
FACULTY OF ARTS

2026 FACULTY RECOMMENDED CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS

Application Deadline: Sunday, March 15, 2026 (noon)

*Unless otherwise specified in the award criteria, it is expected that award recipients will be returning to KPU in the fall semester.

Bess Coyne Endowed Creative Writing Award (Award Code: 0959)

Bess Coyne had a life-long love affair with literature. It began in childhood and blossomed over the years to include some of the great poets and novelists of history. She was a devoted reader of The Brownings, Tennyson, Keats, Kipling and later the Great War poet, Rupert Brooke. As a teenager, she copied her favourite pieces with pen and ink into a plain notebook which remains in her family today. Bess Coyne imparted the magic of the written word to her seven children by reading to them from the works of Louisa May Alcott, Charles Dickens, Mark Twain and Robert Louis Stevenson. She was born in Liverpool, England, in 1913, lived on three continents, and died at the age of 90 at her home in White Rock, BC where she had resided since 1947. Her epitaph may well be "Richer than I you never can be, I had a mother who read to me."

Criteria: applicants must be 30 years of age or older and submit a six-page portfolio and a 500-word personal essay on the following questions: 'What event, situation, or person in your life, influenced your desire to write the most?'

Amount: \$1000

The Creative Writing faculty will review the portfolios and responses and announce the winner.

Applicants must submit their writing portfolio and personal response, in a single file, via email to creativewriting@kpu.ca by the posted deadline (late submissions will not be accepted). Submissions should not include the student's name anywhere in the file, neither on the pages nor in a cover letter. However, all submissions MUST include a student number *both* in the subject line of the e-mail application and on each page of the application document. The subject line should also reference the CRWR Bess Coyne Award. Students must submit applications from their KPU e-mail accounts.

Creative Writing Award (Award Code 0514)

This is an award that is given annually to an outstanding Creative Writing student who has completed at least three credits of the Creative Writing program at KPU and who is continuing at KPU in the discipline.

Criteria: selection will be based on the applicant's calibre of writing (in any creative writing genre); demonstrated engagement with the craft, and the quality of the student's personal response.

Students are asked to submit a six-page portfolio and a 500-word personal essay response to the following question: 'What do you think creative writing brings, or will bring, to your life? In other words: what would you be missing out on if you didn't write creatively?'

Amount: \$500

The Creative Writing faculty will review the portfolios and responses and announce the winner.

Applicants must submit their writing portfolio and personal response, in a single file, via email to creativewriting@kpu.ca by the posted deadline (late submissions will not be accepted). Submissions should not include the student's name anywhere in the file, neither on the pages nor in a cover letter. However, all submissions MUST include a student number *both* in the subject line of the e-mail application and on each page of the application document. The subject line should also reference the CRWR Award. Students must submit applications from their KPU e-mail accounts.

David and Terry Atkinson Creative Writing Award (Award Code 0887)

This award was established to commemorate the strong contribution former President Atkinson made to the institution. This award, in the form of a \$1,570 tuition credit, is given annually to an outstanding Creative Writing student who is continuing at KPU in the discipline and who demonstrates excellence in the craft.

Criteria: the applicant's calibre of writing (in any creative writing genre); the applicant's demonstrated engagement in building community among Creative Writing students at KPU; the quality of the applicant's personal essay.

Applicants must submit a six-page portfolio, a CV detailing the student's engagement in a literary community or communities, and a 500-word personal essay on the following question: 'What specific and/or unique qualities do you think you bring to your creative writing community at KPU, and what do you gain from the other members of your peer group?'

Applicants must have completed a minimum of 6 credits in the Creative Writing program.

Amount: \$1,570 Tuition Credit

The Creative Writing faculty will review the portfolios, CVs and essay responses and announce the winner.

Applicants must submit their writing portfolio, CV, and personal response, in a single file, via email to creativewriting@kpu.ca by the posted deadline (late submissions will not be accepted). Submissions for this award can include the student's name on the CV. This submission **MUST** also include a student number *both* in the subject line of the e-mail application and on each page of the application document. The subject line should also reference the Atkinson Award. Students must submit applications from their KPU e-mail accounts.

