

2024 Story Catcher Award Opportunities



Mari Sandoz at work in Bernard Hall for the 1948 Writer's Institute at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. (Courtesy Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center)

Mari Sandoz called herself a “dogged” writer, whose success was more a product of hard work and determination than what she called “natural talent.” For example, when speaking at the Nebraska Writer’s Guild meeting in Red Cloud, Nebraska, in 1959, Sandoz addressed working in the shadow of the state’s most accomplished author. According to her biographer Helen Winter Stauffer, “Mari pointed out that Willa Cather’s Red Cloud was quite different from the sandhills ... but the true difference, Mari said, lay much deeper than the material: it was the difference between an **artist** of Willa Cather’s caliber and an ordinary frontier historian with a desire to write. (Stauffer, 226).

Sandoz often preached the maxim “anyone can write,” and she spent much of her career encouraging unknown, unpublished talents. She was famous for spending hours poring over manuscripts and offering feedback, and she was repeatedly invited to numerous writing workshops in her day. It is in this spirit that we offer the following awards in support of writers who might otherwise not have the resources to develop their emerging work.

Scholarship/Fee Waivers

A limited number of full and partial fee waivers will be offered to support promising STUDENT writers this year. These address registration fees only.

Emerging Writer Fellowships

We offer two types of fellowships for emerging writers. Graduate students, teachers and part-time writers whose work shows promise, may apply for the Mari Sandoz Emerging Writer Fellowship. Our Young Lance Fellowship is focused on supporting emerging writers from underrepresented communities. Both include fee waivers and varying support for travel/lodging.

Full details are in the applications that follow.



2024 Fee Waiver/Scholarship Application

Depending on the number of applicants and the merit of the writing samples that are submitted, a limited number of full and partial fee waivers will be offered to support talented student writers, particularly those who are new to Story Catcher or who otherwise would not be able to attend.

Each scholarship recipient is responsible for their own transportation and will need to make provisions for when meals are not provided at the retreat. Visit our web site for further information about the workshop: www.storycatcherworkshop.org

TO APPLY, PLEASE COMPOSE A STATEMENT THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

Name _____ **E-mail** _____

Address _____ **Daytime Telephone** () _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

SCHOOL NAME AND LOCATION. (Note: you must be 18 or older to attend the workshop)

HAVE YOU ATTENDED STORYCATHCER PREVIOUSLY? IF SO, WHEN?

1. Please provide a brief biographical statement (about 50 words).
2. Tell us about your writing background: what do you like to write? What are your goals as a writer? Share any interests and experiences, including any writing or literature courses, workshops/conferences or publications you have been involved with.
3. Tell us why you are a good candidate for this award: why are you interested in attending the 2024 Story Catcher Retreat? How would you benefit from this scholarship?
4. Share some of your writing with us: any poems, prose items, rough drafts or works in progress or outlines, proposals or sketches of ideas you would like to write--or projects showing promise that our writing retreat might support (10 pages, maximum).

By completing this application, you affirm that YOUR STATEMENTS ARE TRUTHFUL and that ALL WRITING SAMPLES ARE YOUR OWN. Evidence of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in rejection of the application or cancellation of the award.

Send Application Materials to:

Story Catcher Writing Workshop Awards Committee
 Dr. Matthew Evertson, Co-Director
 Chadron State College
 Department of English & Humanities
 1000 Main Street
 Chadron, NE. 69337
 (308) 432-6462

OR EMAIL the above information and writing samples to mevertson@csc.edu

NOTE: space is limited, and applications will be reviewed weekly starting April 1, until filled. Early submission is recommended. FINAL DEADLINE: May 10, 2024



Mari Sandoz

Emerging Writer Fellowship

Graduate students, teachers and part-time writers whose work shows promise, may apply for the Emerging Writer Fellowship.

Fellowship Awardees have all their registration fees waived, receive a \$200 Stipend to help defray a portion of their travel and lodging expenses, will be honored as a “Mari Sandoz Emerging Writer” in our program and join our other emerging writers in a reading of their work at the Story Catcher Festival that concludes the workshop.

The final deadline for application is **May 10, 2024**
(Early submission encouraged; slots often fill before deadline)

TO APPLY, PLEASE COMPOSE A STATEMENT THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ Daytime Telephone _(____)_____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION & TITLE (if any)

BY COMPLETING THIS APPLICATION YOU AFFIRM THAT ALL MATERIALS ARE YOUR OWN.
(evidence of plagiarism will result in rejection of the application or cancellation of the award)

1. Submit your current professional CV/Resume or Background Information
2. Provide a short application letter where you share your interests in this workshop and how this award will support your work.
3. Submit a writing sample of no more than **20 pages** of prose and/or poetry, and indicate what items you might favor for an appropriate reading at Story Catcher, and why you think the pieces relate to our workshop.

