

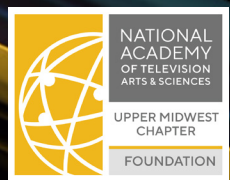
15th
Upper Midwest Foundation
Student Production
Awards
Annual

Iowa
Minnesota
North Dakota
South Dakota
Western Wisconsin

Sponsored by:

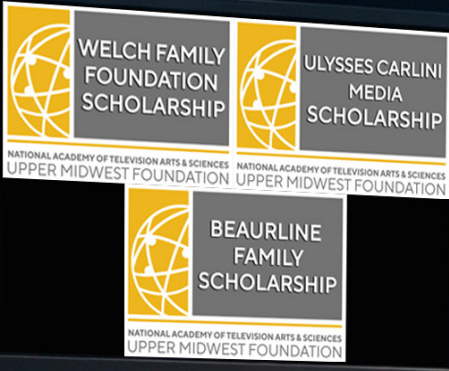
BlazeSM

CREDIT UNION



UPPER MIDWEST FOUNDATION STUDENT PRODUCTION AWARDS - 15TH ANNUAL

PRESENTED BY BLAZE CREDIT UNION



STAGE RULES.

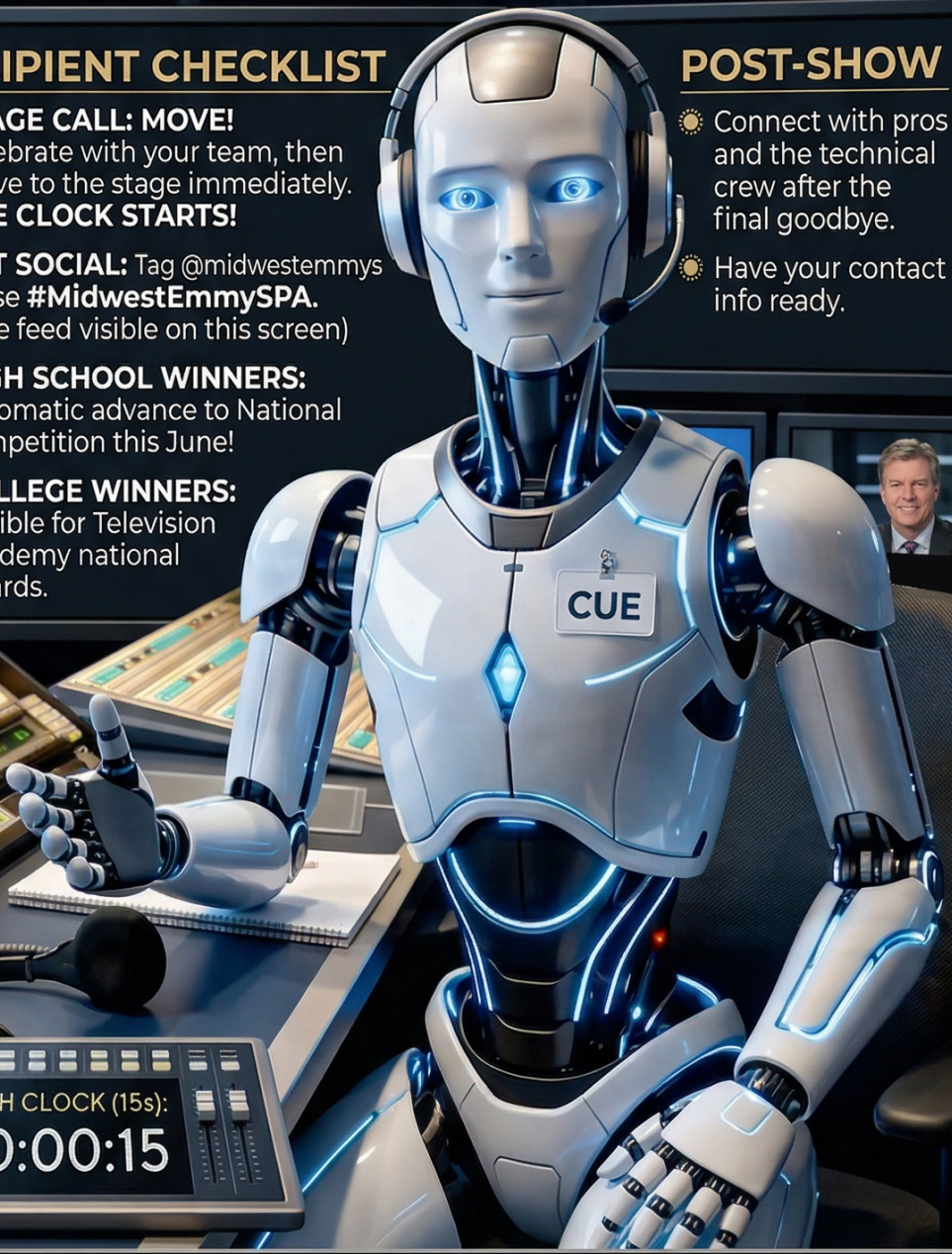
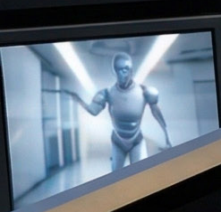
- MOVES FAST!**
If called, move to the stage IMMEDIATELY.
- 15-SECOND SPEECH:**
Keep it concise, fun, and memorable! Enjoy your moment quickly!

