



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, 2009 through December 1, 2009. The contest will be judged by award winning Maine authors Wesley McNair, Monica Wood, and Richard Ford.

"When *Journey into Writing* was created in 2004, we envisioned it as a way to encourage creativity and inspire young writers throughout our state to develop their craft," said John Fitzsimmons, President of the Maine Community College System. "Since its inception, nearly 1,300 students have submitted entries to the contest and we have awarded over \$40,000 in prize winnings."

The contest is sponsored by the MCCS with support from U.S. Cellular.

Maine High School juniors are encouraged to submit an original poem, short story, or essay of up to 1,500 words. Up to three winners may be chosen by the contest judges. Anyone achieving that distinction will be honored with the designation of "2010 Governor's Young Writer of the Year" and will receive a \$2,500 cash award.

McNair is the author of nine collections of poetry and the editor of three anthologies of contemporary Maine writing. Wood is the author of four works of fiction and other short stories and also writes books for writers and teachers. Ford received the Pulitzer Prize for his novel *Independence Day* and is a visiting professor at several colleges and universities. All three authors reside in Maine.

To enter, students must submit their entries electronically to writing@mccs.me.edu. The contest rules and entry form are available online at: www.mccs.me.edu (click on: *A Journey Into Writing*).

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