



NEWS RELEASE

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MAINE HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS INVITED TO COMPETE IN STATEWIDE WRITING CONTEST

AUGUSTA, ME — Maine high school juniors are invited to submit entries for *A Journey Into Writing*, the Maine Community College System's statewide writing contest. Entries will be accepted October 1, 2007, through December 1, 2007. Again this year the contest will be judged by celebrated Maine writers Richard Russo, Linda Greenlaw and Wesley McNair.

A Journey Into Writing was created in 2004 as a way to encourage creativity among Maine high school students and inspire young writers to develop their craft. The contest is sponsored by the MCCS, in partnership with the *Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram*, *MaineToday.com*, and U.S. Cellular.

Maine high school juniors are encouraged to submit an original poem, short story, or essay of up to 1,500 words. Three finalists will be chosen by the participating authors from up to 15 semi-finalists selected by the MCCS and will be honored with the designation of "2008 Governor's Young Writer of the Year." In addition, each of the three finalists will receive a \$2,500 cash award.

"The level of skill and creativity exhibited by students who enter the competition is inspirational," said MCCS President John Fitzsimmons. "As the fourth year of this event gets underway we look forward to recognizing a new group of young writers."

Russo is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "Empire Falls." Greenlaw is the author of three bestselling books about life as a commercial fisherman, including "The Hungry Ocean," "The Lobster Chronicles," and "All Fishermen Are Liars." McNair is the author of nine collections of poetry and the editor of three anthologies of contemporary Maine writing.

To enter, students must submit their entries electronically to the MCCS Web site. The contest rules and entry form are available online at: www.mccs.me.edu (click on: *A Journey Into Writing*). The *Maine Sunday Telegram* and *MaineToday.com* will announce the semi-finalists and finalists in the spring and post the selected entries on *MaineToday.com*. The finalists and semi-finalists will be honored at an awards ceremony in May.

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