RECIPIENT CHECKLIST

- STAGE CALL: MOVE!**
Celebrate with your team, then move to the stage immediately. **THE CLOCK STARTS!**
- GET SOCIAL:** Tag @midwestemmys & use #MidwestEmmySPA. (Live feed visible on this screen)
- HIGH SCHOOL WINNERS:**
Automatic advance to National competition this June!
- COLLEGE WINNERS:**
Eligible for Television Academy national awards.

POST-SHOW

- Connect with pros and the technical crew after the final goodbye.
- Have your contact info ready.



UPPER MIDWEST FOUNDATION 15TH ANNUAL STUDENT PRODUCTION AWARDS PRESENTED BY BLAZE CREDIT UNION

PRINTED GUIDE - NOT FOR BROADCAST. OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTION.

I. The Code of Ethical Conduct

The Code of Ethical Conduct ("Code of Conduct") is a policy outlining the principles and standards that all employees, members, and third parties acting on behalf of NATAS and its chapters must follow to maintain the high standard of professional conduct critical to the continued prestige of the organization (NATAS) and the National and Regional Emmy® Awards. All NATAS national and regional events are to be a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for everyone to enjoy and celebrate. This Code of Conduct applies to all participants at events, competitions, or on our social media channels; to Chapter members, guests, staff, volunteers, and vendors.

II. Definition of Ethical Conduct and Practices

NATAS has zero tolerance for discrimination or harassment, illegal, dishonest, or unethical conduct. As such, members are expected to refrain from committing any act that will degrade NATAS in society, or prejudice, damage or harm the standing, reputation, welfare, and/or best interests of NATAS and its Members. NATAS will not tolerate, condone, or ignore unethical conduct and is committed to enforcing these standards at all levels.

III. Covered Conduct

NATAS and its regional chapters do not tolerate:

- Intimidation or threats
- Inappropriate disruptions
- Unwanted physical contact
- Hurtful language, hate speech, or discriminatory acts
- Physical assault
- Unwanted sexual attention
- Bullying or stalking
- Disorderly behavior as a result of public intoxication or other impairment related to substance abuse
- Any other action or activity which could reasonably be construed as contrary or detrimental to the best interests and reputation of NATAS and its regional chapters.
- A present conviction of a felony or other crime of moral turpitude is also a violation of this code of conduct.

Members are responsible for the conduct of their guests as well.

IV. Enforcement

NATAS and its regional chapters reserve the right to remove or ban any person who does not adhere to the Code of Conduct:

If you are asked to stop any harassing behavior, you must cease the behavior immediately.

