



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

- **Kurt Williams, WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk**

West Virginia Lifetime Achievement Award

- **Paul Swann, WRVC/WCMI-AM, Kindred Communications, Huntington**

Scholarship Award

- **Alexa Bonilla, James Madison University**

Combined Divisions (TV/Radio):

Best Podcast-Audio

First Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Trey Kay and Samantha Gattsek

"Us & Them: Housing Options Are Few and Far Between in Appalachia"

This was a superbly planned, scripted and produced human interest piece. The interviews were very real, and the interviewers drew out the right emotion for them. The music beds were appropriate and engaging, and transitions were pro level. Audio was processed with precision, EQ and compression appeared pristine. Theater of the mind was going wild during the interviews in the field. Well done.

Second Place

WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV

Brandi Blake and Julia White

"Crime in the Coalfields - Rosa White"

Very engaging subject and SO well researched. Not only was the content well produced and assembled, the audio was mixed well, the bed was ducked just right to add to the texture and timbre, while staying out of the way of the information, which is not easy for a producer to do, especially in a long podcast.

TV I/Large Market:

Best Spot News

First Place

WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA

Frank Jones

"Aviation Disaster"

This report of a national story was well produced, bringing important local information and voices to a tragic air accident.

Second Place

WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA

Frank Jones

"Richmond Water Crisis"

These reports represented comprehensive coverage of a very important local story. The reports encompassed an entire viewing area with critical information for viewers. Well done!



Best Continuing News

First Place

WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA

"Waverly Two Finally Free"

Second Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Tyler Layne and Melissa Hipolit

"The Richmond Water Crisis"

Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias

First Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Lane Casadonte and Sean Robertson

Love the energy and the promo.

Second Place

WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV

Mark Martin and Zach Brown

Great job with content and coverage.

Best Documentary or In-Depth

First Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Brandy Brown, David Stotts and Jon
Burkett

"Reopen the Case: The Obvious
Suspect"

"Reopen the Case" left no stone unturned. It was a compelling half hour with so much evidence, and the investigation was truly relentless. Better than a 48 Hours episode.

Second Place

WVEC-TV, Norfolk, VA

Alex Littlehales

"Rural Healthcare Uncertainties"

This is such an impactful story showcasing the vital resources rural hospitals provide in your community. I hope to steal your idea. The personal stories woven with the statistics and hard facts were done perfectly. And it shows quality over quantity wins!



Best Light Feature

First Place

WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA

Aesia Toliver and Kevin Romm

"Building a Legacy"

I absolutely loved this community piece! Getting something as small as a lego piece to bring a community together is just so cool! I loved the music, the editing, and the overall feel of this story. It's award winning!

Second Place

WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, VA

Kate Capodanno and Ben Riquelmy

"Sailor for a Day: Life on an Aircraft Carrier"

I think this story is so cool! It gives viewers a behind the scenes look at what our heroes do for us every day!

Best Serious Feature

First Place

WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, VA

Kate Capodanno

"25 Years Later: Backstreet Cafe Shooting"

Such a great piece.

Second Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Mike Bergazzi, Curtis Akers and Jon Burkett

"Lindsey's Sign"

Great story.

Best Sports Feature

First Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Curtis Akers and Lane Casadonte

"The Season: Clover Hill Cavaliers"

Second Place

WSLS-TV, Roanoke, VA

Eric Johnson and Greg Moore

"Beyond the Scoreboard: The Inspirational Story Powering Craig County's Rockets"



Best Daily Stream

First Place

WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA

Jeff Edmondson and Brian Michigan
"Beyond the Forecast: Tracking
Hurricane Erin"

This is what you want to see in a stream show, relaxed, real and informative. This is something I haven't seen before. I felt like I was in on the conversation. Great information. Great job.

Second Place

WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA

MaryCatherine Neal
"The Rundown"

This is a behind the scenes look at an important topic. The format is podcast-like. I also liked the depth of topics on the website.

