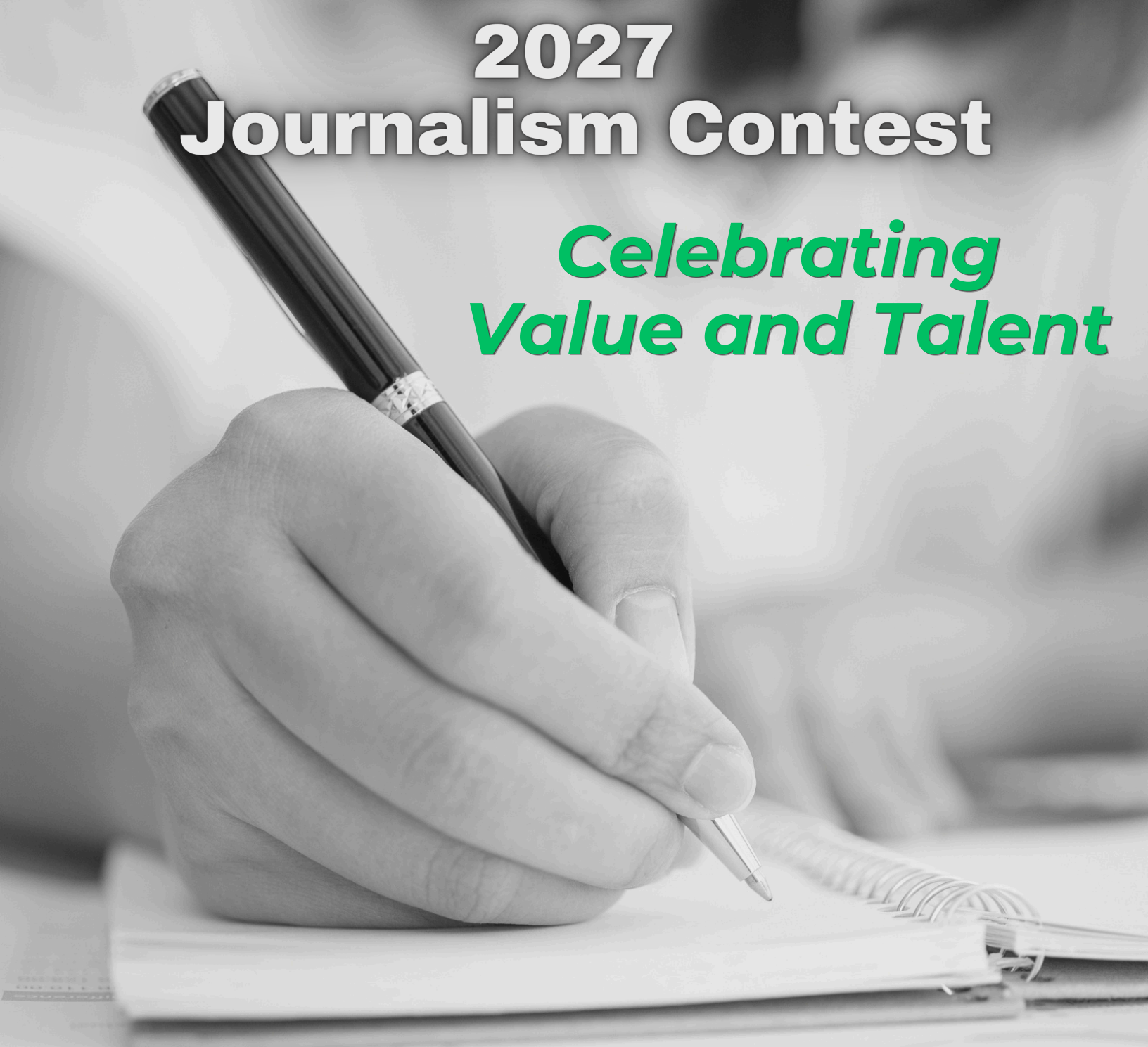
2027 Journalism Contest

Celebrating Value and Talent



Recognizing the positive impact of people with disabilities in the American workforce.

