

2024 St. Juan Diego Collegiate Awards

Open Submission Period: Nov. 1, 2023 – Jan. 31, 2024

Extension Period: Feb. 1-7, 2024

The Catholic Media Association invites **Students** and **Alumni Magazines** to participate in the 2024 *St. Juan Diego Collegiate Awards* competition. St. Juan Diego is a symbol of evangelization and the messenger of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The *St. Juan Diego Collegiate Awards* honor a wide range of journalistic skills and specialties, encouraging excellence and fostering a vibrant Catholic journalism community.

The Catholic Media Association counts more than 355 publications and media organizations among its membership. Its 900 members are general managers, editors, reporters, photographers, designers, advertising experts, communications professionals, and more.

Instituted to nurture the next generation of Catholic media professionals, this competitive awards program receives more than 3,000 entries per year.

Students: this program provides aspiring journalists and media professionals a critique of your work and introduces you to hundreds of journalism and communications professionals across North America.

This competition is ideal for students looking to become media professionals. Award winners earn recognition that enhances résumés and portfolios. Judges evaluate the entry as if it were being submitted to an editor or communications director, and each entry receives a constructive critique.

Alumni Magazine Staff: this program adds recognition to your work and enhances the visibility of your university and alumni.

Thank you for considering the Catholic Media Association's *St. Juan Diego Collegiate Awards*.

Section Overview

Program Highlights	Page 2
Requirements	Page 3
Student Categories	Page 4
Alumni Categories	Page 12
Submission Process	Page 14
Payment	Page 15

Highlights

Accepting Entries	Nov. 1, 2023 – Feb. 7, 2024
Winner Announcement	April 26, 2024
Catholic Media Conference	June 18-21, 2024
Publication Date Deadlines	Jan. 1, 2023 – Dec. 31, 2023

Student Journalists: We limit each individual to 10 entries.

- Open Period Entry Fee: \$0.00 per entry
- Late Period Entry Fee: \$0.00 per entry

Alumni Magazines

- Member Open Period Entry Fee: \$38 per entry
- Non-member Open Period Entry Fee: \$79 per entry
- Member Late Period Entry Fee: \$48 per entry
- Non-member Late Open Period Entry Fee: \$89 per entry
- Payment Deadline: Feb. 9, 2024

Recognition for the Student Journalism Division

- Three individual \$250 grand prize winners are given for first place in the following categories: S101, S201, and S401.
- Winners receive an award certificate, and are acknowledged at the Catholic Media Conference, as well as in the annual Awards Issue of *The Catholic Journalist* and on the CMA Awards website.
- Winning entries can opt into available promotional opportunities once the winners are announced. This provides enhanced visibility by more than 7,000 followers on all CMA social media outlets.
- Students and professors who enter the awards program are invited to attend the workshop sessions at the 2024 Catholic Media Conference free of charge. Please note transportation, meals and lodging are not included. For more information about the conference: catholicmediaconference.org

Categories

Each division includes Design, Writing, Photography, Broadcast, and Digital Media categories.

Student and **Alumni Magazine** divisions highlight individual talent and a publication category honoring the College/University publication.

Questions

If you have questions about the St. Juan Diego Collegiate Awards or the Catholic Media Association, we are happy to talk with you. Please email: Awards@CatholicMediaAssociation.org

Eligibility Requirements

The *St. Juan Diego Collegiate Awards* recognize the efforts of a college/university magazine or other publication with an interest in journalism and other media. The following criteria are required of all submissions:

- Eligible entries are restricted to work published by a college/university publication or posted on a college/university publication's website from **Jan. 1, 2023, through Dec. 31, 2023.**
- Professors/advisors may enter work created for the publication.
- Submitters may enter the same work into more than one category.

Disqualification Reasons

- Plagiarized entries are prohibited.
- Work published outside of the college/university publication is disqualified.
- Submissions that do not meet all regulations and deadlines are disqualified.

Lack of Submissions

If a category receives only one submission, you may decide to move your entry to another category. If you wish, you can pull the entry from the program. In this scenario, the category is not judged and any submission fee paid is refunded.

Judging

Judges volunteer their time and are instructed to provide critiques for all submissions for the benefit of student participants. If a judge disqualifies an entry for any reason, the judge is required to inform the CMA's awards coordinator, who informs the submitter.

