## **A blue text on a white background Description automatically generatedGreat Lakes Colleges Association New Writers Award *Guidelines***

**The New Writers Award**

The Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA) is pleased to announce the 56th Annual New Writers Award. Entries are now being accepted. The award confers recognition for the first book in the following literary genres:

1. Poetry
2. Fiction
3. Creative Non-fiction

This award reflects outstanding literary achievement in the judgment of a committee of scholar-critic-writers who have professional and personal commitments to excellence in literature and the encouragement of creative writing.

**Key Details**

* **No entry fee.**
* **Submitted by publishers.**
* **Eligibility Dates:** Books must have a publication imprint of 2024 or 2025.
* **Deadline:** Submissions must be postmarked by **May 25, 2025**. Late entries will not be accepted.
* **Judges:** A committee of professors of literature and creative writing from GLCA’s 12 member colleges.
* **Prize:** While no cash prize is awarded, Award winners receive recognition for their first work and are invited to visit GLCA campuses to read their work (honorarium provided; details below).
* **Notification:** Theauthor and publisher of the winning entry will be notified in advance with a public announcement of the award to be made in January of 2026.

**Submission Process**

Publishers must complete the following steps to nominate a book:

1. **Fill out the Publisher Nomination Form** on the GLCA website. Refer to the FAQs on the website for further information.
2. **Ensure the Author’s Statement of Agreement** is submitted, agreeing to the terms of the award (authors submit electronically and separately from the Publisher Nomination Form).
3. **Mail four physical copies** of the book to the address below (no electronic submissions):

**GLCA New Writers Award**  
535 W. William St., Suite 301  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

**Eligibility Criteria**

* **One Entry Per Genre:**
  + Each publisher may submit **one book per category** (poetry, fiction, or creative non-fiction). If multiple entries are submitted for a single category, the publisher must choose one to proceed or the Director of the award will accept the first nominated entry.
  + Only first published volumes in each genre are eligible.
  + GLCA will not return disqualified or withdrawn entries.
* **Residency and Language:**
  + Authors must reside in the United States (U.S. territories excluded) and be at least 18 years old.
  + Works must be written primarily in English and published in the U.S.
  + Authors need not be a U.S. citizen.
* **Travel Requirements:**
  + Travel is required for this award, which may include car rental and travel by air. By accepting the award, the winning authors commit themselves to visiting GLCA institutions from which they receive invitations. Travel expenses are covered (see other details).
  + Authors are expected to accept invitations and respond to requests in a prompt manner.
* **Award Focus:**
  + The award emphasizes literary excellence.
  + Judges seek work that demonstrates the writer’s command of language and exploration of the boundaries of expression as well as writers or works that may appeal to a college student population.
  + For creative non-fiction, works should address a general readership. Works with practical purposes (e.g., straight journalism, self-help, how-to or scholarly texts written primarily for faculty and students with scholarly interests within or across academic disciplines) will not be considered.
  + Children’s books are not eligible.
  + The award may be withheld in any category at the judges' discretion.

**Award and Benefits**

**For Winning Authors and Publishers:**

* **Recognition** of distinct literary achievement for author and publisher.
* **Campus Visits:** Beginning fall 2025, winners will visit GLCA member colleges by invitation to give readings, participate in discussions, and engage with students and faculty. Collectively these 12 liberal arts colleges comprise more than 2,000 faculty members and more than 22,000 students.
* **Honorarium:** $500 per college visit.
* **Expenses Covered:** Reasonable travel, lodging, and meal costs. Alcohol, first-class flights, and luxury rentals are excluded. In the case where car rental is needed, GLCA will reimburse writers after the visit in a timely manner.
* Opportunities for local promotion and sales.
* Exposure of their work to students through readings, question and answer sessions, workshops, class sessions, etc.

**For GLCA Institutions and Students:**

* For students, direct engagement with emerging literary voices and newly published writers.
* For faculty, the opportunity to collaborate by serving as a judge, to engage with a significant body of recently published works and to receive recognition for this service to the Academy. Additionally, faculty promote creative writing to the campus community and have opportunities for direct engagement with emerging, high achieving writers.

**GLCA Member Colleges:**

* Albion College (MI)
* Allegheny College (PA)
* Antioch College (OH)
* DePauw University (IN)
* Earlham College (IN)
* Hope College (MI)
* Kalamazoo College (MI)
* Kenyon College (OH)
* Oberlin College (OH)
* Ohio Wesleyan University (OH)
* The College of Wooster (OH)
* Wabash College (IN)

For questions, contact Colleen Monahan Smith, Director of the New Writers Award at [**smith@glca.org**](mailto:smith@glca.org) or 734-661-2350.