Win a Four-Year College Scholarship

Undergraduate tuition and fees at an eligible South Carolina state-supported institution.

Entry Deadline | January 15, 2027

Open to eligible South Carolina students ages 16–19

The Opportunity

The winner will receive a four-year scholarship to any South Carolina state-supported institution, provided they meet admission requirements.
The scholarship covers undergraduate tuition and fees, as defined by the institution.

Scholarship conditions

The winner must verify financial need to the selected institution, such as by qualifying for a direct subsidized federal student loan.

This typically requires completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Tax return information may be required. Visit studentaid.gov for the applicable FAFSA and deadlines.

The scholarship may be revoked if the recipient fails to meet the institution's academic or conduct standards.

Who can enter?

South Carolina residents ages 16–19.

Applicants who have not enrolled in a postsecondary institution before March 1, 2027.

High school seniors, or individuals with equivalent qualifications, who are eligible to begin postsecondary education in the 2027–2028 school year.

A disability is not required to enter.

Judging:

Entries will be reviewed anonymously by journalism professionals.

Ways to enter:

By email: **GCEPD@scvrd.net**

By mail: **SCVRD Journalism Contest**
Post Office Box 15
West Columbia, SC 29171-0015

Deadline: January 15, 2027

Questions?

Cindy Popenhagen at 803-896-4671
or **Phyllis Hoover 803.896.6504**
email **GCEPD@scvrd.net**
or **visit scvrd.net/172/annual-journalism-contest**

Article Format:

Print on white 8½×11-inch paper, double-spaced, with a font size of at least 11 points.

Address the theme "Celebrating Value and Talent," recognizing the value, talent and achievements of American workers with disabilities, past and present.

Limit the article to three pages. Documentation of quotations or works cited may appear on a fourth page.

Use correct grammar and sentence structure. Submitted articles must be the entrant's original work. AI-generated writing is not permitted.

Use respectful, accurate disability language that recognizes dignity and individuality; avoid outdated or negative terms and respect people's stated language preferences.

Research disability-related issues and interview people with disabilities. Resources may include libraries, online sources and disability-serving organizations, including local SC Vocational Rehabilitation offices.

Attribute all quotations within the article or in footnotes.

Required separate cover sheet:

Include your name, age, grade, home address, telephone number and email address.

Include your school's name, address, telephone number and principal's name.

Obtain a signature from your principal, teacher or sponsoring organization representative and include their title. If a signature is unavailable, an email or other document indicating awareness of the submission is acceptable.

Have each individual interviewed sign the cover sheet, or supply an email or other acknowledgment of the interview.

Originality declaration

Include the following statement on the cover sheet with your handwritten signature:

"I hereby confirm that the enclosed article submitted to the 2027 Journalism Contest is my own work. I wrote the article and conducted the research and any interviews (unless otherwise cited) used in the article."

Ready to Submit?

Use this checklist before emailing or mailing your entry:

Deadline to enter: January 15, 2027

✓ Theme

Article addresses "Celebrating Value and Talent."

✓ Length

Article is no longer than three pages (plus an optional fourth page for citations).

✓ Formatting

Article is double-spaced, on 8½ × 11-inch white paper, in at least 11-point type.

✓ Acknowledgments

Required school/sponsor and interview acknowledgments are included.

✓ Originality

Originality declaration is included with a handwritten signature.

✓ Cover Sheet

Separate cover sheet includes applicant and school information.

✓ Quotations

All quotations are attributed.

Sponsored by the South Carolina Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, and coordinated by the SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department, the annual contest encourages students to explore and tell stories about the contributions of people with disabilities in the workforce.

S.C. GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE
ON EMPLOYMENT
OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Full contest information and SCVRD office locations:
scvrd.net/172/annual-journalism-contest