Free Admission to CMC

Current students and professors who enter St. Juan Diego Collegiate Awards are welcome to attend the 2024 Catholic Media Conference Master Camps and workshops free of charge. **Travel, hotel, meals, and extracurricular activities are not included.** Please email awards@catholicmediaassociation.org for more information.

Descriptions for Student Division

Broadcast Media

For Print, Digital and Broadcast Media

S101: Best Video Presentation of Faith on Campus

UPDATED

This category is for original content about faith life on campus. Judges consider the quality and impact of the submission. An entry consists of a URL where the content may be viewed by judges.

This category awards a \$250 grand prize to the first-place winner.

S121: Best Collegiate Blog

UPDATED

This category is for content pertaining to current events that directly impact student life and posted on an officially sanctioned college/university blog site. An entry consists of permanent URL links for each entry submitted. Three to five blog entries may be submitted for judges to consider. The URL(s) must be embedded into a PDF document for uploading.

S122: Best Collegiate Radio Show

UPDATED

This category is for media content about current events that directly impact student life and broadcast on a college/university radio station. An entry consists of one to three episodes, edited, if necessary, to no more than 15 minutes in length. Entries may be uploaded as an MP3 audio file, or as a URL embedded into a PDF document for uploading.

S131: Best Podcast/Radio Segment

NEW

This category is for podcast content posted on an officially sanctioned college/university website. This can be a single episode or series. An entry consists of one episode, edited, if necessary, to no more than 15 minutes in length. The URL must be embedded into a PDF document for uploading.

Editorial

S201: Best Article about Faith on Campus

This category is for original content about faith life on campus. Judges consider the quality and impact of the submission. An entry consists of one PDF file or URL where the content may be viewed by judges. For video submissions please enter S401.

This category awards a \$250 grand prize to the first-place winner.

S202: Best Article on Social Justice

UPDATED

This category features articles about social justice issues, such as human dignity, rights and responsibilities, and solidarity. The work may be from 2023 or cover a span of years but must be published within the program publication deadline. An entry consists of one PDF file containing the page(s) on which the article was published.

S203: Best Creative Writing

UPDATED

This category is for the best creative writing piece authored by a student and published in any college/university-sanctioned publication or collection of literary works whether in print or digital format. This category may include short stories, poems, essays, or reviews. An entry consists of one PDF file of the page(s) on which the work was published.

S204: Best Investigative Reporting

NEW

This category recognizes in-depth research and reporting that uncovers important issues or exposes wrongdoing.

S205: Best Feature Story

This category recognizes well-written, engaging, and thought-provoking human-interest stories.

S206: Best News Reporting

This category recognizes accurate and timely reporting of important events on campus or in the community. This includes on and off campus events.

S207: Best Coverage of Culture or Diversity

NEW

This category recognizes reporting that promotes understanding of diverse cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives. This can also include projects or stories that actively involve the local community or have a positive impact.

S208: Environmental Journalism Award

NEW

This category recognizes exceptional coverage of environmental issues and sustainability.

S209: Student Press Freedom Award

NEW

This category recognizes efforts to promote and protect the principles of free speech and press freedom.

S210: Social Justice Reporting

NEW

This category recognizes journalism that sheds light on social injustices and advocates for positive change in the community.

S211: Best Use of Data in Journalism

NEW

This category recognizes innovative use of data analysis and visualization to support storytelling. Entry may include graphs, charts, or maps along with an explanation of data and findings.

S212: Investigative Series Award

NEW

This category recognizes a series of investigative articles that collectively contribute to a significant narrative.

S213: In-Depth Profile Feature

NEW

This category recognizes in-depth profiles that offer deep insights into individuals, issues, or events.

S214: Editorial Graphic or Cartooning

NEW

This category recognizes thought-provoking and impactful editorial cartoons.

Design

S301: Best Front Page

This category recognizes the artwork of an issue's front page. Judging is based on typography, headline weight, compelling use of graphics, and the degree to which the layout draws the eye over the entire page. An entry consists of one PDF file of the front page only (not the entire issue).

