

11-2017

NCTE State Affiliate Extravaganza II: Michigan Council of Teachers of English MYAF Creative Writing Program

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Recommended Citation

Richmond, Kia Jane, "NCTE State Affiliate Extravaganza II: Michigan Council of Teachers of English MYAF Creative Writing Program" (2017). *Conference Presentations*. 173.

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Michigan Youth Arts Festival – Creative Writing
Program



Dr. Kia Jane Richmond, Northern Michigan University
MCTE Past President 2010-11, MYAF Coordinator 2011-2017

Michigan Youth Arts

- *A statewide alliance that develops, recognizes, and advocates excellence in arts education for all.*

Creative Writing Participation

Each year, the *Michigan Council of Teachers of English* awards distinguished scholars from around the state in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival. These annual Creative Writing Awards recognize English Language Arts Programs by showcasing young writers in Grades 9-12 who enter into a rigorous adjudication process. Creative writing students invited to the Festival will participate in workshops with a guest artist. Award winners' pieces will be published in the Creative Writing book, and selected works will also be published in the Festival program and performed at the Welcoming Celebration and/or Creative Writing Showcase.

- https://www.michiganyoutharts.org/uploads/6/4/8/6/64860067/schedule_of_public_events_2017.pdf
- <https://www.michiganyoutharts.org/2017-creative-writing-book.html>

Michigan Youth Arts Festival

- Currently, MYAF consists of nearly 1,000 high school student participants, a marked contrast to the 150 students who attended the Festival in 1964, and the 300 who participated in 1981. But the Festival has an impact far beyond those students who attend, as an estimated 250,000 students take part in the adjudication process during the eight months preceding the Festival. Additionally, the student Festival performances are free and open to the public and serve another 6,500 patrons from across the state who come to experience Michigan's finest youth talent.
- Michigan Youth Arts is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

MYAF Creative Writing Coordinator

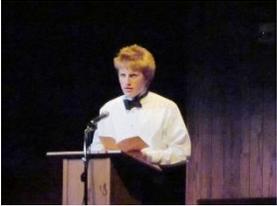
- Has seat on MCTE Executive Board
- Attends MCTE and MYAF meetings (virtual & in-person)
- Communicates electronically via eMET newsletter and at MCTE annual fall convention to members
- Responsible for finding judges (often graduate students and teachers of creative writing) and tallying results; communicates directly with teachers and MYAF staff
- Responsible for finding chaperones for MYAF (dorms)
- Coordinates selection of Creative Writing Teacher of Year and presents Touchstone Award at festival to winner

Creative Writing Workshop Leaders 2012-2017

- Stephanie Glazier - Poet and Critic, Lambda Literary Fellow
 - Special Guest: Tracy K. Smith - 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for *Life on Mars*, 2017 U.S. Poet Laureate
- Michael Somers - Educator and author of *Starved*
- John Jeffire - Chippewa Valley HS teacher and author of *Motown Burning*
- Telaina Morse Eriksen - Poet and Essayist, author of *Unconditional: A Guide to Loving and Supporting Your LGBTQ Child*
- Jennifer Howard - NMU Professor and author of *How to End Up*
 - Special guest: Mahogany Jones, Recording and performance artist, educator, and activist, MYAF Artistic Instigator

Goal of MCTE/MYAF Collaboration

- Provide opportunities for MCTE members to have their high school students' writing read, adjudicated, and published; to help student scholars to stretch as writers with professional guidance.
- Touchstone Award for Creative Writing Teacher of the Year (nominations come from MCTE members).
- To help MCTE collaborate with other professional education organizations in the arts in our state. We often share resources, opportunities, and non-partisan efforts to affect legislation in our state.



MYAF Creative Writing Program



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- MCTE members submit their high school students' writing via email to MYAF coordinator by early February.
 - Genres include Fiction, Poetry, Drama (new this year, Creative Nonfiction and Graphic Novels).
 - Writing is judged with rubric based on Six+1 Traits of Writing.
 - Student scholars invited to participate in Michigan Youth Arts Festival in May. One representative reads at Opening Ceremony first night. Selected scholars read at Creative Writing/Theatre Showcase Thursday night.
 - Workshops are Friday morning and afternoon (3 hours each) and Saturday morning (3 hours). Students are also invited to participate in interdisciplinary workshops if they prefer.

2012-2013



2014-2015



2016-2017



New MYAF Coordinator

For more information, please contact MCTE Creative Writing Coordinator, Abbey Lilly-Lacca, at lillylaccaa@wsc-academy.org

