



AP Robert Gallimore Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Service in the Public Interest

- **Evan Jones, WFIR-AM/FM, Roanoke**

West Virginia Lifetime Achievement Award

- **Tim Irr, WSAZ-TV, Charleston-Huntington**

Scholarship Awards

- **Avalon Pernell, Washington and Lee University**
 - **Tolulope Olasoji, West Virginia University**

Combined Divisions (TV/Radio):

Best Podcast-Audio

First Place

WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA

Mallory Noe-Payne

"Memory Wars"

This entry combined all the elements that make for a compelling podcast: a subject that calls for in-depth exploration, top-notch production values, and engaging conversation that puts the reporting in context. I subscribed to this podcast after hearing the awards submission, and I look forward to immersing myself in it further.

Second Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Trey Kay and Emily Haavik

"Court of Second Chances"

The production values on this podcast are exemplary. It combines courtroom audio with excellent interviews and professional narration in a story that explores potential solutions to the unrelenting issue of drug abuse in West Virginia.

TV I/Large Market:

Best Spot News

First Place

WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA

Frank Jones

"Tragedy at UVA"

Excellent urgency off the top and a comprehensive overview for the viewers from the anchors. It was good to have one of the anchors out on the scene, field anchoring. Nice look at all the journalists who would be contributing to this unbelievable tragedy. Amazing emotion in the first story where the chief of police finds out during the news conference a suspect has been taken into custody. I'm not often a big fan of having a police official carry a story, but this was an exception. All the sound in this story was emotional and helped me as a viewer follow the timeline of what happened. Nice job by the whole team of walking that line of finesse between the emotion of what happened and the job of telling this story. The whole team showed great empathy.



Second Place

WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA
"Chesapeake Mass Shooting"

Clear and easy to understand. The anchors did an excellent job of unfolding the story as the investigation unfolded. Reporters were calm, but urgent. I felt their confidence translate through the camera. I could tell the team was working absolutely every angle of this situation.

Best Continuing News

First Place

WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA
"July 4 Mass Shooting Plot"

WRIC did an excellent job staying on this purported July 4 mass shooting plot. It was evident the reporters had sources and worked them for information. I thought the coverage was showcased with urgency, lots of new information first and good examples of process storytelling, walking viewers through their search for answers, and the contradicting statements from the police chief.

Second Place

WSLS-TV, Roanoke, VA
Margaret Ashburn
"UVA Shootings"

WSLS did an excellent job covering what wound up being a big national story. Their coverage looked larger than their market. Great showcasing and good live work from reporters covering all angles.

Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias

First Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA
Lane Casadonte and Sean Robertson

Second Place

WSAZ-TV, Charleston/Huntington, WV

Best Documentary or In-Depth

First Place

WVEC-TV, Norfolk, VA
Janet Roach and Adrian Guerra
"The Fentanyl Crisis"

This piece stood out as it made best use of sound bites, was well shot, worked towards awareness and had great flow throughout.



Second Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

David Stotts, Jon Burkett and Brandy Brown

"Crime Insider Reopen the Case"

The strength of this piece was in the sound bites from family members showcasing their loved ones to be remembered. Great establishing shots and sound bites.

Best Light Feature

First Place

VPM News, Richmond, VA

Samantha Willis and Martin Montgomery
"Rev. Cora's Gospel"

This lifestyle-oriented piece is powerful and has a nice message. It highlights audio and visual aspects throughout the segment.

Second Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Greg McQuade and Curtis Akers
"Mystery Letters in the Attic: It Is Definitely a Love Story"

This informational story has creative camera shots and angles. It also had a satisfying conclusion.

Best Serious Feature

First Place

WSAZ-TV, Charleston/Huntington, WV

Marlee Pinchok
"Blaine Boulevard"

Applauding WSAZ-TV for devoting so much air time to this important story. This is the kind of reporting that makes a difference in a community-- delivering crucial information to citizens and asking questions of those in power.

Second Place

WSAZ-TV, Charleston/Huntington, WV

Marlee Pinchok
"Neighbors Get Mail Delivery"

Excellent story. It's a great example of why local news matters. These are the kinds of stories we need to see more often.

Best Sports Feature

First Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Greg McQuade and Brad Wilson
"Gowdy Gloves: Maybe This Is the Way I Get to the Show"

Beautiful story from start to finish. I was hooked right from the first few frames. The shooting, editing, and writing all fantastic. Will is a great character and I'm so glad to have heard his story.