Send application materials to:

Dr. Matthew Evertson, Co-Director
Chadron State College
Department of English & Humanities
1000 Main Street
Chadron, NE. 69337
(308) 432-6462

OR EMAIL the above information and writing samples to mevertson@csc.edu

The Young Lance Fellowship

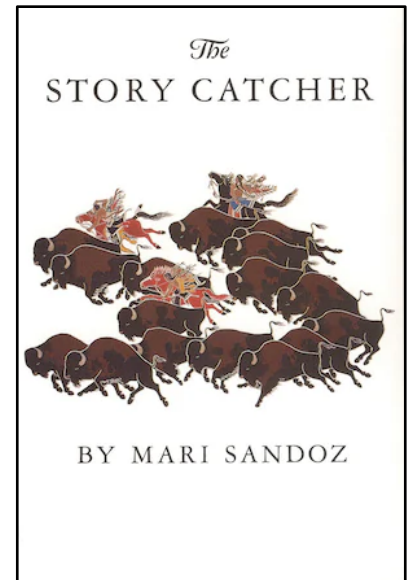
For emerging and underrepresented voices

In her 1963 novel *The Story Catcher*, Mari Sandoz depicts the adventures, sorrows, and hardships of the protagonist “Young Lance” as he develops his talents and eventually earns his new name and honor, “Story Catcher,” the recorder of the history of his people.

The Young Lance Fellowship is therefore dedicated to helping underrepresented writers capture and share their stories.

The 2024 awardees will receive the following support:

- All registration & on-campus housing fees are included/no-cost.
- \$400 Stipend to help cover travel and other expenses.
- Opportunity for a free manuscript consultation in the advanced workshop session (if slots remain)
- Fellows receive special recognition in the Story Catcher program and website, and an opportunity to share their writing at the Story Catcher Festival.



ELIGIBILITY:

The 2024 Young Lance Fellowship is open to emerging writers from **underrepresented communities**. Most typically, these are defined as Black, Indigenous or Person of Color, but you will have an opportunity to express in your application the obstacles you have faced that might be addressed by this award. We welcome applications from writers at all levels, but we will prioritize EMERGING writers who have had limited opportunities to publish or share their work.

- We will be awarding up to **THREE** fellowships in 2024.
- Submissions will be reviewed weekly starting **APRIL 1**
 - *Early submission is recommended.*
- **FINAL APPLICATION DEADLINE is MAY 10, 2024.**

NOTE: These awards and application materials are inspired by the Poetry Northwest James Welch Prize for Indigenous Writers and the Indigenous Nations Poets (In-Na-Po) Annual Retreat. You can learn more about these worthy programs here: poetrynw.org/james-welch-prize and indigenouationspoets.org

(please see the next page for application requirements)

2024 Young Lance Fellowship Application

PLEASE COMPOSE A STATEMENT THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

Name:

Email:

Daytime Phone:

Mailing Address:

School or Institutional Affiliation (if any).

1. Please provide a brief biographical statement (about 50 words).
2. Tell us about your writing background: what do you like to write? What are your goals as a writer? Share any interests and experiences, including any writing or literature courses, workshops/conferences, or publications you have been involved with.
3. Tell us why you should be chosen for this award: how do you fit the criteria of being from an **underrepresented community**? Have there been inequities or obstacles that have interfered with your writing journey? How would you benefit from this fellowship?
4. Please provide us a writing sample: share any poems, prose items, rough drafts or works in progress or outlines, proposals, or sketches of ideas you would like to write--or projects showing promise that our residencies might support. (20 pages, maximum). If a work has been published, please indicate when and where.

By completing this application, you affirm that YOUR STATEMENTS ARE TRUTHFUL and that ALL WRITING SAMPLES ARE YOUR OWN. Evidence of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in rejection of the application or cancellation of the award. Application materials will not be returned.

Send Application Materials to:

Story Catcher Writing Workshop Awards Committee
Dr. Matthew Evertson, Co-Director
Chadron State College
Department of English & Humanities
1000 Main Street
Chadron, NE. 69337
(308) 432-6462

OR EMAIL the above information and writing samples to mevertson@csc.edu



**2023 Young Lance Fellowship Recipients with Story Catcher Faculty
at the Mari Sandoz Center, Chadron State College**