

***Creative Arts Fellowship - Writing Mentor***

**2026 Application**

1. **Purpose:**

The purpose of the *Creative Arts Fellowship* is to nurture the creative development of

promising student artists and writers interested in producing works inspired and influenced

by the natural world. The Institute believes the opportunity to combine field experiences,

with reflection and immersion in a creative community, through a focused project will result

in meaningful and possibly life-changing learning experiences for emerging student artists

and writers. Projects may be individual or collaborative with other students or mentors. The

Institute believes diverse perspectives and backgrounds will help the entire community grow

and develop. Creative writing projects can include (but are not limited to): fiction, essays, non-fiction, poetry, drama, hybrids, and/or other forms.

We recognize that students will best reach their potential by having an experienced mentor

work with them during the program. Mentors will have diverse experience in creative work

and mentoring students. During the program, mentors will establish regular, individual, and

collective meetings with student fellows to discuss and provide feedback on their work.

Mentors will also design and facilitate on-site learning activities with student fellows and

participate in activities with Institute staff, researchers, and other writers and artists.

The fellowships will include a residency period for students from June 15 through July 24,

2026 (six weeks). A progress presentation where students will share an update on their progress will be held on July 7, 2026; students will share some of their work with the general public at a Field Station Tour (July 16, 2026); and an artists’ showcase/summer celebration program will be held on August 5, 2026. Residency is not required for mentors; however, housing will be available for those who need it. We expect mentors to be on-site two to three days per week. Mentors are welcome to use the remaining time to work on their own projects. Approximately 3-5 creative writing fellowships will be awarded for 2026.

1. **Eligibility:**

The Creative Writing mentor position for the Creative Arts Fellowships program is available to graduate students or faculty attending one of the member colleges or universities of the Pierce Cedar Creek Consortium (see list at <https://cedarcreekinstitute.org/research.html>).

1. **Mentor Stipend:**

Mentors will receive a $5,000 stipend. Stipends will be paid in two installments, the first at

the beginning of the program and the second after the final program is complete.

Housing will be available at the Institute, along with breakfast and lunch Monday through

Friday when onsite. Mentors will need to provide for their dinners when on-site.

The announcement of the Creative Writing mentor will be made by March 16, 2026.

1. **Responsibilities and Reporting:**

Mentor awardees must sign a participation agreement and return it to PCCI by April 10, 2026. The agreement signifies the mentor’s commitment to participate in the program and follow all of PCCI’s guidelines and conditions.

The following are required for all mentors:

1. Participate in an orientation program at the Institute on Saturday, April 18, 2026.
2. Complete all program paperwork, including a background check.
3. Hold virtual meetings with students before the program to establish cohort communication and help prepare students for the fellowship experience.
4. Participate in all aspects of the summer program, including scheduling regular meetings and activities with fellows.
5. Participate in an artists’ showcase/summer celebration program on August 5, 2026.
6. Help review work of fellows.
7. Complete an evaluation of the program.

**Application and Guidelines**

Please send a complete application cover sheet including two professional references, cover letter, and resume/short CV/biosketch as a Word or PDF file to Ellen Holste, Research and Community Engagement Manager, [eholste@cedarcreekinstitute.org](mailto:eholste@cedarcreekinstitute.org) by February 2, 2026.

Any questions regarding the fellowships can be directed to Ellen Holste, Research and Community Engagement Manager, [eholste@cedarcreekinstitute.org](mailto:eholste@cedarcreekinstitute.org) or 269-721-4170.

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##### Application - Cover Sheet

***Deadline for Application****: February 2, 2026*

# **College or University**:

# **Faculty Member or Graduate Student**

Name:       College or University:

Local/Campus Address:

Permanent Address:

Phone:       E-mail:

Driver’s License State and Number (for background check)

Are you authorized to work in the U.S.?

**Professional Reference**

Name:       Department:

Address:

Phone:       E-mail:

**Professional Reference**

Name:       Department:

Address:

Phone:       E-mail:

**Signatures -** By signing below, applicants confirm that all information provided is true and correct to the best of their knowledge. If funded, they will follow the requirements of the program guidelines and commit to full participation in the fellowship program.

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Signature Date



701 W. Cloverdale Road, Hastings, MI 49058 | 269-721-4190 | [www.cedarcreekinstitute.org](http://www.cedarcreekinstitute.org)