Best Special Stream

First Place

WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA

"Riverfront Rhythms"

Second Place

WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA

Bob Bennett, Chris Wynn and Jeff
Edmondson
"Tracking the Tropics"

Best MMJ/One-Person Band Reporter

First Place

WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA

Desiree Montilla

Solid shots, nice composition on interviews. Creative stand ups...very solid delivery and not over the top energy...very believable. You had some nice shots of people with emotion ...stories are about people and people have faces...let's see more ... nice moment with kid listening to guitar playing. Nice work...keep going!!!

Second Place

WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA

Anthony Sabella

Good pacing and delivery...lots of good energy. Stories move...good use of nats ...nice job editing the music piece...love the active sound you got with the women as they walked...very real and authentic...nice work!!!!



Best Reporter

First Place

WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA

Hayden Robertson

Hayden has a clear passion for accountability. He not only asks the tough questions, but he can showcase his efforts in a way that viewers can see so they know that they can count on him personally to take their concerns straight to those in power.

Second Place

WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA

Madison McNamee

Best Daily News Report (Single Shift)

First Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Joi Fultz and Joe Valdez

"Jammin George"

Beautifully written and beautifully shot. Storytelling at its finest.

Second Place

WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA

Erin Holly and James Gary Jr.

"Angels for My Angel"

Not sure if the reporter connected with these friends ahead of time or just found them at the air show. But either way, a wonderful example of telling a human story, rather than an "event" story.

Best Specialty Reporting

First Place

VPM News (TV), Richmond, VA

Adrienne Hoar McGibbon, Shawn

Freude and Shaban Athuman

"Virginians on Medicaid"

Second Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Rob Cardwell

"Building Better Minds"



Best Spot News Photography

First Place

WVEC-TV, Norfolk, VA

Alex Littlehales and Michael
Woodward

"North Carolina Homes Collapse"

Nice work in difficult working conditions. Powerful moment of house falling...unfortunately. It was followed by a flash frame of black.

Best Feature Photography

First Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Curtis Akers and Greg McQuade
"Hubert's Homecoming: We Never
Knew Where He Was"

These stories are always good when well told, which is what you've done. Getting access is always the challenge. Getting the microphone in so close was very captivating. It almost looked like you had three cameras and someone else was shooting...nice work.

Second Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Enza Marcy and Greg McQuade
"Paolo Garbanzo: The American
Jester Juggling Across Europe"

Great cinematic look...fun story...both this one and Hubert's Homecoming were by far the best entries.

Best Multi-Platform Story

First Place

WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV

Leslie Rubin, Brad Rice and Shannon
Stowers

"Letters to Death: West Virginia's
Bluebeard"

This entry is fascinating. No stone was left unturned. The journalists behind these stories told each part specifically to the platforms' audience. Great work.



Second Place

WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA

"Homeowner Horrors"

This is a great example of quality over quantity. I loved the personal stories surrounding such an important issue as rural health care.

Best Investigative Reporting

First Place

WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA

Margaret Kavanagh and Wayne Pellenberg

"Woman Gets New Trial After WTKR Uncovers 'Missing' 911 Calls"

This is an excellent journalistic effort that resulted in a new trial for a woman convicted of murder. The reports made clear that key, and possibly exculpatory, information was withheld from the jury during the first trial. This is good reporting, holding prosecutors accountable.

Second Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Melissa Hipolit

"A Nightmare in the NICU"

This reporting raises questions about the competence and veracity of the public agencies tasked with keeping children safe. Abusing newborn babies in a NICU is an unspeakable crime, yet it took the questioning of a reporting team to bring the crime to light and render justice. Great job!

Best Website

First Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

WTVR's overall journalistic approach stood out. They are doing quality and important work for their community.

Second Place

WSLS-TV, Roanoke, VA

Chloe Lightner, Jazmine Otey and Travis Beauchamp

WSLS's video innovation is a differentiator that deserves recognition. Well done!