Second Place

WSAZ-TV, Charleston/Huntington, WV

Joseph Payton
"Young Burrow"

Joseph did a really nice job showing us a side of superstar Joe Burrow that many probably have never been introduced to. The first piece with his youth coach was shot very well and I loved taking a step back in time with him as he reviewed old footage. This was an overall very well-done series from top to bottom.

Best MMJ/One-Person Band Reporter

First Place

WTKR-TV/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA

Anthony Sabella

These stories are great examples of strong visual storytelling, creative video shots, compelling interviews, effective natural sound, smooth editing and all-around solid reporting on a variety of topics. The MMJ who produced these stories shared that they each were shot, written, edited and aired within 24 hours, which is the epitome of an MMJ role in the newsroom. Great work!

Second Place

WVEC-TV, Norfolk, VA

Alex Littlehales

The montage of stand-ups is excellent and so creative. I enjoyed the variety of stories that included even more creative shots, strong editing with powerful natural sound, compelling interviews and transitions. The examples shared show that this MMJ can cover a variety of stories and produce captivating stories.

Best Reporter

First Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Laura French

Winning entry was incredibly compelling. It's clear how much time and effort went into this story. It's a shining example of local journalism at its best.

Second Place

WSAZ-TV, Charleston/Huntington, WV

Emily Bennett

Best Specialty Reporting

First Place

WSAZ-TV, Charleston/Huntington, WV

Marlee Pinchok
"Road Safety Concerns"

Excellent job taking viewers through your process -- getting the viewer call, trying to get answers from officials, going through routes yourself. This is a perfect example of your "making a difference" brand. Dynamic use of GoPro and drone.



Second Place

WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, VA

Logan Sherrill

"Hometown Eats"

It was refreshing to see this fun feature entry! It wasn't just about local restaurants, but also showcased what's so special about family-owned businesses. Great job to Logan showing his personality to help engage with viewers.

Best Spot News Photography

First Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Joe Valdez

"What Are They Going to Do?"

Second Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Ben Brady

"Tappahannock Fire"

Best Feature Photography

First Place

WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA

Andrew Robinson and Ricky Matthews

"Art From Above"

Nice balance of narration by reporter and subject. Good use of stills and especially quick cuts between them at same pace as the still camera's motordrive.

Second Place

WSAZ-TV, Charleston/Huntington, WV

Dustin Weekley and Blake Whitener

"Memorial Services Held for CPD K9"

Tear jerker that tugs on the heart. Good mix of funeral tribute and stills.

Best Multi-Platform Story

First Place

WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, VA

Jean Jadhon and Rob Chewning

"Addicted to Chance"

This entry made use of all of the platforms to tell the stories -- Facebook, podcasts and linear. Nice job.

Second Place

WVEC-TV, Norfolk, VA

Tiaira Shoultz

"Cola Beale"

I liked the extended interviews on this story and the use of the different platforms.



Best Investigative Reporting

First Place

WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA

Noreen Turyn and Jeff Meyer
"Johnny Cashman"

What a fantastic expose of a lazy police investigation. You got results and justice for this grieving family.

Second Place

WSLS-TV, Roanoke, VA

Alyssa Rae and Greg Moore
"Blowing the Whistle - A College Football Scandal"

Dogged determination in getting to the bottom of this. You left no stone unturned and no question unanswered.

Best Website

First Place

WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA

Jane Alvarez Wertz

WAVY.com had an excellent voters guide. You can tell a lot of time and effort went into gathering the data. This is also an easy site to navigate.

Second Place

WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV

Jeff Morris, Shannon Stowers and Kris Plona

WCHS-TV.com has an easy site to navigate, with good reporting and visuals.

Best News Promo

First Place

WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA

Rob Edmonds, Ashly Richards and Pete George
"Walk"

There were a lot of promos about death and dead people here, which is hard to promote without sounding insensitive.

Second Place

WSAZ-TV, Charleston/Huntington, WV

Joseph Payton
"53 Days"



Best Station Promo

First Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Brandy Brown, David Stotts and Victoria Bostic
"Crime Insider Reopen the Case"

We are bombarded by hundreds of messages every day across all of our devices. Cutting through the clutter and cacophony is hard; yet that's exactly what these Crime Insider Promos did. It wasn't "us talking about us." They used the story to tell the story. The imagery was powerful and the writing was terrific. I wanted to watch, to learn more. Excellent work.

Second Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

David Stotts, Kaci Taylor and Rob Byrne
"Backyard Weather All Year Long"

Many stations have outdoor weather areas and cover weather outside. How many have a meteorologist who can jump into your yard? Great visuals--caught my attention from the beginning. And great viewer benefit focusing on the "why" we do something. Terrific work!

