



THE LUMINARY PROJECT

### **Health Care Without Harm's Nursing Student Essay Contest (2009)**

In an effort to spread the word to nursing students of the important role nurses can and do play in advocating for environmental health, the Nurses Work Group of Health Care Without Harm ([www.noharm.org/us/nurses](http://www.noharm.org/us/nurses)), along with The Luminary Project ([www.theluminaryproject.org](http://www.theluminaryproject.org)), are holding the second annual Nursing Student Essay Contest.

**The essay:** Nurses have played a key role in the modern environmental health movement through their participation in the Health Care Without Harm Campaign, through activities in their professional associations, and through facilitating changes in their communities and places of work that help improve human health through improving the environment. In an essay between 1000 and 1500 words discuss the nurse's role as an environmental health activist. The essay should discuss *specific activities* that demonstrate the nurses' role as an environmental activist, the essay can discuss, for example, the nurse's role in advocating for clean water, air or food. The essay may consider the nurse's role in advocating for populations that are particularly vulnerable to environmental pollutants, such as the very old, the very young, or the immune-compromised. The topic should be presented in the context of environmental health advocacy in the workplace, the home, or community. The essay must be original, not published elsewhere, and not written as part of one's paid employment. The essays will be judged on quality of writing, originality of thought, how well they adhere to the criteria outlined above and by how clearly they address the issue of the nurse as an environmental health activist. Citations must be in APA format.

**Eligibility:** The contest is open to all undergraduate nursing students presently enrolled and in good standing in a nursing program in the United States or Canada. This contest does not apply to nursing students who already hold RN licenses. Registered nurses who are interested in environmental health issues are encouraged to participate as Nurse Luminaries in The Luminary Project.

**Essay winners:** The essays will be judged by The Guiding Lights, the advisory group of The Luminary Project. Winners will be announced February 15, 2009. There will be one prize winner, and two honorable mentions. All winning essays will be posted on The Luminary Project web site and their authors will be given full credit. The writer of the essay that is awarded the first prize will be given the award at CleanMed 2009, to be held in Chicago, IL in May, 2009. The winning student essayist will receive funds for travel to Chicago and accommodations for one day.

**How to enter:** Entries should be submitted electronically to Colleen Funkhouser at [cfunkhouser@hcwh.org](mailto:cfunkhouser@hcwh.org). They should be submitted by 5 P.M. (EST) Eastern Standard time on December 15, 2008. All entries should include a cover letter listing the nursing student's name, phone number, nursing school in which enrolled, expected date of graduation, and contact info for one nursing school professor or advisor to verify student status.