Best News Promo

First Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

David Stotts and Brandy Brown
"Reopen the Case: The Obvious Suspect"

This TSR was incredibly compelling and pulled me in from the very beginning. The use of sound, footage, and music worked together beautifully—it felt like the complete package. Allowing the story to unfold through natural sound without a voiceover really elevated the overall execution.



Second Place

WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA

"Richmond Tax Delinquency"

This spot stood out because of what it didn't have. The team clearly didn't have a lot to work with in promoting the story, but they still found a way to make it compelling and engaging through intentional drone shots and a very strong script.

Best Station Promo

First Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

David Stotts and Matt Sloan

"Giving You a Voice: Listening"

What really pushed this spot over the top for me was how genuine it felt. The sound from the reporters and anchors was strong, and paired with the great footage of the team out in the community making a difference, it created a powerful connection. I truly connected with the message, and it helped me feel more connected to the news team as well.

Second Place

WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA

David Stotts, Patrick Tonkinson and
Matt Sloan

"Love Being in Your Neighborhood"

A really fun spot overall. The talent was great and the execution was strong.

Best Newscast

First Place

WWBT-TV, Richmond, VA

Frank Jones

Compelling and emotional open. Extensive coverage of a big story that did not end with the first block. Struck the right tone throughout and flowed well from one story to the next - each time offering the viewer something new.

Second Place

WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA

Bob Bennett, Aesia Toliver and Tom
Schaad

Well-executed field anchoring and "all-in" coverage of a big weather story. Engaging throughout.

Best Weathercast

First Place

WOWK-TV, Charleston, WV

StormTracker 13

"Tornado Coverage"

Excellent use of tools/expertise to calmly and effectively deliver the important weather information.





Second Place

WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA

George Flickinger and Thomas Battle

Best Weathercaster

First Place

WOWK-TV, Charleston, WV

Spencer Adkins

Second Place

WSET-TV, Lynchburg, VA

George Flickinger

Best TV News Anchor

First Place

WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, VA

Mitch Carr

Second Place

WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA

Tom Schaad

Best TV Sports Anchor

First Place

WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA

James Kattato

Great job, so active.

Second Place

WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA

Nolan Knight

Very informative and engaging.

Best Producer

First Place

WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, VA

Alexander Powell

Great storytelling and information that make people proud to belong to a community.



Second Place

WDBJ-TV, Roanoke, VA

Julia Locklear

"Government Shutdown"

Great job on taking a national issue and explaining it simply and how it will affect your local community.

Best Team News Coverage

First Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

"Water Crisis"

WTVR's coverage felt very complete in terms of video, urgency, following up and showcasing efforts to hold local leadership accountable. It truly seemed like a team effort at a critical time when it impacted the community the most.

Second Place

WTKR/WGNT-TV, Norfolk, VA

"Winter Storm 2025"

Best Old Dominion Heritage

First Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Joe Valdez and Greg McQuade

"Bacon's Castle"

Beautiful story and videography on a historical prize in your community. You found a gem to highlight while showcasing historical relevance.

Second Place

WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA

Kevin Romm

"Bring the Boys Back Home"

This piece was very moving. The care and honor of each soldier was touching.

Best Mountain State Heritage

First Place

WCHS-TV, Charleston, WV

Brad Rice

"Traveling West Virginia"

Excellence in Diversity- Equity & Inclusion



First Place

WRIC-TV, Richmond, VA

"What Is Black?"

Love that you brought viewers in studio. And loved how you asked questions to engage those viewers on issues. Appreciated the honesty, transparency and diversity of the participants.

Second Place

VPM News (TV), Richmond, VA

Keyris Manzanares and Adrienne

Hoar McGibbon

"Richmond's Dual-Language

Immersion Program Is Growing on

Southside"

Great story showcasing how dual language programs are a win for all.

Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism

First Place

WSLS-TV, Roanoke, VA

Lindsey Kennett, Sarah Tabor and

Chloe Lightner

"30 Days of Hope"

Great campaign with great results. Shows how using our platforms for good can make a true impact.

