

Andrés Montoya Memorial Creative Writing Scholarships

The Andrés Montoya Memorial Creative Writing Scholarships are awarded annually by the Montoya family through the Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing and the Fresno State Foundation in memory of the poet and teacher Andrés Montoya, who graduated from California State University, Fresno, in 1992, where he was student body president (1991-92). He earned his MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Oregon in 1994, and he went on to teach writing at several colleges and universities, including University of Oregon, Chabot College, Fresno City College, as well as Fresno State. Andrés Montoya was a gifted poet and prose writer, a generous and devoted teacher, and an energetic community and campus leader. He died in spring of 1999.



During his years as a student at Fresno State, Andrés Montoya was one of the co-founders of the Chicano Writers and Artists Association (CWAA), a student-run organization that sparked a blossoming of Chicano arts at Fresno State and continues to publish a journal, produce plays, organize readings of fiction and poetry, and encourage artistic expression of the Chicano experience. He was a founding editor of the CWAA journal *Pachuco Children Hurl Stones* (also known as *Flies, Cockroaches and Poets*) which continues to be a successful annual literary arts journal at Fresno State.

Andrés Montoya's full-length collection of poems, *The Ice Worker Sings and Other Poems* (Bilingual Press, 1999), won first prize in the 1997 UC Irvine Chicano Latino Literary Prize (selected by Francisco X. Alarcon), and it also won a Before Columbus American Book Award. His play, *El Muerto: Three Conversations*, was produced in 1994 (University of Oregon), and his poetry won the 1993 AWP Intro Award. Individual poems have been published in *Bilingual Review*, *The Santa Clara Review*, *In the Grove*, *Willow Springs*, *Soy Chicano*, *Oye Raza*, and other journals. His new posthumous collection of poems, *A Jury of Trees*, is forthcoming from Bilingual Press and The Institute for Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame, edited by Daniel Chacon.

Two scholarships (one at the undergraduate and one at the graduate level) of \$500 are awarded each fall to students who demonstrate significant interest in Chicano culture and/or history and who are pursuing a career in the field of creative writing. Recipients must be enrolled at California State University, Fresno during the award year. Selection will be based on talent and financial need.