Best Newscast

First Place

WVEC-TV, Norfolk, VA

Sarah Callaway
"UVA Shooting Aftermath"

Second Place

WSAZ-TV, Charleston/Huntington, WV

Chelsea Armstrong
"Flash Flooding"

Best Weathercast

First Place

WOWK-TV, Charleston, WV

Spencer Adkins, Bryan Hughes and Joe Fitzwater
"First Big Snow"

Great job of providing us the information we needed to prepare for this winter weather event. Easy to follow and understand.

Second Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Zach Daniel, Mike Stone and Chris Munnings
"Cold Water Weather"

I like how easy it was to follow along and understand how cold water can affect us. Smooth delivery by both meteorologists.



Best Weathercaster

First Place

WOWK-TV, Charleston, WV

Spencer Adkins

Great pacing and conversational tone. Felt like I was talking directly with Spencer. Solid explanations on WHY certain weather was happening too.

Second Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Zach Daniel

Liked the use of augmented reality and good explanations as to the what and why behind certain weather phenomena.

Best TV News Anchor

First Place

WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, VA

Jean Jadhon

Second Place

WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA

Rachel Keller

Best TV Sports Anchor

First Place

WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA

Nathan Epstein

Nice variety of stories and live shots and really good energy.

Second Place

WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA

Dave Walls

Solid reporting.

Best Producer

First Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Mike Bergazzi

"Crime 360"

Compelling use of sound and solid writing from the start. Smart use of graphics to illustrate quotes and stats. I appreciate the anchor perspective on how the community has changed.

Second Place

WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA

Jessica Wetzler

Great use of sound in the cold open. The pacing of this breaking story flowed seamlessly in the rundown and the writing was tight, empathetic but informational. Good showcasing and movement.



Best Team News Coverage

First Place

WSAZ-TV, Charleston/Huntington, WV
"Officers Killed in Line of Duty"

Dominated coverage on this story from start to finish. Three reporters on the story as it broke, carried through to rest of the day. Textbook example of big story team coverage.

Second Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA
"UVA Shootings"

Very well executed coverage. All handled well, and with compassion. Field anchoring elevates this one, and the reporters all did a great job covering multiple angles.

Best Old Dominion Heritage

First Place

VPM News, Richmond, VA
Roberta Oster, Brad Clore and Dennis Ting
"Descendants' Voices at Monticello"

The storytelling from Monticello was riveting. It was full of valuable information told in a very dramatic way.

Second Place

WFXR-TV, Roanoke, VA
George Noleff
"Outdoors Bound and on the Farm: George Noleff
Highlights All Nature Has to Offer in the Commonwealth"

Best Mountain State Heritage

First Place

WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV
Brad Rice
"Traveling West Virginia"

Each of these exceptionally produced stories makes me want to visit these places in West Virginia. I learned so much about the state in terms of its history, culture, natural surroundings and its people and their livelihoods. All are examples of compelling visual storytelling with strong natural sound, creative video shots, and powerful interviews that tell the story of West Virginia's heritage.

Second Place

WSAZ-TV, Charleston/Huntington, WV
Taylor Eaton
"Charleston Sternwheel Regatta Returns"

This special about the Charleston Sternwheel Regatta's return is well produced and shares the history of the regatta with some great interviews from a variety of sources and historic video footage. I think each individual segment adds to the effectiveness of the overall piece. After watching it, I want to go to the regatta!



Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism

First Place

WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA

Julie Millet and Jon Dowding

"The State of Education"

This selection of stories is balanced and extensively looks at all sides of this issue. I appreciate that the viewers hear from multiple viewpoints in every story. The viewer can make informed decisions based on the information presented. Each package does an outstanding job of building on each other. It uses data, soundbites, and b-roll in an effective way to really look at multiple angles of the story. Each package also demonstrates an understanding of what is important to parents and teachers who are watching. There is an immediate impact on the viewer.

Second Place

WSAZ-TV, Charleston/Huntington, WV

Kristen Bentley, Joseph Payton and Jay

Melvin

"Fired up Friday: Igniting a New Tradition"

This piece demonstrates the effect that local news can have on a community. The entire interview is well thought out. It's clear how much planning and initiative went into this project. It's not the same as telling a story; instead it's trying to bring joy to the community that it serves.

Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias

First Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

WTVR stood out in the way they advanced important stories in their breaking news coverage, their work in using videos and natural sound to add context to all their stories, and their investigative storytelling. Of particular note--their innovative coverage of crime in greater Richmond with their 360 degree look at 6pm; and their unique and engaging weather content storytelling. Watching WTVR's submission showcased consistent excellence and captured the spirit of "who they are" as a news organization.