S302: Best Use of Graphics with an Article

This category recognizes the graphics used specifically on a single page or spread accompanying an article. Judges view the graphics with an eye toward design and how it was used to convey a story or theme and make the page/spread appealing to readers. An entry consists of one PDF file of the page.

S303: Excellence in Layout and Design

NEW

This category recognizes aesthetically pleasing and well-organized print or digital layouts.

S304: Best Multimedia Package

This category recognizes comprehensive reporting that combines text, visuals, audio, and video.

S305: Editorial Graphic or Cartooning

NEW

This category recognizes thought-provoking and impactful editorial cartoons.

Photography

S401: Best Photos Representing Faith on Campus

This category recognizes original content about faith life on campus. Judges consider the quality and impact of the submission. An entry consists of one to five PDF files where the content may be viewed by judges. For video submissions please enter S101.

This category awards a \$250 grand prize to the first-place winner.

S402: Best Use of Multimedia for Storytelling

This category recognizes the best use of photo galleries, videos, and other online resources to enhance a publication's online presentation of a story or stories. The work may cover a span of years but must be published within the program publication deadline. An entry consists of the webpage URL where judges may view the presentation.

S403: Best Single Photo – Digital Format

This category recognizes the best single photo in digital format. Photos may be black and white or color. Manipulated images may be submitted only if they were identified as such when published. An entry consists of one PDF file containing the page on which the photo was published, and a second PDF file containing an image of the photo by itself.

S404: Best Single Photo – Film Format

This category recognizes the best single photo in film format. Photos may be black and white or color. Photos may be black and white or color. Manipulated images may be submitted only if they were identified as such when published. An entry consists of one PDF file containing the page on which the photo was published and a second PDF file containing an image of the photo by itself.

S405: Best Photo Story – Feature

This category is for a feature photo story that has a cohesive group of select images that by themselves, with little added text, that tells a story. The photo story should include opening and closing shots, with each picture moving the story along for the viewer. Text and photo layout/design are secondary and will be judged as such. Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one** PDF file containing the pages on which the photos were published.

S406: Best Photo Story – News

This category is for a feature photo story that has a cohesive group of select images that by themselves, with little added text that tells a news story. The photo story should include opening and closing shots, with each picture moving the story along for the viewer. Text and photo layout/design are secondary and will be judged as such. Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one** PDF file containing the pages on which the photos were published.

S407: Best Photo Story – Sports

This category recognizes the best photo story in sports. A photo story is a cohesive group of select images that by themselves, with little added text that tell a story. The photo story should include opening and closing shots, with each picture moving the story along for the viewer. Text and photo layout/design are secondary and will be judged as such. Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one** PDF file containing the pages on which the photos were published.

S408: Best Story and Photo Package by an Individual

This category recognizes **one** article or feature on any topic consisting of both image(s) and written content together. Judges will consider creativity and the ability to tell a compelling story, as well as the overall impact of the photo and story together as one piece. Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one** PDF file containing the pages on which the story and photo package were published.

S409: Best Story and Photo Package by Two Individuals or More

This category recognizes **one** article or feature on any topic consisting of both image(s) and written content together. Judges will consider creativity and the ability to tell a compelling story, as well as the overall impact of the photo and story together as one piece. Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one** PDF file containing the pages on which the story and photo package were published.

Individual Excellence

S501: Excellence in Visual Storytelling

NEW

This category recognizes exceptional use of graphics, infographics, and visual elements to enhance storytelling.

S502: Excellence in Editorial Writing

NEW

This category recognizes insightful and persuasive opinion pieces that contribute to meaningful discourse.

S503: Excellence in Photojournalism

NEW

This category recognizes impactful visual storytelling through powerful photographs.

S504: Digital Innovation Award

NEW

This category recognizes creativity and innovation in online storytelling, multimedia, or interactive journalism.

S505: Sports Journalism Award

NEW

This category recognizes outstanding coverage of sports events, profiles, or analyses.

S550: Journalist of the Year

NEW

This category recognizes the skill of the writer covering a topic. Judges critique the quality and conciseness of the work as well as the writer's ability to convey the message. Photos, charts, and illustrations entries are not considered. Entry can be a single story **OR** series of any subject matter covering a group, trend, or event of general interest. Community service, volunteerism, and personality profiles work well in this category. An entry consists of one PDF file or URL where the content may be viewed by judges.

