

Education Conference Applications Open Until April 30

By Donna L. Miller

Applications to Present at the MFPE Educators' Conference Oct. 17-18 in Belgrade are now open until April 30.

For any MATELA members who have a passion for writing, a teaching idea focused on writing, or an affiliation with Writing Projects, please consider presenting a workshop under the Writing Project designation. In order to have your workshop listed for Writing Project audiences, you will need to select WUBS (Writing Projects) in the sectional information section.

Because I have membership with both MATELA and MWP, I always ensure that I divide my time and my talent with both organizations by marking



half of my workshops with Writing Projects Under the Big Sky and half with MATELA.

This fall conference is such a wonderful way to network, to communicate research-based practices, and to collect good teaching strategies. We could not do any of those without presenters, so I thank you in advance for your willingness to share your time and talent. For that sharing, MFPE will pay you \$30.00 an hour!

When you are ready to submit, or if you would like more information, [click here](#).

'Teen Ink' Essay/Video Contest Honors Innovation

By Donna L. Miller

Do you watch *Shark Tank*, the critically acclaimed and multi-Emmy Award-winning entrepreneurial-themed reality show? Maybe you have a business idea that you want to pitch, or you've dreamed of running a company that would contribute creativity and innovation to the business world. Often products or ideas are born out of necessity or grow from a seed that sprouts and takes shape on paper.

These are the scenarios to explore in a 2019 Entrepreneurship Essay Contest sponsored by *Teen Ink* and the Gifted and Talented Institute (GATI). Submissions are due March 31, and the

winner of this competition will be announced on April 15.

Teen Ink, a national teen magazine, book series, and website that offers teens the opportunity to publish their creative work (writing, art, photographs) and to express their opinions on issues that affect their lives has partnered with GATI and Gifted and Talented Silicon Valley Innovators (GATSVI) to hold an essay and video contest. Teens can submit their business ideas for a chance to win a full-paid tuition scholarship valued at \$7,995 that will cover the cost of a choice of three residential summer programs. Full contest



details and a description of the prizes can be found at <https://www.teenink.com/>.

To enter the contest, a competitor should create a free account at *Teen Ink*, then plan to write a 250-word essay or produce a 60-second YouTube video clip using the following topic as a guide: *Pick a company. If you can be the CEO of that company, then "why, what, and how" would you bring innovation to disrupt the status quo?*

Once the essay or video is ready for submission, entrants should select the "2019 Entrepreneurship Essay Contest" checkbox in the category/tags field and upload their submission.

Contest organizers hope not only to reinvigorate entrepreneurship in America and to honor innovation with this contest but to encourage teens to imagine themselves as creative, self-made, multi-millionaire and billionaire tycoons, like The Sharks.

Ideas often start on paper, giving teens from all walks of life the chance to chase the American dream and potentially secure an opportunity for more training in a summer program at Stanford, UC Irvine, or UC Berkeley. At one of these California institutions, the winner will have access to world-renowned mentors and instructors from Silicon Valley's top companies, research teams, or marketing experts.

Full scholarship to one of the residential Silicon Valley or Silicon Beach camps includes tuition, housing, and board. It does not include airfare/travel to and from the camp.

Distributed through classrooms by English and Art teachers, and available in libraries nationwide, *Teen Ink* magazine offers some of the most thoughtful and creative work generated by teens today. *Teen Ink* is devoted to helping teens share their own voices, while developing reading, writing, creative and critical-thinking skills.

MT PBS Announces 'Won't You Be My Neighbor' Contest

by Donna L. Miller

For Montana's Public Broadcasting Service (MontanaPBS), February meant the highly anticipated launch of the Fred Rogers documentary, *Won't You Be My Neighbor*. This award-winning film shares an intimate look at the life and philosophy of America's favorite television-acclaimed neighbor.

To celebrate the launch of this film, MontanaPBS invites youth (Pre-K - 12) across Montana to take inspiration from the legacy of Fred Rogers and to create submissions for a writing contest that responds to the prompt, "What does it mean to be a good neighbor?" Submissions will be accepted from February 14 to March 14, with the winners being announced by email or phone in early April.

Entries will be judged in groups based on grade level (Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12).

MontanaPBS will announce one winner from each group for a total of seven exceptional writers from around the state. Because submissions from across the state are accepted, contestants need not to be present to win. MontanaPBS will, however, send winners a framed certificate along with a gift bag of PBS inspired prizes.

