



History of the Program:

Established in 2010, the **Outstanding Student Writing Awards** recognize exemplary student writing at Daytona State College. The School of Communication holds the contest annually to celebrate the diligence our students demonstrate in refining the skills that empower them to write critically and creatively. Through this competition, Daytona State College hopes to raise awareness about the importance of writing, identify emerging writers, and encourage students to become prolific and outstanding authors.

Program by:
Writing Awards
Committee/MSA 2026



Daytona State College
**Outstanding Student Writing Awards
Ceremony**

Thursday, April 2, 2026
5:00 P.M.
Lemerand Student Center

Spring 2026 Program

Greeting: Michelle Angel
Opening Remarks: Dr. Tom LoBasso
Presentation of Awards: Richard Vollaro
Donna Bentley

Student Readings

Poetry: Lucas Espinoza
Lilliannah Pineda
Kaylee Jusick
Personal Narrative: Tristen Simmons
Nicole Vanderpool
Zhaisha Dean
Analysis: Deanna Handy
Tristen Simmons
Alexsis Caban
Argumentation: Danicah Sanchez
Tej Patel
Asher Diehl
General Research: Charlotte Low
Amanda Rigazio
Allison Wiant
Short Fiction: Albert England
Payton Radcliffe
Harmony Wheeler
Multimodal Web
Composition: Drago Anderson
Emily Talley
Closing Remarks: Donna Bentley

Refreshments served following the ceremony.

In Appreciation

Thanks to:

- Dr. Tom LoBasso, Elizabeth Camarota, Mary Hunter, Kendra Loughry, Lynn Mercer, Metz Catering, and Student Life.
- Dr. Cheryl Kohen, Richard Kraskin, Dr. Michael Mallott, Vincent Piazza, James Starmer, and Gregg Stone who volunteered to serve as judges.
- All the submitting professors, family, friends, and loved ones who have given their support to our student writers.

Staff and Volunteers

Department Chair,
School of Communication: Richard Vollaro
Assistant Department Chair,
School of Communication: Donna Bentley
Chair,
Writing Awards Committee: Michelle Angel
Administrative Assistant: Elizabeth Camarota
Photography: School of Communication
Writing Awards Committee Members:
Michelle Angel
Donna Bentley
Kathleen Hynes
Richard Kraskin
Brian Lysholm
Vincent Piazza