



GREAT LAKES COLLEGES ASSOCIATION 51th ANNUAL NEW WRITERS AWARDS GUIDELINES

THE NEW WRITERS AWARDS

For the 51st year, the Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA) announces its GLCA New Writers Award. Entries will be accepted beginning January 24, 2020. An award is given each year to the best in each of the following literary genres from works **submitted by publishers**:

1. **first** book of *poetry*,
2. **first** book of *fiction* and
3. **first** book of *creative non-fiction*

New Writers Award judges are professors of literature and writers in residence at GLCA's 13 member colleges. No cash prize accompanies the award, but honoraria and material recognition are described below.

The competition is held annually, and winners are announced in January of each calendar year. For this year's competition GLCA will accept entries that bear a publication imprint of 2019 or 2020. The award may be withheld in any category at the discretion of the judges.

The deadline for submissions to this year's award is June 25, 2020.

Entries that are postmarked after June 25th will not be accepted.

PROCESS TO SUBMIT MATERIALS

A publisher who submits a volume to the award must include the following information. **Please note that we have included a [submission form](#) you can download from the website.**

1. Publisher information, including the contact person's name, title, **e-mail address**, phone number and extension, and mailing address of the publishing company (note that because our correspondence with publishers is predominantly through e-mail, it is important that submissions include an accurate and current e-mail address);
2. Letter or note indicating the category (poetry, fiction, or creative non-fiction) in which the publisher wishes to nominate the volume and a statement verifying that it is the author's first published work in the genre;
3. Signed author's statement agreeing to the terms of the campus visits (this author's statement of agreement can be found on the [website](#) and on the final page of the contest guidelines);
4. **Four copies** of the book.

Please send entries to:

Gregory R. Wegner
Director of Program Development
New Writers Award
Great Lakes Colleges Association
535 W. William, Ste. 301
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

The Director of the GLCA New Writers Award will notify the author and the publisher of the winning entries in each category in January 2021. Public announcement of the awards will then be made.

PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

Each publisher is limited to **one entry in each category**: poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction. A single publisher may choose to submit an entry for more than one category of writing (i.e., one for poetry, one for fiction, and one for non-fiction). It is important to note, however, that **each publisher may enter ONLY ONE WORK in each genre**. The works entered must be written primarily in English and published in the United States or Canada. An entry to any category must be **a writer's first published volume in that genre**. Winning authors commit themselves to visit GLCA member colleges from which they receive invitations. Publishers **must** include a statement during the submission process expressing the author's agreement to this condition. The link to the statement can be found on the website. Note that the award in each category emphasizes literary excellence; a publisher should submit appropriately. If a publisher submits more than one entry per category, it will be asked to choose which entry goes forward. **The GLCA cannot return volumes that do not qualify or are withdrawn.**

As in the poetry and fiction categories, the creative non-fiction award emphasizes literary excellence. Published volumes in this category should address a general readership; they should be works in which a considerable interest derives from the writer's command of language and exploration of the boundaries of expression in a non-fiction genre. The creative non-fiction award will not consider works of an explicitly practical purpose (e.g., straight journalism, self-help, or how-to books), and it will not consider scholarly works written primarily for faculty and students with scholarly interests within or across particular academic disciplines. **Because the readership of volumes selected for this award will be students and faculty members of liberal arts colleges, publishers of children's literature are discouraged from submitting.**

VISITS TO THE COLLEGES

Beginning in the fall semester, the winning authors from that year's competition will receive invitations to visit several GLCA member colleges, where they will read from their works and engage with students and faculty members in a variety of contexts, such as discussions, lectures, colloquia, workshops, and interviews. Because of this provision of the award, all **writers must live in the U.S. or Canada**. The GLCA will

work with a winning writer and the colleges that extend an invitation for a campus visit to identify a date that works well for each. GLCA will also help coordinate a writer's travel to colleges. The winner of this award would receive invitations to visit GLCA member colleges during the academic year beginning in fall 2020 and concluding in spring 2021. At times, an author may need to drive between campuses.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Winning authors will receive an honorarium of \$500 from each of the colleges they visit. In addition, writers are reimbursed for all travel, lodging, and food costs they might incur in visits to GLCA member colleges.

BENEFITS TO THE AUTHOR, PUBLISHER, AND GLCA MEMBER COLLEGES

This award reflects outstanding literary achievement in the judgment of a committee of scholar-critic-writers who have professional and personal commitments to excellence in literature and the encouragement of creative writing. It is a mark of distinction that confers recognition to both author and publisher in promoting the book.

The winning authors' visits to the GLCA colleges, with the attendant local promotion and publicity, should serve to stimulate sales in this Midwestern area. Publishers may affix an "award winner" seal (provided by the GLCA, or affixed by the publisher with design approval by GLCA). Perhaps more important, these campus visits expose the authors and their works to large numbers of students through readings, question and answer sessions, and possibly workshop class sessions. The interest these students develop in winning writers may well follow through the winning authors' literary careers. Collectively these 13 liberal arts colleges comprise more than 2,000 faculty members and more than 22,000 students.

GLCA's member colleges benefit from providing their students with opportunities to engage with newly published writers, who are likely to be comparatively close in age to undergraduates themselves. The Award also offers faculty members of GLCA colleges an opportunity to engage as a judge and educator with a significant body of recently published poetry or fiction.

GREAT LAKES COLLEGES ASSOCIATION MEMBERS:

Albion College (Michigan)	Kalamazoo College (Michigan)
Allegheny College (Pennsylvania)	Kenyon College (Ohio)
Antioch College (Ohio)	Oberlin College (Ohio)
Denison University (Ohio)	Ohio Wesleyan University (Ohio)
DePauw University (Indiana)	Wabash College (Indiana)
Earlham College (Indiana)	The College of Wooster (Ohio)
Hope College (Michigan)	

For questions, please email or call Greg Wegner (wegner@glca.org) or Colleen Monahan Smith (smith@glca.org) of the GLCA, 734-661-2350.