



Perkins Center writing

Honoring Dr. John M. Perkins

PRIZE

The Perkins Center Prize honors Dr. John M. Perkins and the indelible mark he has made on the work of reconciliation and Christian Community Development. With generous support from our community, the John Perkins Center is hosting this scholarship competition to encourage current and future Seattle Pacific University students to explore practical ways to promote reconciliation.

PRIZE DESCRIPTIONS

Up to two finalist may be chosen from among the entries received. Each eligible finalists will receive a tuition scholarship to Seattle Pacific University.

First Prize: \$2,000

Second Prize: \$1,000

ELIGIBILITY

- The competition is open to:
 - Current Seattle Pacific University undergraduate students who will be enrolled at SPU in the 2024-2025 academic year.
 - High school students and transfer students who will be enrolled at SPU in the 2024-2025 academic year.
- Entrants must be enrolled full time (12+ credits) each quarter (fall, winter, and spring quarters).
- The scholarship will be divided over the three main school year quarters (fall, winter, and spring).
- Entrants who receive a prize but withdraw from SPU or fail to matriculate in the next academic year will forfeit the scholarship.
- Entries must be original works by the entrants and must not infringe copyright or proprietary right of any other person.
- One person per entry.
- Entries must include completed Perkins Center Prize entry form (including parental/guardian signature for minors).
- Entrants must give the John Perkins Center and SPU consent to publish and use the submission.
- Winners will be presented in April of 2024 during the JPC Spring lecture series.



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Who is John Perkins?

The Perkins Center has grounded itself within Dr. Perkins 3 R's, which presents a particular approach to community engagement. Dr. John M. Perkins, an American Christian minister, civil rights leader, and author, developed an international practice of community engagement that began as the 3 R's and grew into a set of 8 Christian Community Development principles. Born in 1930 in Jackson, Mississippi, his story emerged out of economic and racial injustice in our country that impassioned his work towards cultivating reconciliation within our communities; working across economic, racial, and socio-cultural barriers. He is the founder and President Emeritus of the John & Vera Mae Perkins Foundation with his wife, Vera Mae Perkins; and co-founder of the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA). In 2004, Seattle Pacific embarked into a university partnership with the Perkins Foundation, resulting in the John Perkins Center who serves at the place of intersection and connection between campus and the Seattle regional community.

For more information check out [John Perkins](#). For more information on all 8 CCD principles, check out the [CCDA](#).

The 3 R's

Relocation: Living Among the People

Living out the gospel through relocation means desiring for one's neighbor and neighbor's family that which one desires for one's self and family. It means bettering the quality of other people's lives spiritually, physically, socially, and emotionally as you would do for your own, even sharing in the suffering and pain of others. By relocating into a community and becoming a neighbor, solutions begin to transform from a "you, them, theirs" perspective and understanding, into a "we, us, ours".

Reconciliation: People to God and People to People

Reconciliation is at the core of the gospel and is often summed up in the two commandments from Mathew: Love God and Love thy neighbor. Reconciliation helps to look at Christian discipleship in reconciling people to God and reconciling people to people. It works in building relationships, partnering and working together across social and cultural barriers to work for justice for the entire community.

Redistribution: A Just Distribution of Resources

Being a good neighbor is working towards justice for the entire community and utilizing resources along the way. The redistribution principle is more than economics and is about empowering residence of a community to creatively engage in long-term development, in order to bring about healthy transformation. Redistributon is a look at equity and access, bringing skills, relationships, opportunities, and resources together and pursuing them at work.

WRITING PROMPTS

The writing prompts below are intended to help entrants focus their writing:

- Describe/express how the principles of Relocation, Reconciliation, and Redistribution can address the current racial climate that exists in the United States of America. As part of your answer, please consider issues that would need to be addressed to successfully establish/practice these principles.
- Develop a program that can be implemented to address a particular social issue using Christian Community Development Association principles or foundations from Dr. Perkins' teachings and books. Your program should be something that could plausibly be implemented by the church, student organizations, or another community organization to which you are particularly connected.
- Produce new research into a particular social issue or social concern that the church, public/private institutions, or organizations you are connected to have not fully addressed. Describe how you would go about being the change agent or catalyst to bring about reconciliation, justice, and leadership development.

