2010 NSU Louisiana High School Essay Contest

Sponsored by the Folklife Society of Louisiana, the Louisiana Folklife Center, the NSU Writing Project, and the College of Liberal Arts at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Essays should address the following question: “How does Louisiana inspire you?”

Length: Approximately 500 – 1,000 words. Essays need to be typed (double spaced, 12 point font, standard margins). All essays should have titles.

Deadline: June 1, 2010

The essay contest is open to all Louisiana students in grades 9 – 12 regardless of type of school institution, including students in all types of private educational environments, as well as home schooled students.

Essays should be sent as e-mail attachments to Dr. Shane Rasmussen, rasmussens@nsula.edu or by mail to the Louisiana Folklife Center, NSU Box 3663, Natchitoches, LA 71497. The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2010. Please include a separate cover page with your name, school affiliation, mailing address, phone number and, if applicable, e-mail address, and the title of your essay. “NSU Louisiana High School Essay Contest” should be the subject line of e-mails. Prize winning students will be notified by July 15, 2010.

The prizes for the contest winners are: 1st place – $150; 2nd place – $100; and 3rd place – $50. In addition to these prizes, essay contest winners will receive a $200/per semester NSU scholarship with a value up to $1600 for 4 years. This award is in addition to other scholarship awards that the student may receive from Northwestern State University. To be eligible, essay winners must submit a complete scholarship application packet to the university by December 1 of their Senior Year. Winners must also have at least a 20 ACT composite or 950 on the SAT, as well as at least a 2.0 GPA to be eligible. Essay winners also need to submit proof of the award.

The three prize winning essays will be published in Louisiana Folklife, an academic journal produced by the Louisiana Folklife Center, Northwestern State University, General Editor, Dr. Shane Rasmussen. (Essays may be subject to minor revision before publication.) Submission to the contest entails granting permission to publish the essay in Louisiana Folklife should the essay place in 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place. The three prize winning students will also be invited to present their essay at the 2nd Annual Conference on Louisiana Studies held at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, on Saturday September 25, 2010.

Additional information is available on the website for the Louisiana Folklife Center at Northwestern State University: www.nsula.edu/folklife.

Dr. Lisa Abney, Provost, Vice President for Student and Academic Affairs, and Professor of English (co-chair)

Dr. Shane Rasmussen, Director of the Louisiana Folklife Center and Assistant Professor of English (co-chair)