Second Place

WSAZ-TV, Charleston/Huntington, WV

Watching WSAZ's journalism and content you get the sense that they are truly working to make a difference in their community and the lives of their audience. Their investigations yield results. They follow through on stories. This is from their one page writeup: "asked tough questions and got answers our viewers deserve... held our government officials accountable like never before... questioned everything and everyone" Yes, you did. Of particular note, Fired Up Friday--which made a difference in lives of hundreds of students and teachers. Well done!



TV II/Small Market:

Best Spot News

First Place

WDTV-TV, Bridgeport, WV

Ian Roth and Celeste Gessner

"I-79 Standoff"

The I-79 standoff was a great example of following the story throughout the day, adding new information as the story developed, and images were riveting.

Second Place

WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV

Gailyn Markham

"Police Involved Shooting"

Best Continuing News

First Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

"Charlottesville, Albemarle County Bus Driver Issues"

High quality story-telling through both information and visuals. Well done.

Second Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

"Winter Weather Causes Prolonged Power Outages"

Thorough, creative and extremely informative information for viewers in a time where it meant the most.

Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias

First Place

WTOV-TV, Wheeling, WV

Rob Metzger, Jack Hillgrove and Bill Phillips

The amount of live game broadcasts this station produced is incredibly impressive. I wish my station did something like this! It is evident the News9 Sports Department is dedicated to going wherever it takes to cover its teams.

Second Place

WBOY-TV, Clarksburg, WV



Best Documentary or In-Depth

First Place

WTAP-TV, Parkersburg, WV

Laura Bowen

"Vienna Baseball Field Fight"

Thorough reporting of topic impacting community.

Second Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Rachel Hirschheimer

"Refugees Struggle to Find Housing"

Good follow up. Clear, concise reporting.

Best Light Feature

First Place

WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA

Chelsea Church

"Ella's Cards"

Chelsea saw the story before she ever put pen to paper or finger to keyboard. She got a creative variety of shots and nats. She had her interview working as well as a stand alone interview. It was edited well to present a quick and fun heartwarming story.

Second Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Madison McNamee

"Award-Winning Orchestra Teacher Retires"

The shooting and writing were fantastic. She's a legendary orchestra teacher and not only did we see her students playing, but we also heard them! Job well done.

Best Serious Feature

First Place

WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV

Larry MARRS

"Faith and Recovery: The Jill Howell Story"

Larry MARRS offers a master class in creativity and storytelling. He offers a unique journey to tell a story of human survival. Deserving of the First Place AP award. Well done.

Second Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Rachel Hirschheimer and Taylor Thomas

"Behind the Scenes at a COVID-19 Testing Event"

Excellent production and storytelling. Creative open and pacing kept my interest . Nicely done.



Best Sports Feature

First Place

WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Preston Willett

"A Way of Life, Louisa County Football"

Great use of NATS and strong video to take the viewer to the stadium! Reporter track is energetic. I enjoyed diving into the backstory of how the gameday atmosphere grew.

Second Place

WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA

Andrew McClung

"Number One Fan"

A good, emotional story that makes the viewer care. Nice job on setting up who the quarterback is, and then revealing his number one fan later in the story.

Best MMJ/One-Person Band Reporter

First Place

WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA

Andrew McClung

"A Cup of Lemonade"

Andrew's creativity is breathtaking. It shows that he leaves the station with a story and a plan in place and executes it in a fun and enticing way.

Second Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Dryden Quigley

Dryden's stand ups have purpose. She understands the power of a good nat and a great character in her stories.

Best Reporter

First Place

WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA

Kristen Quon

Variety of dynamic live reporting from hard and light news stories and events. Great showcasing of range of skill across the news spectrum.

Second Place

WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg,

WV

Rivers Upchurch

Good variety of live shots and reporting. Rivers was able to also showcase his skills as a storyteller in addition to his presentation.



Best Specialty Reporting

First Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Isabel Cleary

"Central Virginia Mail Issues"

Great job in following up on an issue--and getting results.

Second Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Madison McNamee

"Helping the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank"

Always will have a soft spot for stations that actually help their community. Well done WVIR!

Best Spot News Photography

First Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Isabel Cleary

"Hoax Threat Locks Down Charlottesville High School"

Standard solid reporting on aftermath of hoax threat at a school.

Best Feature Photography

First Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Max Marcilla

"Fallen Veteran Receives Arlington Burial"

This is a nice, focused piece on the life of a soldier with good use of narration over video and music; and done in a respectful way.

