Call for Applications: Undergraduate Science & Scientific Writing Awards

Are you an undergraduate student with a passion for discovery and a talent for communicating science? The CCCC Writing and STEM Business Group is excited to announce its two inaugural science communication awards! We are happy to accept nominations for the **Christy Desmet Undergraduate Science Communication Award,** which recognizes outstanding science communication in a non-academic context and the **Kris Miller Undergraduate Scientific Writing Award**, which recognizes outstanding achievement in communicating scientific research in an academic context. Winners will be contacted in Winter 2026 and invited to receive their awards at the annual CCCC SIG meeting in Cleveland.

Deadline for Submissions: Friday, October 31st, 2025

Submit your application and nomination to: sciencewritingawards@gmail.com

For questions or more information, please contact: robby.nadler@vuw.ac.nz

Writing and STEM SIG's

Christy Desmet Undergraduate Science Communication Award

Christy Desmet was a tireless champion for supporting all kinds of writers. For decades, she led the Rhetoric and Composition program at the University of Georgia–where she helped launch the careers of many STEM compositionists. Though she herself never studied STEM writing, she was an avid lover of science and supported her students to pursue their interests in STEM fields and collaborations. This award honors her spirit, wisdom, and joy in wanting to use the written form to learn about science for all.

In her memory, this award recognizes an undergraduate student who has demonstrated outstanding science communication through clear, compelling, and accessible writing and/or media. The recipient will have shown a unique ability to translate scientific concepts into content that engages a broad audience—whether through journalism genres, creative writing genres, essays, blogs, podcasts, videos, speeches, performance, posters, infographics, and/or other creative media. The award recognizes not only technical accuracy but also storytelling skill, audience awareness, and the ability to inspire curiosity and understanding of science beyond the academic community. We encourage works that explore topics across the board–whether that be salient conversations about climate change threatening people's lives, lived experiences such as DEI considerations exploring systematic racism in medicine, or personal reflections about the beauty of hummingbirds. There is no topic too big or too small!

Deadline for Submissions: Friday, October 31st, 2025. Eligibility:

- Applicants must have been enrolled undergraduates when the work was created
- Work communicates a scientific concept, discovery, or issue for a general and/or interdisciplinary audience
- Submission must be original work created between the Fall 2024 and Summer 2025 school year
- Groups submissions are eligible, but all authors must have been undergraduates during the creation of the work
- Works not created for a class are eligible (but still require a faculty nomination)
- Submissions created with generative AI are permissible if author(s) declares and explains use

We welcome a variety of submissions, so if you are unsure whether your work qualifies, please just e-mail us and ask (robby.nadler@vuw.ac.nz)!

Application Requirements:
- A digital copy of a written work no longer than 2,000 words (excluding references and visuals) and/or a link to a media work no longer than 10 minutes
- Brief personal statement (max 250 words) outlining the work, its intent, and its target audience
- Faculty nomination letter (note, each faculty may only nominate up to two submissions).
- A generative AI statement (if generative AI was used in any part of the thinking, drafting, creating, and/or revising of the submission) declaring its use and explanation of where and how the technology was used (this does not count toward the word count)

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Writing and STEM SIG's

Kris Miller Undergraduate Scientific Writing Award

Kris Miller has been instrumental in launching the academic and professional careers of thousands of scientists through her role as the Director of Biological Sciences at the University of Georgia. Through her leadership, she has successfully made science communication a fundamental component of the university's coursework. This has been achieved through her many collaborations with writing scholars–where she has consistently and equitably elevated their work to her STEM colleagues. This award honors her vision, insight, and professionalism in knowing the importance of writing to science.

This award celebrates an undergraduate who demonstrates exceptional skill in scientific research and the communication of it to a scientific audience. The recipient will have shown a strong approach to inquiry, which includes thoughtful engagement with existing literature. Experimental-based works will also be judged on their ability to design, conduct, and communicate research from data collection and analysis. Meaningful contributions to the field of study will also be considered for all submissions. Examples of submissions may include literature reviews, lab reports, academic posters, manuscripts (complete or excerpted), and theses (complete or excerpted).

Deadline for Submissions: Friday, October 31st, 2025. Eligibility:

- Applicants must have been enrolled undergraduates when the work was created
- Work communicates a scientific review and/or scientific research for a scientific audience
- Submission must be original work created between the Fall 2024 and Summer 2025 school year
- Groups submissions are eligible, but all nominated authors must have been undergraduates during the creation of the work
- Manuscripts where the undergraduate is the lead author and there are co-authors who are not undergraduates are acceptable—but only portions that the undergraduate wrote will be considered
- Submissions created by with generative AI are permissible if author declares and explains use

We welcome a variety of submissions, so if you are unsure whether your work qualifies, e-mail us (robby.nadler@vuw.ac.nz)!

Application Requirements:
- A digital copy of a written work no longer than 2,000 words (excluding references and visuals) and/or a link to a visual (for genres such as academic posters)
- Brief personal statement (max 250 words) outlining the work, its intent, and its target audience
- Faculty nomination or approval letter
- Abstract (max 200 words) summarizing the research
- Faculty endorsement letter (note, each faculty may only nominate up to two submissions).
- A generative AI statement (if generative AI was used in any part of the thinking, drafting, creating, and/or revising of the submission) declaring its use and explanation of where and how the technology was used (this does not count toward the word count)

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