

The 2015 Journalism Contest

“Expect. Employ. Empower.”

Sponsored by



**S.C. GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE
ON EMPLOYMENT
OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

journalism.scvrd.net

2015 Journalism Contest topic: “Expect. Employ. Empower”

The winner of the 2015 Journalism Contest receives a four-year scholarship to the South Carolina state-supported institution of his or her choice provided, of course, that the winner is otherwise qualified.

The scholarship pays for undergraduate tuition and fees. Each institution has its own definition of tuition and fees.

The winner must be able to verify financial need to the chosen state-supported institution, which typically requires completion of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Colleges and universities recommend that students in financial need complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 of the year they will enroll to establish eligibility for student aid. This may require providing income tax return information. The FAFSA is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

The scholarship may be canceled if the recipient does not maintain general scholastic and conduct standards established by the institution.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the contest, you:

- must be a South Carolinian 16 to 19 years old;
- must not have entered a post-secondary school before March 1, 2015; and
- must be a high school junior or senior, or otherwise qualified to begin post-secondary education no later than the 2016–2017 school year.

You do not have to have a disability to enter.

How, where and when to enter

Entries must be postmarked no later than January 31, 2015. Send your article to Mark Wade, Assistant Commissioner, SCVRD, 1410 Boston Avenue, P.O. Box 15, West Columbia, SC 29171-0015.

For more information

If you have any questions or need more information, please call the S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department at (803) 896-6503, or visit journalism.scvrd.net. Examples of past winning articles are available on that website.

Rules

-  Your article must address the theme: “Expect. Employ. Empower.” Your article should reflect the diverse contributions of people with disabilities in the workplace and the need to foster an environment in which people with disabilities can expect to have equal opportunities to succeed in employment and be empowered to utilize their skills and talents.
-  **Your article should not exceed three pages.** Documentation of quotes or works cited may be on a fourth page.
-  Use correct grammar and sentence structure.
-  Observe journalism’s five W’s: Who, What, When, Where and Why.
-  Report about people with disabilities in language that focuses on their dignity, equality, individuality and ability. For example, a disabling condition may or may not be handicapping. Use “disability” rather than “handicap.” Choose words that carry nonjudgmental connotations. Avoid using “victim,” “cripple,” or “wheelchair-bound.” Emphasize the uniqueness and worth of the whole individual by writing “a person who has a disability” or “a person who is deaf” rather than “disabled person.”
-  Research disability issues and *interview people with disabilities*. Resources can include your library, the Internet and organizations that serve individuals with disabilities. Your local S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department office provides services that prepare and assist eligible citizens with disabilities to achieve and maintain competitive employment.
-  Attribute all quotes, either within the body of the article or in footnotes.
-  Type your article on white 8 1/2 x 11-inch paper. Double space.
-  Include a **separate cover sheet** with your name, age, grade, home address, telephone number and email address. Also include your school name, school address, school telephone number and principal’s name.
-  Have your principal, teacher or sponsoring organization’s representative sign the cover sheet and indicate his or her title.
-  Have any individual you interview **sign** the cover sheet.
-  On the cover sheet, include this statement with **your signature**:
“I hereby confirm that the enclosed article submitted to the 2015 Journalism Contest is my own work. I wrote the article and conducted the research and any interviews (unless otherwise cited) used in the article.”

Judging

The contest is judged by a panel of professional journalists.

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