NISOD invites you to participate in the Scott Wright Student Essay Contest! Describe in a 500-word essay how a faculty member, staff member, or administrator encouraged you to complete a course, finish a semester, or graduate from college and how that encouragement helped you reach your 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:

- $1,000 USD
- Travel to the International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence (May 28-31 in Austin, Texas), which includes:
  - Up to $400 USD toward travel to Austin, Texas;
  - Up to three (3) nights lodging (Saturday, Sunday, Monday nights only);
  - One (1) complimentary conference registration.

(Note: Winning authors will read their essays on stage during the conference’s Excellence Awards Dinner and Celebration on Sunday, May 29.)

In addition, each winning student author’s college will receive a complimentary one-year NISOD membership.

**Evaluation Criteria**

Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

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

**Timeline**

- Contest opens: August 20, 2021
- Submission deadline: March 11, 2022
- Winners notified: March 25, 2022
- Winner acceptance due: April 1, 2022
- Winners’ photos due: April 8, 2022
- Prize and essay presentations at NISOD conference: May 29, 2022

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.