JoAnne Ward Creative Writing Award (Award Code: 1346)

JoAnne Ward was a self-taught and independent artist who knew the value of an education. She delivered teachings to others on how to make star blankets. She wrote work that was strongly rooted in her culture and in the stories of her people. Through powerful poems and mesmerizing prose, she gave voice to herself and to a vital and shifting world. JoAnne's passion for breaking the cycles experienced by those impacted by intergenerational trauma fueled her desire to educate and empower First Nation people through ceremony and healing. Her views on life were measured in astronomical proportions, and her heart was huge. One of JoAnne's many gifts was the ability to not only inspire others to learn more but to help them arrive at a point of hopefulness in their learning.

Criteria: this award is for a student who identifies as First Nations, Métis or Inuit.* The student must have received at least three credits in CRWR, ENGL, or Indigenous Studies and intend on taking a CRWR class with the award. Applicants must submit a six-page portfolio and a 500-word response to the following question: 'Who are the knowledge keepers or mentors in your life who have made the greatest difference to you and how have they made that difference?' (You don't need to reference specific / identifying names in your answer if you'd prefer not to, you could simply say, 'an Elder in my community taught me...' or 'my grade ten high school teacher...' etc. You may also refer to specific experiences, stories, or encounters--social, cultural, artistic--that shape your approach to being and writing.

*A status card or letter from the applicant's community must be provided to support this application. Please reach out to aislinn.hunter@kpu.ca if this is a barrier.

Amount: \$1000

A committee comprised of indigenous artists and Creative Writing faculty will review the portfolios and responses and announce the winner.

Applicants must submit their writing portfolio and personal response, in a single file, via email to creativewriting@kpu.ca by the posted deadline (late submissions will not be accepted). This submission can include the student's name and MUST also include a student number *both* in the subject line of the e-mail application and on each page of the application document. The subject line should also reference the JoAnne Ward Award. Students must submit applications from their KPU e-mail accounts.

PIPS Wordsmith Endowed Award (Award Code: 1061)

Polytechnic Ink Publishing Society (PIPS) is a non-profit society that governs KPU's main student-led publications such as The Runner. The society holds its mandates in high regard, which include duties to: "act as an unbiased agent of social, cultural and environmental change", and "use its freedom from commercial, political and other controls to ensure that it presents local, national and international news fairly, and examines what other media avoid." PIPS is pleased to present this creative writing award to a full-time KPU student enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing program.

Criteria: applicants must be enrolled in KPU's Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing program; must be full-time students (minimum nine credits or more per semester) in their second, third or fourth year at KPU; must have a CGPA of 2.00 or greater; and must not have received any other PIPS Endowed Awards for this current year. Faculty recommended based on the following: applicants must provide a writing sample containing no more than five pages of poetry or prose, or an equivalent New Media project (Videos, Web content, etc.).

Amount: \$1,000

Applicants must submit their writing portfolio via email to creativewriting@kpu.ca by the posted deadline (late submissions will not be accepted). This submission **MUST** include a student number *both* in the subject line of the e-mail application and on each page of the application document. The subject line should also reference the PIPS Award. Students must submit applications from their KPU e-mail accounts.

Billeh Nickerson Creative Writing Award (Award Code: 1095)

Named after KPU Creative Writing Alumnus and department Chair, Billeh Nickerson, the Billeh Nickerson Creative Writing Award is given to an exceptional student working on a project informed by personal experience.

Criteria: applicants for this award should submit a short portfolio (six pages in any genre) from their project on personal experience, and a 500-word personal essay on the following question: 'Why write?'
Criteria: selection will be based on the applicant's calibre of writing (in any creative genre) demonstrated engagement with craft and quality in their personal response; applicants must have completed a minimum of 6 credits in the Creative Writing program.

Amount: \$1,000 Tuition Credit (Fall)

The Creative Writing faculty will review the portfolios and responses and announce the winner.

Applicants must submit their writing portfolio and personal response, in a single file, via email to creativewriting@kpu.ca by the posted deadline (late submissions will not be accepted). This submission MUST also include a student number *both* in the subject line of the e-mail application and on each page of the application document. The subject line should also reference the Billeh Nickerson Award. Students must submit applications from their KPU e-mail accounts.