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Cal Poly Journalism Student Winner of Generation Next Competition

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly journalism student Kyle McCarty was named one of three winners of the Entertainment Industry Council's (EIC) Generation Next competition.

Selected from a pool of more than 100 submissions statewide, 12 semifinalists in three categories were chosen to further develop their projects, from which three winners were announced.

The competition invites California college students to produce stories about people living with mental health challenges. The stories are intended to expand awareness, reduce discrimination, and encourage those who need help to seek it.

McCarty's project, a thoroughly researched article on college youth and depression, was selected as the winner for the journalism category. McCarty drew inspiration for his story from a project completed in journalism Professor Patrick Howe's Advanced Newspaper Reporting Practicum course.

"One of the struggles in journalistic writing is that it's far easier to tell stories when we oversimplify things, but that's not good journalism," Howe said. "The beauty of Kyle's piece is that he told a complex story about depression during college in an engaging way that discussed both the problems and solutions.

"This is the sort of intelligent work that Cal Poly journalism strives to foster in all of our students."

The 12 semifinalists worked with a team of professionals from the creative and mental health fields to help guide their project plans and to offer feedback on student progress. Semifinalists completed the final versions of their projects March 24, and judges gathered in early April to select the winners.

Each winner will receive \$4,000 and be recognized April 22 at the 18th annual PRISM Awards in Los Angeles.

Links

- Journalism Department: <http://journalism.calpoly.edu>
- College of Liberal Arts: <http://www.cla.calpoly.edu/>
- Generation Next Competition: <http://www.eiconline.org/teamup/gen-next/>

About the Cal Poly Journalism Department

Cal Poly's Journalism Department offers a professional program that prepares students for real-world careers. Beginning with core courses that establish a strong foundation in the field, journalism majors then focus on media specializations of their choice. Students have the opportunity to acquire practical experience by working for the department's converged media center, newspaper, campus radio and TV station, or the student public relations agency.

About the Entertainment Industry Council and Generation Next

The EIC was founded in 1983 by entertainment industry professionals to more positively discuss health and social issues using media tools. The Generation Next competition is supported by the California Mental Health Services Authority, which aims to improve mental health among California residents. The Generation Next mental health and media student competition is part of the Tools for Entertainment Media campaign (TEAM Up). It aims to inspire future content creators to use the influence of media and journalism to shed light on important health issues.

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