Second Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Jordan Rastberger, GeNienne

Samuels and Curtis Akers

"100k Meals"

Strong campaign. Appreciate how you showcased the campaign on multiple platforms (broadcast, digital and social). Stories were very engaging.

Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias



First Place

WTVR-TV, Richmond, VA

Sheryl Barnhouse and Stephen Hayes

The winner in this category was clear, as WTVR showcased a high-quality product, with excellent, well-shot video demonstrating the station's dedication to the viewer with engaging and professional content highlighting the reporting and storytelling capabilities of the staff. The depth and quality of the reporting profiled in this entry by WTVR was impressive, and the well-crafted video and editing was of particular note, helping this entry stand out among the other submissions.

Second Place

WAVY-TV, Hampton Roads, VA

TV II/Small Market:

Best Spot News

First Place

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-
Lewisburg, WV**

Rivers Upchurch

"February Flooding in Southern West
Virginia"

Informative, comprehensive, interesting, strong presentation.

Second Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Avery Davis

"Lightning Strike May Have Caused
Deadly Glenmore House Explosion"

Great quality, interesting, compelling.

Best Continuing News

First Place

WTOV-TV, Wheeling, WV

"The Wheeling Flood"

This is a great entry. Great use of sound and video. Not just sound but emotional sound and great video that is still, on a tripod. Great use of nats, and great information--information that the viewer needs to know, not over hyped. GREAT WORK!



Second Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Kate Nuechterlein and Avery Davis

"UVA Presidential Search"

GREAT continuing coverage, great follow through of the story, and letting the viewers know all angles. GREAT JOURNALISM!

Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias

First Place

WBOY-TV, Clarksburg, WV

Excellent production quality and presentation. Compelling story content.

Second Place

WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA

Jarvis Haren and Connor Burgan

Strong production quality, engaging, variety of content.

Best Documentary or In-Depth

First Place

WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA

"Rekindling"

Just all over best coverage. Love the nat sound in it and good use of clips to tell the story.

Second Place

WTRF-TV, Wheeling, WV

Keri Brown, Dan Mayeres and Alex

Taylor

"It Happened in a Flash: Ohio County

WV Deadly Flood"

Well done. Story telling was well executed.

Best Light Feature

First Place

WTAP-TV, Parkersburg, WV

Shyla Florence

"One Tank Trip"

The two pieces in this submission embody light features. The use of music was appropriate, there were creative shots and creative uses of nat sound throughout both segments. The quality of the shooting was great. It felt like we were going on an adventure in both pieces with the reporter because of the work done by the photographer and the way sound was utilized.



Second Place

WVU News, Morgantown, WV

Jeffery Boggess, Drew Solt and
Ashton Marra

"A Wrap on Gauley Season"

Video was high-quality with compelling visuals, great track voice. It was informational and entertaining. The standup was very creative and well-timed with the raft dropping. It meets all the requirements of this category with significance, resourcefulness, creative writing, entertaining and it was an effective use of audio and video.

Best Serious Feature

First Place

WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA

Kristen Quon and Ryan Renfro

"The Disappearance of Rodney Kiser"

Great story telling, great production value.

Second Place

WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA

Kristen Quon and Ryan Renfro

"The Lives We Lost: Boone McCrary"

Great story telling!

Best Sports Feature

First Place

WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Izzie Begley

"Bayram's Corner"

Excellent production quality. Strong story telling, compelling and heart warming. Unique sports/local/info story.

Second Place

WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA

Connor Burgan

"A Year of Firsts"

Strong production quality, interesting and informative comprehensive sports package, not just focused on one thing but digesting many stories with brevity yet completeness.

Best Daily Stream

First Place

WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV

A.P. Harreld and Madalyn

Stubblefield

"Pigskin Prophet"

Best Special Stream





First Place

WBOY-TV, Clarksburg, WV

John Lowe

"Rich Rodriguez: Season by Season"

Great coverage.