If you experience or witness any form of harassment or violation of this Code of Conduct, contact:

- (i) The nearest NATAS staff member, if a national event
- (ii) The nearest Chapter Governor or regional staff member, if a regional event
- (iii) You may submit an email complaint to reports@emmyonline.tv or to your chapter's Executive Director

Alleged violations of this Code of Conduct shall be reviewed and resolved in accordance with procedures adopted by NATAS Bylaws and/or Chapter Bylaws. Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, up to and including but not limited to being refused admission or ejected from an event, being barred from future events, disqualification or suspended from participation in NATAS or Chapter competitions, or the suspension or expulsion of membership.

This Code of Conduct is subject to change and may be amended, supplemented or superseded by one or more separate policies without further notice. All Members are responsible for continuous review of this Code.

Welcome to the 15th Annual Upper Midwest Emmy® Foundation Student Production Awards!

On behalf of the Board of Governors, the Foundation Board, and the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, we are very excited you've joined us.

Tonight, we're honoring excellence and innovation in all platforms of visual media from high school and college media programs across our region of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and western Wisconsin.

We're extremely grateful to Blaze Credit Union for their generous sponsorship and unwavering commitment to making a difference. Through their dedication to contributing to better lives through their work, uplifting and supporting, and continuously giving back, Blaze exemplifies the power of community and generosity. Their support helps us inspire the next generation of storytellers.

Thank you, Blaze Credit Union!

We kick off our celebration with a career and college fair. We hope you took the opportunity to network with these regional professionals. They showcase the educational and professional opportunities for people like you to take this industry to new and exciting levels!

This ceremony recognizes 190 nominees and announces the 2026 Upper Midwest Emmy® Foundation Student Production Award recipients. We received almost 300 entries from 35 high schools and colleges.

Tonight, we're proud to award 5 Upper Midwest Emmy® Foundation Student Scholarships. Since 2002, we have awarded 111 scholarships worth \$239,500. These scholarships help pay for tuition and books for regional students studying video media production or digital journalism in college. In addition, we also recognize the next generation of media industry leaders through Classroom Grants and our AV All-Stars awards, which highlight outstanding students for their achievement, leadership, and overall contribution to student media programs.

A special thanks to John "JJ" Murray, our Executive Director, and to our awesome Board of Governors and Foundation Board for all they do to make tonight's Student Production Awards a huge success! We also wish to thank tonight's show Executive Producer John Stealey, Director Addie Chernow, Wireless Camera Operator Tyler Eichorst, Video Editor Dennis Becker, Graphics Editor Shane Craig and the Town Square Television production team led by Joe Conlon, Ashley Bowes & Trevor Blom.

We also want to thank tonight's hosts, Leah Henry/WCCO & Ben Henry/KSTP, and our other special presenters for volunteering their time to celebrate this night with you. Finally, thank you to the InterContinental Hotel in St. Paul, MN.



It's an honor to support students who are the future of this growing and changing industry, Good luck everyone!

DIANA PIERCE

President, Upper Midwest Emmy® Foundation



Congratulations to all the incredible nominees for the Upper Midwest Emmy® Foundation Student Production Awards!

First things first — this isn't a race to the highest score. It's all about meeting a Standard of Excellence. Every entry is evaluated independently on three key pillars: **content, creativity, and execution**. Our judges don't compare entries to one another — they review each project on its own merits. That means a category could have one award, several awards... or none at all. Excellence stands on its own.

A huge thank you to our amazing colleagues across the region who volunteered their time and expertise to judge the 2026 entries. More than 30 professionals carefully reviewed nearly 300 submissions from high schools and colleges throughout the Upper Midwest. Many even stepped up to judge multiple panels — talk about dedication!

Their commitment to maintaining the integrity and "Standard of Excellence" is what makes these awards so meaningful.

Educators — we need you! You make outstanding Regional Emmy® judges. It's a fantastic opportunity to view student work from across the country and gain firsthand insight into the judging process. Best of all, it's fully online and completed on your own schedule. Interested? Reach out to awardschair@midwestemmys.org to get involved.

