



## Tom Hope Memorial Media Scholar Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Outstanding Media Students Honored With Tom Hope Scholar Awards

Seven outstanding area college students have received Tom Hope Media Scholar Awards held at the Irondequoit Conference Center at I-Square.

This year's Tom Hope Scholars are:

- Melissa Gibney -- University of Rochester
- Sydney Hvizdzak -- Roberts Wesleyan University
- Saige Kanilk -- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Allison Lyons -- St. John Fisher University
- Sam Miller -- Finger Lakes Community College
- Timothy Pratt -- SUNY Brockport
- Jeremy Southern -- Monroe Community College

Sponsored by the Rochester Association for Film Arts and Sciences (RAFAS), the Hope Scholar Program annually awards stipends to select media production students, and supports their transition into the media profession. It's named in honor of the late Tom Hope.

Hope inspired and mentored hundreds of students and professionals in the media field. His career as a media visionary, public servant, corporate executive, producer, director, researcher and author spanned many analog and digital technologies. Today's media professionals carry on his tradition through the Tom Hope Memorial Media Scholar Program.

Four-time New York Emmy® award-winning filmmaker Don Casper was the keynote speaker at the event.

Casper directed the internationally-distributed film *Signs of the Times*, an Original Production of Ray and Caroline Maynard's Crystal Pix studio in Fairport, NY. He also co-produced and edited the feature documentary *Women and the Vote*, directed by Linda Moroney. Casper's most recent film, *Appalachia Heart*, documents an approach to healing opioid addiction through art in rural Appalachia.

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