Best MMJ/One-Person Band Reporter

First Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Avery Davis

Starting with breaking news is a great way to grab attention. Your reporting style is very no-nonsense, and I can tell you take great pride in what you do. This is very professional, and I would not be surprised to see Avery on National news very soon.

Second Place

WCAV-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Mark Gad

Very attention-grabbing intros. Very diverse subjects covered, from easygoing to incredibly serious shooting coverage. Mark has it all!

Best Reporter

First Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Kate Nuechterlein

A commanding, confident on-air presence made Kate Nuechterlein's submission stand out. Her reporting highlights issues of community interest told through the lens of people impacted the most. She demonstrated her ability to tell a range of stories from a daily feature on people becoming U.S. citizens to the impact of a proposed housing development in a predominantly black neighborhood.

Second Place

WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA

Caleb Perhne

Caleb's entry demonstrated creativity and engaging standups, as well as his ability to get interviews with important newsmakers.

Best Daily News Report (Single Shift)



First Place

WOAY-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill, WV

"Severe Flooding Slams Southern West Virginia"

Great show content and great producing. Getting info out to the viewers is critical and this storytelling shows it. Great video, and well use of it in the show. I also like that not many shots, if any, are reused. That's good stuff there. You really care about this community and I can tell. If I lived there, this would be my go-to station.

Second Place

WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV

Phelicity Robinson
"Katherine Johnson"

Great character! Great use of video and pictures. Sometimes that's all we have to work with to tell a good story, and you nailed this!

Best Specialty Reporting

First Place

WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA

Heather Williams
"Motorsports"

Great feature!

Second Place

WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA

Grant Coleman
"Agriculture"

Great information.

Best Spot News Photography

First Place

WOAY-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill, WV

Danny Delanty and Micah Leith
"February Flooding"

Nice shot variety and composure.

Best Feature Photography



First Place

WCYB-TV, Bristol, VA

Jason Hutchinson

"Santa Train"

Jib is a cool shot, diversity of shots, interview with Santa on the moving train is a good touch. Nice shot of the kid getting a toy that was really well framed. Seems like a multi-day endeavor which shows commitment to getting the full story.

Second Place

WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-

Lewisburg, WV

Matt Cassada

"Bridge Day 2025"

Great intro! Very attention grabbing. There's a great diversity of shots here that make the video do the talking. Very unique way to go about this video project!

Best Multi-Platform Story

First Place

WOAY-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Oak

Hill, WV

Danny Delanty

"Water Crisis in Wyoming County"

Second Place

WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA

"Virginia's First Buc-ee's"

Best Investigative Reporting

First Place

WOAY-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Oak

Hill, WV

Danny Delanty

"Water Crisis in Wyoming County"

This series of stories demonstrated clear accountability on lawmakers and local government making it a standout submission.



Second Place

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-
Lewisburg, WV**

Julia White

"Fatal Ride: The Case of Robin
Massey"

This story demonstrated a clear lack of answers after a tragedy. Great interviews with a family member as the story developed and the body camera video/police documents elevated this story as an investigative piece.

Best Website

First Place

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-
Lewisburg, WV**

A nicely constructed website that looks good and functions well.

Second Place

WTOV-TV, Wheeling, WV

Jim Elliott and Rick Thorp

Best News Promo

First Place

WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA

Caleb Swortzel and Alfio Vasta
"Winter Weather"

Overall good quality spots, combination of comedic and serious, gives the impression of having earned the trust of their audience.

Second Place

WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV

Aaron Sudderth

"Reanna Welcome/Snow Patrol"

The personality displayed across the promos was endearing.

Best Station Promo

First Place

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-
Lewisburg, WV**

"Sports Zone 2025"

Good pacing and energetic.





Second Place

WTRF-TV, Wheeling, WV

Pat King, Keri Brown and Mary Flavin

"Living Local: No One Walks Alone"

Direct and feels authentic.

