



PennState

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February 21, 2018

Dear English Teachers:

Plans are now in place for our first annual **High School Writing Day at Penn State**, an all-day event to be held **Friday, April 13, 2018**. The goal of the day is to offer high school students a taste of writing, reading, and literary performance on the Penn State University Park campus. The day will feature writing sessions, seminars, a featured speaker, prizes, and performance events for everyone who loves good books, reading, and exploring written expression in its various forms. A collaboration between the department's Creative Writing Program and the Program in Writing and Rhetoric, this event is particularly aimed towards **sophomores and juniors** considering the study of writing at the college level.

Detailed information about the Writing Day and how to register is provided in the attached information packet, which also includes announcements about prose and poetry writing contests associated with the event. The contests are open to students registered for the event, and prizes for winning entries will be awarded on the day of the event.

The registration deadline is **March 11**, and the contest deadlines are **March 18**. The online registration system can be found at: <http://www.cvent.com/d/stqg76/4W>.

This year's featured author is Penn State professor and poet Shara McCallum. Originally from Jamaica, McCallum is the author of five books of poetry, published in the US and UK. We believe that you and your students will find her poetry engaging and thought provoking. We are suggesting that students prepare for the day by engaging with some of McCallum's poems; recommended background reading materials are included in the information packet.

We are looking forward to our first High School Writing Day at Penn State, a day that should do much to encourage students in their reading and writing exploration. We hope that you will consider bringing one or more of your students!

Sincerely,

Alison Jaenicke, Coordinator
High School Writing Day at Penn State
Lecturer in English, Assistant Director of Creative Writing
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Cheryl Glenn
Distinguished Professor of English and Women's Studies
Director, Program in Writing and Rhetoric

Julia Spicher Kasdorf
Professor of English and Women's Studies
Faculty Member in Creative Writing Program

NOTE: If you are not the appropriate contact person, please pass this letter on to that person. And please share these materials with the other English teachers at your school.

Attachments:

Detailed Information and Registration Packet, including:

Appendix A: Tentative schedule and workshop details

Appendix B: Featured author background information and suggested readings

Appendix C: Writing Contests