition**

A separate form must accompany each entry (fiction, nonfiction, poetry).

**Postmark deadline: February 12, 2016**

1. Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Note how you want your name printed on Winners List/Certificate, if different from above:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Student's mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Student's phone number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

4. Email: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Student's tribal college: \_\_\_\_\_

6. TITLE of entry: \_\_\_\_\_

Page count (for writing entries): \_\_\_\_\_ Duration (for film entries): \_\_\_\_\_

7. FIRST LINE of entry (for writing entries):

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Circle Division/Category of this entry:

**Fiction**

**Nonfiction**

**Poetry**

9. Attach a 100-word biographical statement (include your tribal college and major, any tribal affiliation, aspirations or interests, any credits to mentors, and information about your interest in writing). If your entry is selected, we will request your photo.

10. Name of Writing/English/ Other Instructor (who has reviewed the entry): \_\_\_\_\_

11. Instructor's telephone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ and email address: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Student Consent and Warranty:

If your work is selected as a winner or an honorable mention, *Tribal College Journal* reserves the right to edit for grammar, spelling, possible word replacement or reformatting, if necessary. We also reserve the right to restructure or delete some sections of text for readability or to preserve internal consistency of narrative. If your entry requires substantial changes, our copy editor will contact you directly for suggested changes. As our call for entry indicated, each entry is limited to a 1,000-word count maximum.

By submitting your writing you acknowledge *Tribal College Journal's* right to use all customary means to publish and distribute the work, including not only within the TCJ magazine and website but also through various on-line services, digital editions, social networking sites, and mobile digital applications.

The student certifies that this writing is original and that the author has the authority to make this agreement. The student also certifies that the writing does not infringe upon any copyright or contain any libelous or unlawful matter.

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Student's Signature

Date

13. Send entry form with entry by email to: [student@tribalcollegejournal.org](mailto:student@tribalcollegejournal.org).