



Student Essay Contest



NISOD and CCCSE invite students enrolled at NISOD member colleges and CCCSE participating colleges to take part 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).



Scan for full details and submission criteria

The Prize

Three winning student authors will receive the following:

- \$1,000 USD
- Up to \$400 USD toward travel to Austin, Texas
- Up to two nights lodging at the conference hotel
- One complimentary conference registration

The Guidelines

- Essays are limited to a maximum of 500 words and must reflect the student's own ideas and writing.
- Essays must be non-fiction. Any essay that does not address the contest topic will not be considered.
- Submissions will be judged on style, content, grammar, originality, clarity, articulation, and organization.

The Timeline

Contest opens: October 25, 2026

Submission deadline: February 1, 2027

Winners notified: March 1, 2027

Winners acceptance due: March 12, 2027

Visit www.nisod.org/sec for complete details