



MEDIA RELEASE

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West Virginia University Sophomore Selected for 2022 VAPB Scholarship

White Sulphur Springs, W.Va. - This year's winner of the Virginias Associated Press Broadcasters' Scholarship from West Virginia has big plans. Jhanvee Patel, a sophomore at West Virginia University in Morgantown, W.Va., is passionate about accurate medical information sharing.

Each year, the VAPB awards two scholarships to students pursuing a degree in journalism, communications or a related field. One student is selected from among applicants pursuing a higher education in Virginia and another is chosen from a West Virginia school. Patel accepted a scholarship check for \$2,000 during the 2022 VAPB Awards Luncheon at The Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs on March 26, 2022.

Growing up with a grandfather in a nursing home due to Alzheimer's disease, Patel realized not everyone understood medical information. Her father, a physician, always explained medical terminology to her so she had a grasp on medical news. During the pandemic this issue was magnified. Patel realized medical news is important to keep people safe.

“Information is powerful, and the pandemic demonstrated that misinformation holds detrimental power,” Patel explained in her essay. “At the height of the pandemic, there was a clear lack of journalists who could effectively communicate medical information and properly cover news about the Coronavirus. This inspired me to pursue a career in medical journalism.”

Patel is a journalism major on a pre-med track. She has a passion for telling health and science-based stories with transparency. Armed with a journalism and medical degree, she said she hopes to bring credible medical information to broadcast journalism.

This Scholarship Committee’s selection process included reviewing essays, work samples, resumes and finalist virtual interviews.

More information and additional photos are available for media use at <https://vapb.org/> and the [Virginias Associated Press Broadcasters Facebook page](#).

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