



Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

1730 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1559
(608) 262-3826
(608) 262-3985 FAX
e-mail: vpacad@uwsa.edu
website: www.uwsa.edu/vpacad/

Response due: February 18, 2011

RE: Liberal Arts Essay Scholarship Competition Submissions

September 10, 2010

TO: Provosts and Vice Chancellors for Academic Affairs

FROM: Rebecca R. Martin 
Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs

RE: Announcing the Sixth Annual Liberal Arts Essay Scholarship Competition

On behalf of the University of Wisconsin System and the UW System Advisory Group on the Liberal Arts (SAGLA), I am pleased to announce the Sixth Annual Liberal Arts Essay Scholarship Competition. SAGLA, as many of you know, brings together faculty and administrators from UW institutions to aid in the System's work on LEAP Wisconsin. Six years ago, SAGLA initiated a scholarship competition as an ideal means by which to celebrate and promote liberal education at the campus level. President Reilly has generously agreed to provide funding of \$6,000 annually for the Liberal Arts Essay Scholarship Competition.

The Liberal Arts Essay Scholarship Competition has become an important component of the UW System's LEAP Wisconsin initiative, which, in partnership with the Association of American Colleges & Universities *Liberal Education and America's Promise* Campaign, works to champion the value of a liberal education for individual students and for a nation dependent on economic creativity and democratic vitality. The initiative focuses campus practice on fostering essential learning outcomes for all students, whatever their chosen field of study. Through its emphasis on writing and critical thinking, participation in the Liberal Arts Scholarship Competition is one way UW institutions contribute to the effort. Most importantly, the Scholarship Competition helps students be intentional about the value and purpose of their pursuit of higher education.

As in previous years, funding is once again available to support three scholarships for the three winning essayists, to be awarded in spring 2011 for use in academic year 2011-12: **one \$2,000 award for a student from the UW Colleges and two \$2,000 awards for students at the comprehensive and doctoral institutions.**

As delineated in the attached guidelines, the competition is open to undergraduate students enrolled in *any* major in *any* college who meet the additional eligibility requirements. **We are asking all UW System institutions to develop their own process for promoting the competition and generating student submissions of essays.** This requires:

September 10, 2010

- The setting of institutional deadlines in advance of the UW System deadline;
- Publishing/promoting the competition on your campus;
- Collecting and screening your local essay submissions;
- Determining and recognizing your campus finalists; and
- Submitting the finalist essays to UW System Administration.

In the past, there has been confusion by students regarding the submission process. Please make sure that students understand they should **not** submit their essays directly to UW System and should, instead, adhere to their **campus** process and deadlines. The details of the competition are listed in the attachments. This information can also be found on the UW System Liberal Education Initiative website at: <http://liberaleducation.uwsa.edu/>.

The deadline for submission of the finalist essays to UW System Administration is February 18, 2011. A group of SAGLA judges will review the submissions and choose three winning essays. The scholarship recipients will be announced in spring 2010.

Please direct any questions **as well as the final essay submissions** to Carmen Faymonville, Academic Planner, at afgp@uwsa.edu.

We thank you in advance for promoting this writing competition and scholarship opportunity broadly to your campus communities so that it will reach as many students, faculty, and staff as possible.

Attachments: Guidelines for the Fifth Annual Competition, SAGLA membership

cc: Kevin P. Reilly, President

Chancellors

Michael Morgan, Senior Vice President for Administration

Debbie Durcan, Vice President for Finance

Stephen Kolison, Associate Vice President for Academic, Faculty, and Global Programs

David Giroux, Executive Director of Communications and External Relations

Michael Kraus, Special Assistant, Finance

Carmen Faymonville, Academic Planner, Academic, Faculty, and Global Programs

UW System Deans

SAGLA Members

Campus Scholarship Offices