Best Newscast

First Place

WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA

Well produced newscast that was well showcased. A variety of shots/presentation styles were used which kept the newscast visually interesting. Great live presence and powerful investigative piece.

Second Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Hailey Wilt and Austin Lam

"UVA Marks Three-Year Anniversary of Football Shooting Tragedy"

Well thought out in-depth coverage of a tragic event.

Best Weathercast

First Place

WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA

Aubrey Urbanowicz, Cody Barnhart and Grant Coleman

This was consistently well done across all team members. Excellent job.

Second Place

WTOV-TV, Wheeling, WV

Jeff Oechslein and Nathan Shutt

"Ohio Valley Derecho"

Love the tornado coverage. Well done.

Best Weathercaster

First Place

WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV

Katherine Thompson





Second Place

WOAY-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill, WV
Christian Boteler

Best TV News Anchor

First Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA
Steve Rappaport

Great, natural delivery. Credible, easy to understand.

Second Place

WDTV-TV, Bridgeport, WV
Atticus Pead

Calm and confident. Conversational. Good delivery.

Best TV Sports Anchor

First Place

WBOY-TV, Clarksburg, WV
Sydney Cariel

Great coverage with just enough of a delivery as to not be a sportscaster!

Second Place

WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA
Jarvis Haren

Great job. Nice pacing and excitement. Really flows nicely.

Best Producer

First Place

WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA
Ethan Estrem

Great job, nice flowing storytelling and use of a team to get the message out.

Second Place

WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Lewisburg, WV
Valerie Sullivan
"Veterans Voices"

Beautiful piece, shot well and told with care and compassion.

Best Team News Coverage



First Place

WOAY-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill, WV

"Severe Flooding Slams Southern West Virginia"

Strong production, comprehensive and informative story telling. Relevant info.

Second Place

WTAP-TV, Parkersburg, WV

"November Fourth Elections"

Strong production quality, relevant info.

Best Old Dominion Heritage

First Place

WOAY-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill, WV

Larry Marrs

"Tazewell Old-Time and Bluegrass Fiddlers Convention"

This story had amazing nat sound that hooked me right away and the people interviewed really brought the story to light. Hearing the impact of music on Old Dominion heritage in the story solidified this as an award-winning piece. The closing bite was the cherry on top. I enjoyed it so much, I immediately wanted to watch it again!

Second Place

WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA

Mair Famet and Kayla Brown

"Valley of Valor"

Military members have so many valuable stories to tell. This entry stood out for the emotional interviews in the storytelling. The final story about Bucky Anderson nearly brought me to tears, which shows how beautifully told the story was.

Best Mountain State Heritage

First Place

WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV

Megan Bailey

"Greenbrier Bunker"

Really enjoyed the history of this bunker. I really liked how it was edited. Great use of the black and white. You had some great characters who really knew the subject matter. I really enjoyed the story, and wanted more on this, so much so that after I watched it, I spent some time on the internet reading about the bunker.



Second Place

WVU News, Morgantown, WV

Harley Cochran, Ashton Marra and
Jesse Wright

"West Virginia Culture and Tourism"

This was a great show. I really enjoyed the style of the storytelling, the use of sound and video also really good. The stories were very well done, where I was sucked in, and really wanted to know about your community. I thought the writing and on-air presentation was superb.

Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism

First Place

WVVA-TV, Bluefield, WV

Joshua Bolden

"Two Virginias, One Mission Flood
Relief Telethon"

Great communication and messaging.

Second Place

**WVNS-TV, Beckley-Bluefield-
Lewisburg, WV**

"Southern West Virginia Flood Relief"

Great coverage.

Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias

First Place

WVIR-TV, Charlottesville, VA

Great story telling, shot well. Delivered with feeling.

Second Place

WHSV-TV, Harrisonburg, VA

Very well produced. Nice tight storytelling.