ENTRY CRITERIA

Writing Type: written entries may take essay form, research paper form or a story form.

- Writing length should not exceed 2,000 words.
- Entries must be written by the entrant and be original work.
- Quotations and facts that are not common knowledge should include proper citations.

Judging Criteria:

- Entries must focus on a social justice topic or issue by clearly communicating an answer to one of the above prompts.
- Entries will be judged based on creativity, originality, and/or the potential for the findings or program to be utilized and implemented.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

- Entries must be emailed or postmarked by Monday, April 3rd, 2024
- Scholarship recipients will be notified by the 17th of April, and requested to attend the ceremony for award during the Annual Perkins Lecture Series.
- **PLEASE NOTE: If you are a first or second place winner of this competition, you will be asked to create a poster highlighting the key points of your paper to be on display in the entree way at the Perkins Lecture Series, April 23rd, 2024.**
- Please include/attach the entry form and a high-resolution picture of yourself (for presentation purposes).
- Email electronic submissions (as PDF or Word document) to perkinscenter@spu.edu.
- Hard copy entries can be dropped off in a manila envelope to the John Perkins Center (SUB 225) or mailed to:

The John Perkins Center - SPU

Attn: Writing Prize

3307 Third Avenue West Suite 207 Seattle, WA 98119

For more information, contact perkinscenter@spu.edu or www.spu.edu/perkins (look for "Perkins Center Prize" under the schol. menu)



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2024 ENTRY FORM

NAME (first, middle, last): _____

HOME ADDRESS (city, state, country): _____

SCHOOL NAME AND ADDRESS: _____

Circle One:

high school

college/university

STUDENT ID #: _____

MAJOR (if applicable): _____

MINOR (if applicable): _____

FOR PERSPECTIVE STUDENTS:

- STATUS (circle one): high school senior/entering first year at SPU transfer student
- Have you already applied to SPU (circle one)? yes no
- If you have applied to SPU, have you been "admitted" to matriculate (circle one)?
 unsure (have not received confirmation yet) yes no

TITLE OF ENTRY: _____

DESCRIPTION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE TOPIC OR ISSUE BEING ADDRESSED: _____

CONSENT AND RELEASE STATEMENT

All entrants in the John Perkins Center Writing Prize Competition are required to affirm the statements below. The John Perkins Center (JPC) at Seattle Pacific University (SPU) is hosting this competition and will determine the eligibility of individual entrants and the winners of the competition.

Consent to publish and us submitted work. By signing below, I give consent to the JPC and SPU to use, publish, reproduce, and distribute all or any part of the written submission, the project developed, and the finding contained therein, in any manner and at any time, in the JPC's and SPU's sole discretions. I hereby waive all claims for compensation for the use and publication of all or any part of the written submission by the JPC and SPU. I permit the JPC and SPU to identify me as the author of the submission using my first and last name. I understand that the JPC and SPU are not obligated to publish or use any part of my submission. The license I grant to the JPC and SPU regarding my written submission is perpetual, world-wide, irrevocable, nonexclusive, and royalty-free. This paragraph applies regardless of whether I am one of the winners of the competition or not.

Original Work: By signing below, I pledge that the written submission is an original written work produced by the entrant named on this form and does not violate the copyright or other proprietary rights of any other person.

Scholarship Eligibility: I understand that the scholarship award is a grant and is strictly a scholarship to SPU for the 2024-2025 academic year applied to tuition fees. I agree to forfeit and release all rights to the scholarship award if I fail to, for whatever reason, matriculate in a degree program at SPU in the 2024-2025 academic year. I also agree to forfeit any remaining and unused scholarship award should I withdraw from SPU during the 2024-2025 academic year. I understand the scholarship will be divided over three quarters (fall, winter, and spring). I understand that I must be enrolled full-time (12+ credits) each quarter to receive the scholarship.

Parental agreement (if under 18 years old): An entrant under 18 years old must also have their parent or legal guardian sign. By signing below, the entrant's parent or legal guardian agrees to all of the terms of this document on behalf of the entrant and each of the entrants' parents and legal guardians, to the maximum extent of the law.

ENTRANT SIGNATURE

Printed Name

Signature

Date

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (if entrant is under 18 years old)

Printed Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date