Second Place

WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg,

WV

Larry Marrs

"Future Leaders Program Rockets"

Good use of different POV angles, split screen with a variety of looks at the model rocketry.



Best Multi-Platform Story

First Place

WDTV-TV, Bridgeport, WV

Ian Roth, Celeste Gessner and Joshua
Jarnagin
"I-79 Standoff"

Great on-air coverage amplified online with multiple social media posts including user-generated content and live reports.

Second Place

WBOY-TV, Clarksburg, WV

"WVU Begins Search for Next Director of
Athletics"

Best Investigative Reporting

First Place

WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV

Annie Moore, Martin Staunton and Taylor
Hankins
"Conditions at SRJ"

Solid long-term reporting.
Congratulations to staff for job well done.

Second Place

WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Carly Haynes
"Stinky Septic Tank Troubles"

Great work. Reporter demonstrates strong on air and reporting skills.

Best Website

First Place

WTRF-TV, Wheeling, WV

John Lynch

Aside from the ease of navigation, I enjoyed the traffic camera feature and feel it is unique. The website read more like a newspaper or journal almost in terms of format, which also sets it apart visually from other sites.

Second Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

John Early and Julia Ocasio

The website is very well organized, each story or feature had a specific category and so it was very easy to navigate and also see immediately what category the story fell under. They had a dedicated section to community stories with video features and also a frequently updated sports section.



Best News Promo

First Place

WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Joey Kinsley

"CBS19 Sports"

This sports promo told me everything I needed to know as a viewer and was easy to follow. I now know WHAT I can tune in to watch on this channel and all of the franchises they have in their sportscasts.

Second Place

WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV

Jared Morrison

"July Storms"

This POP did exactly what it needed to do. It told me what the team at WVVA did and then it showed me. The interview SOTS were strong and really spoke to the brand.

Best Station Promo

First Place

WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV

Jared Morrison

"Meteorologist Katherine Thompson"

The Met testimonial is a strong brand identifier. It humanizes our talent and makes them more relatable. It also helps us tell the story of our brand through their experience. The story of WHY is just as important as the show, and this promo reminded me as a viewer why I need to tune in to watch the weather.

Second Place

WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA

Aric Berg, Julian Bussells and Jay Webb

This image campaign was very well written and communicated the brand and mission of the station. Off the top I can tell you they are "working hard for you" and that their WX brand is "First Alert Weather." I thought they did a great job of pushing the app as well.

Best Newscast

First Place

WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA

The show was very well developed and executed.

Second Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Jake Waddell and Kristen Cauley

Overall, a well-done show with a lot for the viewer to take in.



Best Weathercast

First Place

WTOV-TV, Wheeling, WV

Jeff Oechslein and Nathan Shutt
"Martin Luther King Day Snowstorm"

Great teamwork both inside and outside of studio. Nice use of graphics and radar to tell the weather story. Knowledge of the viewing area was evident in describing locations and camera views.

Second Place

WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV

Katherine Thompson and Collin Rogers
"July Storms"

Nice variety of graphics used to tell the weather story.

Best Weathercaster

First Place

WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA

Aubrey Urbanowicz

Outstanding presentation skills with a wide range of forecasting ability shown through severe coverage, daily forecasting, and explainers.

Second Place

WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA

Stephanie Penn

Great job using various resources to tell the weather story. The presentation was interesting and informative using "out of the box" ideas like the station's website, traffic reports, and live reporting.

Best TV News Anchor

First Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Kasey Hott

Nice delivery, pace, personality and energy! Nice work with appropriate tone, inflection and delivery based on the varied story content!

Second Place

WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV

Melinda Zosh

Nice, comfortable delivery on a wide range of topics.

Best TV Sports Anchor

First Place

WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Preston Willett

Great energy, showcasing lots of live reporting. Very nice storytelling as well - great job!

Second Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Marty Hudtloff

Marty leaps off the screen and captivates you with his energy. Entertaining to watch!



Best Producer

First Place

WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV
Ben Casto
"Election Night Coverage"

Good setup of team coverage and energy to begin the newscast.
Nice flow to election coverage. Good mix of video and graphics.

Second Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA
Lynne Vogt

Good pace to headline teases. Nice use of live element off the top of the newscast. Good variety of reports.

Best Team News Coverage

First Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA
"Snowstorm"

Nice job covering a snowstorm from many different angles -- from the important, to the fun, to the news you can use, it was all there.

Second Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA
"Tragedy on UVA Grounds"

Solid local coverage of a national story with care and expertise.