Radio:

Best Spot News

First Place

WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA

Sandy Hausman

"Ryan Resigns"

Second Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Jack Walker

"Middleway Bottling Plant Rejected

Unanimously by Planning

Commission"

Best Continuing News

First Place

WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA

Sandy Hausman

"UVA vs. the Trump Administration"

Great soundbites and sound throughout the piece. Very good (and fair) extensive coverage of a divisive topic for the university.

Second Place

WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA

Jay Hart and Dori Zook

"UVA President Oddysey"

Outstanding Sports Operation of the Virginias

First Place

WFIR-AM/FM, Roanoke, VA

Greg Roberts, Randy Leftwich and

Leonard Wheeler

High quality production, charisma and flow of the provided entry.

Second Place

WBTM-AM, Danville, VA

Ryan Stone and Brandon Burnett



Best Documentary or In-Depth

First Place

WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA

Roxy Todd, Nick Gilmore
and David Seidel

"Mountain Hurricane"

Second Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Curtis Tate

"These Coal Plants Lose Money"

Best Light Feature

First Place

VPM News, Richmond, VA

Patrick Larsen

"Undoing Ruin's Jessy Woodke Is on a
Mission to Spread Native Plants"

Excellent production and editing quality. Good use of
sound/ambi. Very nice arc to your story.

Second Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Jack Walker

"Berkeley County Resident's Gadget
Geocaches Put Local Tourism on the
Map"

Excellent story. Very resourceful to bring in the perspective of
the county. Good use of ambi and sound. Nice narrative arc
of the story. You brought me into the story with your
struggling to open the geocache box.

Best Serious Feature

First Place

WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA

Sandy Hausman

"Saving Sinkhole Ponds"

A well written and presented feature. I enjoyed the story and
the information it offered.

Second Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Maria Young

"Multimillion Dollar Aid Program
Brings Hope to Mercer County"

Good production. Nice sound bites. Well done.



Best Sports Feature

First Place

VPM News, Richmond, VA

Dean Mirshahi

"Entering the Ring and Building
Bonds at Richmond Pro Wrestling"

Stylized commentary helped paint a broader picture of the wrestling match for those listening in. More comprehensive coverage as a byproduct of the longer audio time.

Second Place

WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV

Shane Darling

"Marshall Volleyball Needs One More
Win"

Best Use of Sound

First Place

WQLU-FM, Lynchburg, VA

Sarah Smith

"Why I Pause"

Very well produced, delivered and thought out. Excellent.

Second Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Eric Douglas

"Biplane Provides Different
Perspective on New River Gorge"

Well written, sound good and nicely delivered.

Best Sports Play-by-Play

First Place

WBTM-AM, Danville, VA

Ryan Stone

"GW vs Sherando Regional Semifinal"

Felt this entry was most involved with play-by-play commentary following the game.

Second Place

WQLU-FM, Lynchburg, VA

Jason Prill and Connor Young

"2025 Carolina League Championship
between Lynchburg Hillcats and
Columbia Fireflies"



Best Reporter

First Place

WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA

Sandy Hausman

Good story. Liked the topic. Strong delivery.

Second Place

WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA

Mason Adams

Very relevant topic.

Best Talk Show

First Place

WLNI-FM, Lynchburg, VA

Mari White, Brian Weigand and

Anthony "Biscuit" McAvoy

"The Morningline"

Great job, with all of the "local" topics and news stories.

Best QA (One-on-One) Interview

First Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Eric Douglas

"Terry Gross Talks Public Radio With

WVPB"

Nicely done, very smooth with great information on the person.

Second Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Bill Lynch

"The Modern Mountain Cookbook"

Very good interview. Who knew vegan cooking could be so tasty!



Best Specialty Reporting

First Place

WHRO-FM, Norfolk, VA

Katherine Hafner

"Environment and Climate Change Reporting"

Very good sound throughout the piece with good writing and a strong website to back it up. The online pictures added to the story.

Second Place

WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA

Nick Gilmore

"Climate and Weather Reporting"

Great sound on this, with stormy weather confirming the extensive depth of the reporting.