Interested students can submit their written work electronically via the form found at <https://www.montanapbs.org/events/ILPU/writing-contest2019/> or by printing out the portable data file (pdf) submission form and mailing it along with their written piece to MontanaPBS; ATTN: Nikki Vradenburg, PO Box 173340; Bozeman, MT 59717.

The 2019 Writing Contest is meant to complement the Indie Lens Pop-Up film screening. This is a neighborhood series that brings people together for film screenings and community-driven conversations. Featuring documentaries seen on the PBS series *Independent Lens*, Indie Lens Pop-Up

draws local residents, leaders, and organizations together to discuss what matters most, from newsworthy topics to family and relationships.

Writing contest submissions should be no more than 1,000 words (4 pages double spaced). Writing can be primarily art-based if a writer chooses and can include drawings, paintings, collages, 3-D artwork and photos, so long as they are created by the original author.

Although submissions can be on loose paper, bound, stapled or paper-clipped, contest officials recommend that writers consider ease and cost of mailing when finishing their stories.

Because MontanaPBS will scan all winning stories, having the stories paper clipped or with a single staple works best. They prefer pages that are no larger than 8.5 x 11 inches.

Teachers are welcome to submit one written entry on behalf of an entire class. This will count as one group entry. Teachers may also submit many entries from individual students, but they will require individual entry forms for each student.

Anyone with a creative project in mind or having any questions is encouraged to contact the MontanaPBS Teacher Ambassador, Nikki Vradenburg, by calling (406) 994-3437 or (406) 994-6588 or by emailing her at nikki@montanapbs.org.

Local public television serving the state of Montana, the MontanaPBS network is comprised of two University Licensee stations: KUSM-TV in Bozeman and KUFM-TV in Missoula. According to their website, the goal of MontanaPBS is to share diverse stories, connect Montanans, discover common ground, and celebrate the independent spirit and beauty of our state. MontanaPBS further believes that quality television has the power to elevate our understanding of the world, encourage respect for one another, and influence our lives in a positive way.

Contest officials at MontanaPBS look forward to receiving and reading entries for their contest that describe kindness, listening, and learning.

NCTE SCOA Affiliate News, Updates, Awards



Applying for [NCTE Affiliate Awards](#) is one way to recognize affiliate successes and the effort involved in building and maintaining a professional organization.

The newsletters, websites, journals, conferences, and programs that inspire and

inform affiliate members deserve to be celebrated!

Information will be sent out soon for affiliates to start submitting applications. Applications will be due:

May 1

- Student Affiliate Excellence Award
- Affiliate Journal of Excellence Award
- Affiliate Newsletter of Excellence Award
- Affiliate Website of Excellence Award
- Affiliate Multicultural Program Award
- Kent D. Williamson Affiliate Membership Award

- NCTE Fund Teachers for the Dream Affiliate Award
- NCTE Affiliate Intellectual Freedom
- NCTE National Intellectual Freedom

June 1

- NCTE High School Teacher of Excellence Award

July 15

- Affiliate Excellence Award

NCTE ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Each year NCTE hosts an event on Capitol Hill for members to push for policy changes that support our profession and to share the wisdom of our experiences with legislators who need to understand the impact of their decisions on the communities we serve.

This program is designed to help participants build their advocacy toolkits so the work we do together in Washington, DC, can have long-term implications for their engagement in policy after the summit is over.

Attendees will be fully engaged through the duration of the event, whether they are in briefing sessions led by national leaders, hearing from speakers including author [Laura Wides-Muñoz](#) and NPR reporter [Elissa Nadworny](#), or in scheduled visits with legislative offices.

If you've never taken part in Hill visits before, you will find that we have built in ample scaffolding and support to ensure your preparation and success. [Learn more!](#)



NCTE's research programs and projects support, publish, and share current scholarship that aims to improve the quality of English language arts instruction at all educational levels. [Research Foundation grant applications](#) are due **March 15**.

NCTE VILLAGE

Apply now to become an [#NCTEVillage Community Ambassador](#). You'll act as a host and welcome members at local, affiliate, and national events; make connections between resources and classroom practice; and share what teaching in the classroom is like in 2019. **Deadline: March 31, 2019, 8:00 p.m. ET**