Best Old Dominion Heritage

First Place

WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA
Simone McKenny
"The Journey"

Great example of the best of the craft--images and interviews. Nice series!

Second Place

WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA
Heather Williams
"Breaking the Color Lines"

Excellent storytelling and compelling video/drone shots.



Best Mountain State Heritage

First Place

WTRF-TV, Wheeling, WV
"Veterans Voices"

Outstanding storytelling and photography.

Second Place

WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV
Larry Marrs
"Greg Bishop"

Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism

First Place

WTOV-TV, Wheeling, WV
Jaime Baker and Rick Zumpano
"Hearing the Homeless"

This was comprehensive coverage of something that is impacting so many. Jaime and the team behind this series shined a much-needed light on a community that is so often pushed to the side.

Second Place

WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV
Larry Marrs
"Faith and Recovery: Breaking the Chains of Addiction"

Drug use and abuse is prevalent in so many communities. It's reporting like this that may reach even just one person and make a difference. Really great use of editing and imagery in the projection screens.

Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias

First Place

WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA

This is a station that clearly prioritizes breaking news. A great sampling of major news stories across the year in their local market, from heartbreaking stories that gained national attention, to also covering national stories and covering the impact on their local viewers. Great work.

Second Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

A great showcase of live, up to the minute reporting from the NBC29 team. Nice showcase of stories big and small for their market, from major breaking news to weather.



Radio I/Metro:

Best Spot News

First Place

WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV

David Adkins

"Title IX Protest"

This is journalism at its highest and best use. This story needed to be shared for the protection of those impacted. When bureaucracy slows or ignores, it endangers.

Second Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Caroline MacGregor

"Airport Expansion's Potential Impact on Coonskin Park Worries Local Residents"

Something the public needed to know. Thank you for stepping in.

Best Continuing News

First Place

WRVA-AM, Richmond, VA

David Lefkowitz, Gary Hess and Matt Demlein

"UVA Football Tragedy"

This is very good. Has everything. Emotion. Drama. GREAT story telling. Editing. Interviews. Man on the street. THIS is how continuing coverage should sound. Well done WRVA!

Second Place

WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA

"UVA Shooting"

This is good. Impactful. Especially the use of audio in the first part with the reaction to the text message warning of the shooting. Ongoing coverage was very good. Appreciated the storytelling.

Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias

First Place

WFIR-AM/FM, Roanoke, VA

Love how live and local you are with the dedication to high school sports. Weaving three different states together in your coverage is awesome. The background of your broadcasters is impressive! Instant credibility with your listeners with connections at colleges like Virginia Tech.

Second Place

WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV

Andrew Rogers and Justin Zimmer

I really like how you go all in on Marshall. Leaving no question where Thundering Herd football lives in Huntington.



Best Documentary or In-Depth

First Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Trey Kay and Marisa Helms
"The Gun Divide"

Second Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Jessica Lilly
"West Virginia Water Trails: Rebuilding
Buffalo Creek's Identity"

Best Light Feature

First Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Mason Adams
"Floyd's Friday Night Jamboree Builds
Community From Music"

The best use of sound. A lot of participant interaction. A good story.

Second Place

WHRO-FM, Norfolk, VA

Ryan Murphy
"The Formula Fairy: A Hampton Roads Mom
Invests Hours, Hundreds of Dollars to Keep
Babies Fed"

A very timely topic. Very informative.

Best Serious Feature

First Place

VPM News, Richmond, VA

Whittney Evans
"Prisoners in Virginia Only Get Photocopies of
Incoming Mail"

Unique and fascinating. The reporter humanized a story by using audio from within prison walls to share with those who will never darken the door of a prison.

Second Place

WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA

Roxy Todd
"Better School Lunches"



Best Sports Feature

First Place

WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA

Sandy Hausman
"Poolside Math"

Well produced. National news quality reporting on an interesting nuance in the sport.

Second Place

WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA

Jeff Bossert
"Coalfields Baseball"

Loved the historic aspect of this story combined with the great American pastime.

Best Sports Play-by-Play

First Place

WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV

Jason Philyaw, Ryan Epling and Luke Hamilton
"Marshall v. Appalachian State"

Great play-by-play on a college football game that had national attention! Congrats.

Second Place

WLNI-FM, Lynchburg, VA

Dennis Carter, Rich Roth and Derek Beard
"E.C. Glass"

Congrats getting into high school football! I look forward to continuing to watch you grow. Continued success!

Best Reporter

First Place

VPM News, Richmond, VA

Megan Pauly

The reporter did a great job telling a complete story across a lot of segments. I found myself wanting to hear the next report and follow the story to its conclusion.