Best Multi-Platform Story

First Place

VPM News, Richmond, VA

Keyris Manzanares, Adrienne Hoar

McGibbon and Shawn Freude

"Idleness and Boredom - Bon Air Series"

Great example of how journalism makes our communities better.

Second Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Jack Walker

"Expiring Spay, Neuter Fund Troubles Shelters, but Lawmakers Move to Make State Aid Permanent"

Important topic and well covered.



Best Website

First Place

WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA

Mike Barber, Jackson Hephner and
Jay Hart

"Cville Right Now "

Modern navigable site, nice layout, lots of consistent work.

Second Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Liz McCormick

"West Virginia Public Broadcasting"

Modern site that is easy to navigate. Nice community focus
and inclusion of video and audio to support local stories.
Great placement of "play" and "donate" being in upper right.

Best Newscast

First Place

WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA

Dori Zook

"Crime and Education"

Kept my attention.

Second Place

WFIR-AM/FM, Roanoke, VA

Joey Self, Ian Price and Leonard
Wheeler

"Election Coverage + On the Record:
The Roanoke Valley's Morning News"

Well documented coverage.

Best Radio News Anchor

First Place

WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA

Dori Zook

Good solid newscast including sound bites.

Second Place

WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA

Craig Wright

Nice solid newscast, including sound bites and packages.
Good pause between stories.



Best Radio Sports Anchor

First Place

WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV

Owen James

Nice inclusion of sound bites.

Second Place

WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV

Shane Darling

Best Old Dominion Heritage

First Place

WLNI-FM, Lynchburg, VA

Mari White, Brian Weigand and
Anthony "Biscuit" McAvoy
"James River Batteau Festival"

Quality and variety of reporting. Great host, interviewees and editing are excellent. Nice top variety and transitions of host to content. Congratulations.

Second Place

WVTF-FM, Roanoke, VA

Sandy Hausman
"Batteau Cruise"

Really enjoyed the audio of the interviews, the history presented and in a tight presentation. Congratulations.

Best Mountain State Heritage

First Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Bill Lynch

"The Homewrecker Returns to
Hillbilly Hotdogs"

Host VO was excellent and easy to engage with the content and listen to. Fun story! The written article and images a plus. Congratulations!

Second Place

WVPB-FM, Charleston, WV

Trey Kay and Amy Eddings

"Us & Them: Daniel Johnston — The
Troubled Life and Artistic Genius of
West Virginia Music Hall of Fame
Inductee"

In-depth story from many angles presented. I like the Us & Them theme of this show. Congratulations.



Excellence in Diversity- Equity & Inclusion

First Place

WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV

Alyson Messinger

"DEI Protest"

Great use of audio as a companion to the content.

Second Place

VPM News, Richmond, VA

Megan Pauly

"VCU Changed Scholarship for

Descendants of the Enslaved to Align

With Anti-DEI Policies"

Excellence in Public Service Through Journalism

First Place

WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV

John Boggess

"Healing Appalachia 2025"

Robust and impactful interview with historical perspective and current intel. Solid interviewer and exceptional guest. The impact to the community at large is obviously the reason for this interview. I appreciated learning about this cause, music festival, its history and personal stories of the festival elements at every level. Very well done! Congratulations!

Second Place

WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV

Emma Johnson, Abby Ayes and

Alyson Messinger

"55th Annual Fountain Ceremony"

Student reporters sharing personal experiences and keeping history alive, thank you. Excellent recap and nuanced presentation in editing of the actual ceremony and speaker highlights. Created theatre of the mind for the listener, as I'm uneducated on this topic. Wrap up reporting and introduction was very solid. Congratulations!



Outstanding News Operation of the Virginias

First Place

WINA-AM/FM, Charlottesville, VA

Jay Hart and Dori Zook

"Charlottesville Punching Above Its
Weight Class"

Second Place

WMUL-FM, Huntington, WV

Emma Johnson and Alyson Messinger

Congratulations!

Please visit our website for a downloadable list of winners

<https://vapb.org>