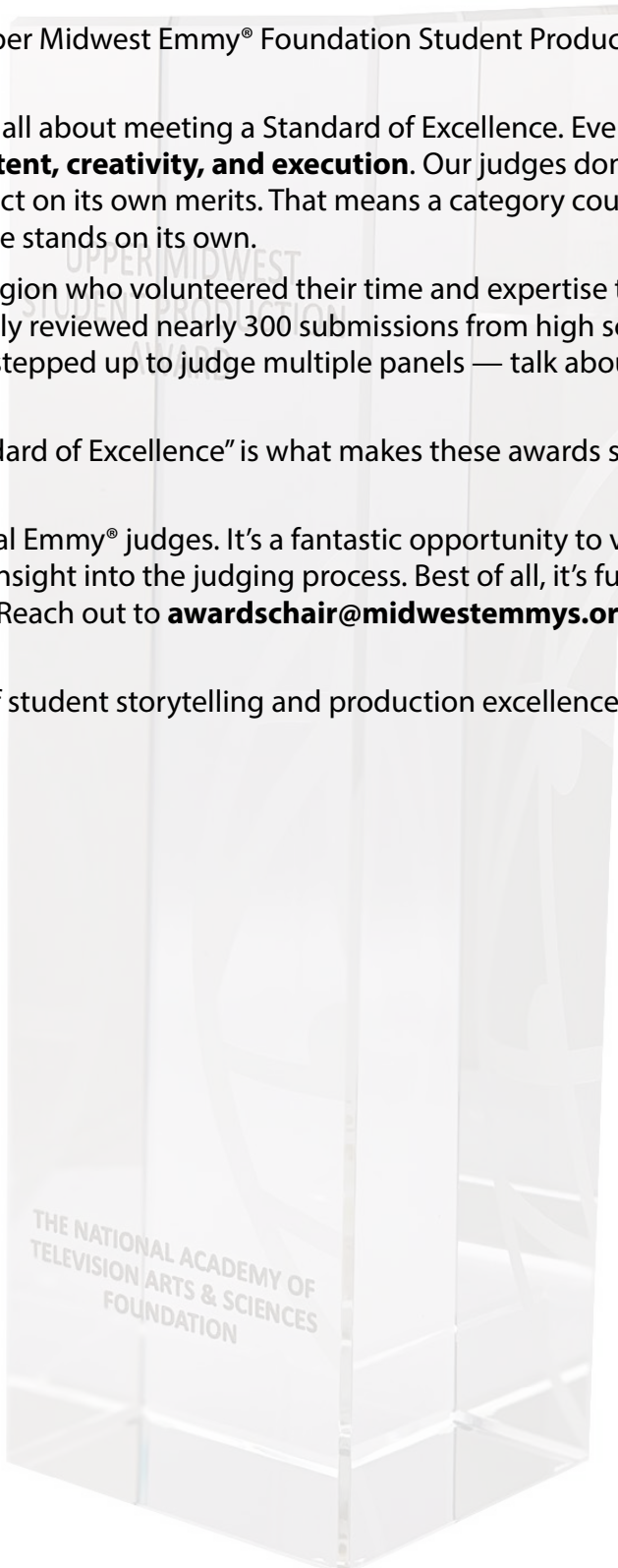
Now, sit back, relax, and enjoy an incredible celebration of student storytelling and production excellence!



Terrence Thames

Awards Chair

Upper Midwest Emmy® Foundation





Step into the spotlight — it's the biggest night in student video production!

Tonight, we celebrate the bold ideas, late-night edits, creative risks, and incredible talent of high school and college media students from across our region. Welcome to the 15th Annual Upper Midwest Emmy® Foundation Student Production Awards — where excellence takes center stage!

A special shout-out to **John James, C.P.A.**, for his careful ballot tabulation and support in verifying the awards. We're grateful for your precision and dedication! And a huge thank you to the **Board of Governors** and the **Student Awards Planning Committees** - your hard work makes this celebration possible.

On behalf of the Awards Committee and the **Upper Midwest Emmy® Foundation Board of Governors**, congratulations to every nominee. This is your moment. Soak it in. Celebrate the creativity, collaboration, and passion that brought you here.