Second Place

WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA

Roxy Todd

Natural in her presentation and good job with sound.



Best Talk Show

First Place

WLNI-FM, Lynchburg, VA

Mari White, Brian Weigand and Anthony
McAvoy
"The Morningline"

Best QA (One-on-One) Interview

First Place

WFIR-AM/FM, Roanoke, VA

Gene Marrano
"Retiring Police Chief Howard Hall"

What a great interview with the outgoing chief. Good questions.
Meaty and substantive. Enjoyed it. Great community insight.

Second Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Eric Douglas
"Arthur Author Appears at Book Festival"

What a great interview. Loved this. Not exactly hard hitting, but
the kind of breath of fresh air that many people need these days.
Well done!

Best Specialty Reporting

First Place

VPM News, Richmond, VA

Ben Paviour
"Politics/Government Accountability"

Second Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Chris Schulz
"Mon County Bans Pride Flags in Schools,
Receives Pushback"

Best Multi-Platform Story

First Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Jessica Lilly
"West Virginia Water Trails: Rebuilding
Buffalo Creek's Identity"

Jessica Lilly skillfully used multiple mediums to tell the stories of the
resilient people of Buffalo Creek. I particularly enjoyed listening to
the interview with fisherman Hunter Montgomery while reading
down through the piece filled with images from the disaster of 1972.
Lilly artfully connected the worlds of then and now.



Best Newscast

First Place

WRVA-AM, Richmond, VA

Gary Hess

"Another Mass Shooting Close to Home"

This newscast mixes coverage of an overnight developing story, the Walmart shooting, with the other major stories of the day.

Richmond residents are very well served by Gary Hess and the WRVA news team.

Second Place

WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA

Luke Church

There is only one story in this newscast, but the shooting at the University of Virginia required the extra time, covered all of the angles and put it into context for the listener. Luke Church and the Radio IQ news team did just that. Excellent work all around.

Best Radio News Anchor

First Place

WRVA-AM, Richmond, VA

Dennis Edwards

Great energy in writing and delivery by Dennis Edwards and the WRVA news team. Richmond is served well by their work.

Second Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Teresa Wills

"Bridge Safety and a Discussion About the State's Personal Income Tax on This West Virginia Morning"

Solid presentation by Teresa and the WVPB team. West Virginia is served well by their work.

Best Old Dominion Heritage

First Place

VPM News, Richmond, VA

Jahd Khalil and Scott Elmquist

"Removal of A.P. Hill Statue Points to New Era in Richmond History"

I learned a lot about General A.P. Hill and the controversy over removing his statue from this story. It uses sound and great writing to tell this story well. Congratulations Jhad and the team at Virginia Public Media.

Second Place

WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA

Sandy Hausman

"Moton School Historic Site"

Very well-told story about a little known part of not only Virginia's history, but the nation's history. Well done Sandy Hausman and the team at WVTF.



Best Mountain State Heritage

First Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Zack Harold

"A Guitar Surgeon Gives Old Instruments Their
Voices Back"

Incredibly interesting subject for me. Loved the background
noise and how the producer placed you in the middle of it.

Second Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Lauren Griffin

"Dirt, Soot, Smoke and Oil: Mechanics Take on the
Dirty Job of Repairing Antique Trains"

I felt like I was there. I found myself immersed in it.

Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism

First Place

VPM News, Richmond, VA

"Another Way: How One Virginia City Reckons
With Gun Violence"

Second Place

WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA

Sandy Hausman and Michael Pope

"The Cost of Living in Prison"

Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias

First Place

WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA

I felt this team, despite limited resources, created a very solid
newscast and is "all in" on maintaining that.

Second Place

WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV

Makaylah Wheeler

Again, a tough choice. This entry produced great work as well.



Radio II/Non Metro:

Best Spot News

First Place

WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA

Dori Zook, Jay Hart and Jay James
"UVA Culbreth Shootings"

Great immediacy and attention to detail as the story unfolds and more information becomes available. Does a public service in getting out critical information quickly. Also, good reporter stand-up for putting listener there.

Best Continuing News

First Place

WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA

Courteney Stuart, Dori Zook and Jay Hart
"Montpelier Descendants Committee Uprising on
Montpelier Foundation Board"

I found the complexity of the subject well laid out and easy to understand. Use of guest sound was very good to move the narrative along.

Second Place

WAKG-FM, Danville, VA

Ryan Stone
"Board of Supervisors Turmoil"

Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias

First Place

WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA

Luke Neer, Adam Hawes and John
Freeman

Impressive on how much UVA Sports you cover. Being all-in like this is really a service to the UVA fanbase/alumni and they know they can rely on you for great coverage.