General Excellence

S601: Best Publication

UPDATED

This category recognizes the Best College/University Student Publication. Judges consider each of the following criteria: selection of stories, originality, quality of writing and headlines, columns, editorials, and letters to the editor, quality and appropriateness of art and graphics, and overall design. Entry consists of a PDF of three consecutive issues of the publication or a URL where the publications can be viewed. You may also send three hard copies of the issues to the CMA office.

- Video content can also be added to support entries in this category.

S602: Best New Student Publication

NEW

This category recognizes newly established student publications for 2023 that have demonstrated high-quality journalism. Judges consider each of the following criteria: selection of stories, originality, quality of writing and headlines, columns, editorials, and letters to the editor, quality and appropriateness of art and graphics, and overall design.

S603: Best Redesign Student Publication

NEW

This category recognizes student publications that have demonstrated the best redesign. Judges consider each of the following criteria: selection of stories, placement of items, how the items are displayed, quality and appropriateness of art and graphics, and overall design. An entry consists of one issue of the old publication and one of the redesigned issues.

Descriptions for Alumni Magazines Division

Only Alumni magazines from Catholic colleges/universities may enter these subcategories.

- The work may cover a span of years but must be published during Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2023.

AM101: Best Interview – Audio

UPDATED

This category recognizes the overall effectiveness of an interview and the ability of the interviewer to solicit information that makes the interview relevant and impactful. Zoom interviews can be entered into either subcategory but not both.

AM102: Best Interview – Video

UPDATED

This category recognizes the overall effectiveness of an interview and the ability of the interviewer to solicit information that makes the interview relevant and impactful. Zoom interviews can be entered into this category. An entry consists of one PDF file containing the URL on which the interview was published.

AM201: Best Feature Article

This category recognizes the best feature articles that tell stories covering an individual, group, trend, or event of general interest. Personality profiles may be entered in this category. Judges will not consider accompanying photographs, charts, or illustrations. An entry consists of one PDF file of the page(s) on which the feature article was published.

AM202: Best Article – Current Issue

This category recognizes the best current event articles pertaining to current local or national events. An entry consists of one PDF file containing the page(s) on which the article was published.

AM203: Best Article – Social Justice

This category recognizes articles written on social justice issues, such as human dignity, rights and responsibilities, and solidarity. The work may cover a span of years but must be published between January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. An entry consists of a URL that must be embedded into a PDF document for judges to view the article.

AM401: Best Single Photo

This category recognizes the best single photo. Entries may be black-and-white or color. Entries will be judged on the content of the photo, picture quality, and usage. An entry consists of one PDF file containing the page on which the photo was published and a second page containing an image of the photo by itself.

AM402: Best Photo Story – Feature

UPDATED

This category recognizes the best feature photo story. A photo story is a cohesive group of select images that by themselves, with little added text, tell a story. The photo story should include opening and closing shots, with each picture moving the story along for the viewer. Text and photo layout/design is secondary and will be judged as such. Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one** PDF file containing the pages on which the photos were published.

AM403: Best Photo Story – News

UPDATED

This category recognizes the best photo news story. A photo story is a cohesive group of select images that by themselves, with little added text, tell a story. The photo story should include opening and closing shots, with each picture moving the story along for the viewer. Text and photo layout/design is secondary and will be judged as such. Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one** PDF file containing the pages on which the photos were published.

AM404: Best Photo Story – Sports

UPDATED

This category recognizes the photo sports story. A photo story is a cohesive group of select images that by themselves, with little added text, tell a story. The photo story should include opening and closing shots, with each picture moving the story along for the viewer. Text and photo layout/design is secondary and will be judged as such. Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one** PDF file containing the pages on which the photos were published.

AM405: Best Story and Photo Package – By an Individual

NEW

This category recognizes **one** article or feature on any topic consisting of both image(s) and written content together. Judges will consider creativity and the ability to tell a compelling story, as well as the overall impact of the photo and story together as one piece. Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one** PDF file containing the pages on which the story and photo package were published.

