Write on a rural health topic for a regular class and submit a copy as an entry by June 1.

The Essay Prize, established in 1993, is open to anyone who has been a student at the University of Wisconsin (UW) within the preceding year (all campuses, programs, undergraduate, graduate, resident, fellows, part-time, and non-degree included). The competition was established to honor the memory of Hermes Monato, Jr., a December 1990 graduate, as well as to highlight the importance of rural health. Hermes worked at the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative (RWHC) for only a few years but his infectious spirit and creative mind left rural health an enduring legacy.

The writer of the winning essay will receive a check for $2,500.00 paid from a trust fund established at the University of Wisconsin by RWHC, and family and friends of Hermes. The winning essay will be about rural health with some of the following attributes:

- Relevant to rural communities
- Innovative
- Practical
- Multi-disciplinary
- Improves quality of care
- Team/relationship oriented
- Applicability to networking, cooperatives
- Improves the local economy

There are no rigid requirements for the length, format, etc. To date, winning papers have ranged from first person essays to formal “journal ready” articles. Please note that papers already written for a class or other purposes during the previous twelve months are also eligible for this competition. “Papers with an international theme are welcome but only if that theme is used to provide insight on U.S. rural health care or policy.”

All entries (no copies needed) must be submitted by Thursday, June 1 to: Monica Seiler, Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative, 880 Independence Lane, Sauk City, Wisconsin 53583 (or by email: MSeiler@rwhc.com).

Please include the writer’s name, contact information (address, email, phone), academic program and expected date of graduation on a separate cover sheet. Information regarding past winners is available at: www.rwhc.com.

The Review Committee for this award is comprised of UW and RWHC representatives, and reserves the right to not award the Prize in any given year.