



STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

SCOTT WRIGHT STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

NISOD and CCCSE invite students enrolled at NISOD member colleges to participate in our Student Essay Contest! Students describe in a 500-word (or less) essay a faculty member, staff member, or administrator who encouraged them during their academic journey and how that encouragement helped them reach their goal(s).

The Prize

Three (3) winning student authors and the featured faculty members, staff members, or administrators in the winning essays will each receive travel to The NISOD Conference: Advancing Community College Student Engagement (ACCSE) (May 23-26, 2026 in Austin, Texas), which includes:

- Up to \$400 USD toward travel to Austin, Texas;
- Up to two (2) nights lodging for students and one (1) night lodging for the staff, faculty or administrator featured in the essay;
- One (1) complimentary conference registration.

In addition, the winning students each receive a \$1,000 USD prize!

(Note: Winning authors will read their essays on stage during the conference's Excellence Awards Dinner and Celebration on Sunday, May 24).

Timeline

- Contest opens: September 5, 2025
- Submission deadline: March 6, 2026
- Winners notified: March 13, 2026
- Winner acceptance due: March 20, 2026
- Prize presented and essay read at the NISOD conference: May 24, 2026

Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Content
- Originality
- Clarity
- Organization
- Conciseness
- Grammar

Visit www.nisod.org/sec for complete details.



The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) is a consortium of community and technical colleges committed to promoting and celebrating excellence in teaching, learning, and leadership.

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