AM406: Best Story and Photo Package – By Two or More Individuals

NEW

This category recognizes **one** article or feature on any topic consisting of both image(s) and written content together. Judges will consider creativity and the ability to tell a compelling story, as well as the overall impact of the photo and story together as one piece. Publisher and Freelance Members may enter this category. An entry consists of **one** PDF file containing the pages on which the story and photo package were published.

AM601: Best Alumni Magazine

UPDATED

This category recognizes the Best Alumni Magazine. Judges consider each of the following criteria: selection of stories, originality, quality of writing and headlines, columns, editorials, and letters to the editor, quality and appropriateness of art and graphics, and overall design. Entry consists of a PDF of three consecutive issues of the publication or a URL where the publications can be viewed. You may also send three hard copies of the issues to the CMA office. Video content can also be added to support entries in this category.

AM602: Best New Alumni Magazine

NEW

This category recognizes a newly established Alumni Magazine for 2023 that has demonstrated high-quality journalism. Judges consider each of the following criteria: selection of stories, originality, quality of writing and headlines, columns, editorials, and letters to the editor, quality and appropriateness of art and graphics, and overall design.

AM603: Best Alumni Magazine Redesign

NEW

This category recognizes Alumni Magazines that have demonstrated the best redesign. Judges consider each of the following criteria: selection of stories, placement of items, how the items are displayed, quality and appropriateness of art and graphics, and overall design. An entry consists of one issue of the old publication and one issue of the redesigned publication.

Submission Instructions

Getting Started

All entries are submitted digitally through the CMA awards [website](#). To start, participants may log into an existing profile from a previous year or create a new profile. Once logged in you are able to create and edit submissions and pay for entries.

Please read category descriptions to determine submission requirements for each category. If you have questions about eligibility, submissions, or payment, please visit our St. Juan Diego Collegiate Awards [web page](#). If you need further assistance, please email Awards@CatholicMediaAssociation.org.

Creating a Profile

To register a new profile, visit the homepage of the awards website and click “Enter the Student Journalism Awards.” Follow the prompts to create a username and password for your account.

If you participated in the awards program in a previous year, then you already have a profile. Please enter your email and password to access your profile. If you do not remember your password, you may click [reset password](#) to make a new one.

Creating a New Submission

1. Either create your profile or log into your existing profile.
2. Click “Make Another Application” then “Enter Juan Diego Collegiate Awards” You will be prompted to review your past submissions or to begin a new submission.
3. Select “Click here” to begin a new submission. Fill out the form as prompted and click “Save and Next” to continue. You can return to the previous form at any time.
4. At the end of the form, you have a few options:
5. Clicking “Save” and leaving the form saves your submission as “Incomplete.” You may return to the entry later, edit data, and complete the entry.
6. Clicking “Add to Cart” saves your data and puts your submission in your cart. You can return to the entry later and pay for it, edit the data, or remove it from your cart.
7. Entries are only marked “Complete” after you pay for them. Once an entry is marked “Complete,” you will not be able to edit the entry by yourself. Email Awards@CatholicMediaAssociation.org so we can edit the entry for you. We recommend keeping submissions in your cart until you have created and reviewed all of your submissions.
8. You can view submissions that are incomplete, in your cart, and complete by clicking “My Applications.” To edit submissions that are incomplete, click “Edit” in the action column. For entries in your cart, click “Make Changes.” If you need to make changes to a complete entry (an entry that you have paid for), email Awards@CatholicMediaAssociation.org on or before Feb. 7, 2024.

Payment Instructions

Ready for Checkout

1. When items are in your cart, a direct link to your cart will appear under “My Applications.” Click the link to edit submissions or pay for your entries.
2. When ready, click the “Checkout” button to select your method of payment, then click “Process.”
3. The next screen allows you to print your invoice and submission forms.

Payment Options

- A. Online Credit Card: Enter the information and complete the transaction
- B. Pay by Check: Please include a copy of your invoice with your payment

Mail Payment To:

CMA Awards Program
Catholic Media Association
10 S. Riverside Plaza, Suite 875
Chicago, IL 60606

Good luck and thank you for participating.

Entry Deadline

Open Submission Deadline: 11:59 p.m. CST, Jan. 31, 2024
Extension Submission Deadline: 11:59 a.m. CST, Feb. 7, 2024