


Karen McKinnon Poetry Awards



1st Place: \$1000

2nd Place: \$500

3rd Place: \$250

To be eligible, students must:

Be enrolled at least part-time at UNM at the undergraduate level

Have and maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA

Complete a thank you letter to the donor's family if selected for an award

Deadline for Submissions: February 28, 2026

Please attach two pdf files. One file should contain the poem (with its title), but the student's name and information should *not* appear in this file. The second file should consist of a cover page containing name, address, phone, email, poem title. Submissions may be poems in form or free verse. Only one submission (of one poem) is allowed per student.

Poems should be 1 or 2 pages, no longer than 2 pages. (If necessary, two columns on a page would be acceptable.) Poems submitted should be unpublished and should not have won or placed in any other competition.

The winners will be announced in early April (National Poetry Month) and the awards will be featured at an English Dept. event and/or on the English Dept. webpage. (The competition will be judged by a committee of faculty readers.)

Email submissions to Professor Diane Thiel (dthiel@unm.edu). Professor Thiel will reply, acknowledging receipt of the poem.

For questions, contact:

Diane Thiel, Regents' Professor

Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies

Department of English