Second Place

WBTV-AM, Danville, VA

Ryan Stone, Brandon Burnett and Josh
Lineberry

Love the dedication to high school sports! Glad you go the extra mile by doing more than just the games. Keep it up!

Best Light Feature

First Place

WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA

Michael Guthrie
"Michael's Real Estate-Themed Holiday Songs"

Great singing! But also very detailed information about interest rates and the real estate market.





Second Place

WAKG-FM, Danville, VA

Josh Lineberry

"Danville Police Department New Headquarters"

Best Serious Feature

First Place

WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA

Michael Guthrie

"Importance of Providing Housing for Everyone"

Explaining the housing crisis, and giving actionable items is what moved this into first place. A clear, well laid out flow to the story being told, using real world tangible examples is key to connecting the listener to the story.

Second Place

WAKG-FM, Danville, VA

Barry Richmond

"NASCAR Noise - Joe Gibbs"

Best Sports Feature

First Place

WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA

Luke Neer, Vegas Mike and Taylor Pilkington

"March Madness Bracket Preview"

Great instant reaction and analysis on the NCAA bracket and what it means to UVA.

Best Sports Play-by-Play

First Place

WBTM-AM, Danville, VA

Ryan Stone

"Final Seconds Harry Johnson Holiday Classic"

The passion and excitement in this call is what high school sports on the radio is all about! Congrats.

Second Place

WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA

John Freeman

"Virginia Basketball Is the Show Tonight!"



Best Talk Show

First Place

WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA

Rob Schilling and Samantha Federico

"The Schilling Show: Newly Elected Second Term Congressman Bob Good and Callers"

I found the topic interesting. Having the host use anecdotal stories was a great way to humanize things.

Best QA (One-on-One) Interview

First Place

WBTM-AM, Danville, VA

Josh Lineberry

"DCC Job Fair"

This particular interview is the heart of local journalism. Problem and solution clearly laid out and a willingness to partner with local groups that encourage underrepresented demographics.

Second Place

WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA

Michael Guthrie

"Interview With New Vice Mayor JuanDiego Wade"

Best Multi-Platform Story

First Place

WBTM-AM, Danville, VA

Ryan Stone

"Danville Economic Development and Tourism Study"

Good use of photos on the web build.

Best Website

First Place

WAKG-FM, Danville, VA

Ginyah Woods

Clean presentation, easy to navigate menus, contains the important basics: where to find information about events, news stories, station personalities, and other elements that WAKG listeners would want to know about.

Second Place

WBTM-AM, Danville, VA

Ginyah Woods

Well-laid out main page and links to news, events, community calendar and other topics of importance to WBTM listeners.



Best Station Promo

First Place

WAKG-FM, Danville, VA

Jon Talbott

"Meet Ryan Stone"

Nice personal touch in sharing the life story of the news host.

Best Newscast

First Place

WSVA-AM, Harrisonburg, VA

Caleb Peek

This newscast has a nice mix of political, government, weather and other stories. And along with a solid, conversational presentation by the news anchor, it makes this entry a first place winner!

Second Place

WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA

Jay Hart

"UVA Shooting not the Only Game in Town
That Morning"

This newscast does a good job with its top story with a reporter who is on-the-scene of a major event. The newscast has a good mix of breaking news, as well as political and medical stories.

Best Radio News Anchor

First Place

WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA

Dori Zook

"Yo, Paper or Plastic"

Smooth, conversational delivery, pacing and story flow make this entry a first place winner!

Second Place

WSVA-AM, Harrisonburg, VA

Caleb Peek

Good pacing and mix of stories. Nice choice of soundbites to help illustrate some of these stories.

Best Radio Sports Anchor

First Place

WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA

Luke Neer

"UVA Basketball With a Red Hot Start"

Nice delivery and cadence. Great use of audio within the Sports Update.



Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias

First Place

WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA

Dori Zook, Courteney Stuart and Jay Hart

This is a strong presentation by both anchors and reporters. Solid information and crisp writing on stories about both breaking news and lifestyle-oriented events. This entry shows what can be accomplished in terms of news coverage with a relatively small staff.

Second Place

WBTV-AM, Danville, VA

Ryan Stone and Josh Lineberry

This entry covers events important to the region with a good mix of sound from newsmakers and clear, concise copy read by the reporters and anchors.

Congratulations!

Please visit our website for a downloadable list of winners

<https://vapb.org>