Want to mark the occasion? Everyone listed on the official entry form and nominations/recipients page can purchase a personalized **Nomination Certificate and/or Crystal Pillar Award** engraved with your name and role. Visit the Awards Store at midwestemmys.org to order yours!

And remember — we're more than awards night. **The Upper Midwest Emmy® Foundation** is committed to supporting your growth long after the curtain closes. Emmy® on the Road workshops return in 2026, along with **free interactive classroom Zoom sessions** featuring award-winning showcases and hands-on critiques. Ready to bring us to your classroom? **Reach out at info@midwestemmys.org**.

To all 2026 nominees and recipients — bravo! Tonight we celebrate your achievements, and tomorrow we can't wait to see the stories you'll tell next.



John (JJ) Murray

Executive Director

Upper Midwest Emmy® Foundation

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF
TELEVISION ARTS & SCIENCES
FOUNDATION

2026 Participating Schools

The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS) - Upper Midwest Foundation would like to thank the high school and college university educators and students participating in this year's 2026 Upper Midwest regional student production awards.

HIGH SCHOOLS

Aberdeen Central High School | Apple Valley High School | Bloomington Educational Community Television | Eastview High School | FilmNorth | New Life Academy | Oskaloosa High School | RYSE: SPEAK MPLS | St. Cloud Tech High School | Webster City High School

COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES

Augsburg University | Bethany Lutheran College | Bethel University | Bismark State College | College of St. Benedict and St. John's University | Crown College | Dort University | Hennepin Technical College | Iowa State University | Loras College | Minnesota State University - Moorhead | Minot State | Morningside University | North Dakota State University | St. Cloud State University | University of Minnesota – Hubbard School of Journalism | University of Iowa | University of Northern Iowa | University of South Dakota | University of St. Thomas | Wartburg College | University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire | University of Wisconsin – La Crosse | University of Wisconsin – Superior | Western Iowa Tech

SOME ADD TO THE NOISE
YOU'LL CUT THROUGH IT.

OUR MAJORS

- Advertising
- Journalism and Mass Communication
- Public Relations

#WHYGREENLEE



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Greenlee School of Journalism
and Communication

2026 Upper Midwest Emmy® Foundation Executive Board

Foundation President Diana Pierce | Diana Pierce Productions

Vice President Jodi Ritacca | Carlini Entertainment

Secretary Panhia Yang | KMSP

Treasurer Tyler Eichorst | acowsay film co.

Carla Beaurline | Stream Systems

Rocky Dailey | South Dakota State University

David Kuznicki | University of North Dakota Aerospace

Brian Gabriel

Awards Chair Terrence Thames | Cocoa Creative

2026 Upper Midwest Emmy® Chapter Board Of Governors

Executive Committee

Upper Midwest Emmy® Chapter President Ben Houtkooper | Minnesota National Guard

Vice President Panhia Yang | KMSP

Regional Vice-Presidents

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Minnesota Michael Baldwin | KBJR

North Dakota Matt Henson | WDAY

South Dakota Jim Berman | KSFY

Wisconsin Kevin Millard | WIZM

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Rocky Dailey | South Dakota State University

Mark Vancleave | Associated Press

Tyler Eichorst | Acowsay Films

Executive Director

John (JJ) Murray

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF
TELEVISION ARTS & SCIENCES
FOUNDATION

**CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN TELEVISION!**

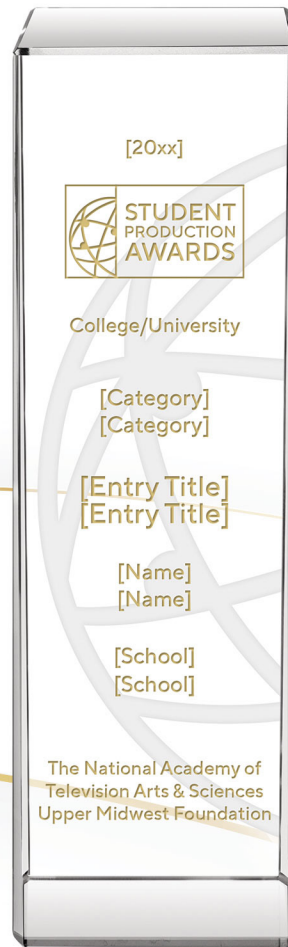
STUDENT PRODUCTION AWARDS



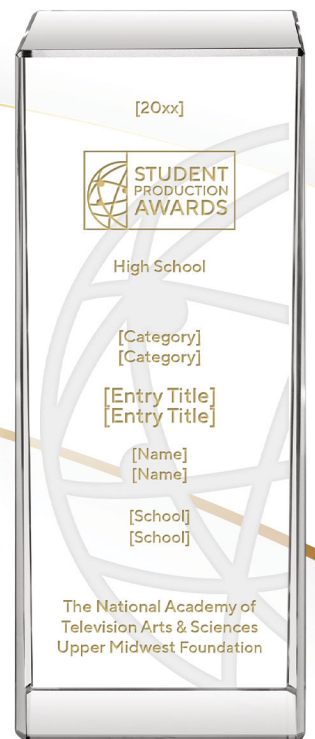
Visit www.midwestemmys.org/emmy-awards/award-store/ to place your order.
For questions or assistance with placing your order, please contact jj@midwestemmys.org



8.5"x11" Student Nomination Certificates
\$10



8" College Student Crystal Pillar
\$125



6" High School Student Crystal Pillar
\$100



**Scan the QR code to
access the Upper Midwest
Award Store**

*Prices include taxes and
shipping fees.*

STUDENT PRODUCTION AWARDS HOSTS

Ben Henry



Ben Henry is a Regional Emmy® winning reporter with 5 Eyewitness News. For the last six years, his coverage has ranged from multiple events of civil unrest - including after the killing of George Floyd - many city council and school board meetings, to severe weather across the state.

He says some of his most fulfilling work has been covering stories that support veterans and first responders, while also filling in at the anchor desk.

Before working in the Twin Cities to report where he grew up, Ben reported and anchored in Fort Myers, Florida where he was recognized by the Florida Associated Press Broadcasters for his work as an MMJ. Before that, he started his reporting career in Rochester, Minnesota.

Attending St. Cloud State University where he majored in Broadcast Journalism, Ben credits a lot to his success to his time working at the campus television station - UTVS - where working alongside his fellow students created the groundwork and skills he still uses today. That's also where he met his now very talented producer wife, Leah Henry!

Leah Henry



Leah Henry is a Regional Emmy® winning producer at WCCO-TV. For nearly seven years, she's produced one of Minnesota's most-watched newscasts, WCCO News at 10 p.m.

While attending St. Cloud State University (and meeting her reporter husband, Ben), Leah got her start in TV by working as an assignment editor at WCCO. She then became one of WCCO's weekend producers before she and Ben moved to Fort Myers, Florida. There, Leah was recognized by the Florida Associated Press Broadcasters for excellence in producing. Her newscasts also received several regional Edward R. Murrow Awards. In 2019, Leah and Ben jumped at the opportunity to continue their careers back home in Minnesota.

Leah's career has put her in the front row of major moments over the last decade: George Floyd's killing and the unrest that followed, the global COVID-19 pandemic, the confession that led investigators to Jacob Wetterling, the Parkland school shooting, Hurricane Irma, and the death of Prince.

And, most recently, the largest federal immigration enforcement operation in United States history.

Official National Academy Rules For Student Award Promotion

Crystal Pillar awards presented at this ceremony are not regional Emmy® awards. **Please do not refer to these awards as student Emmys.**

Students are not considered peer professionals and as such, their regional student production award is not eligible to be promoted as a regional Emmy® award. **Students may refer to receiving a Student Production Award Nomination or Award from the Upper Midwest Emmy® Foundation.... or being an Upper Midwest Emmy® Student Production Award Nominee or Recipient.**

Students and schools may not use the Emmy® name or replica of the Emmy® figure in any form of school publications, commercial advertising and promotion. Emmy® is in our Foundation name, it is NOT name of the award. The award is a Crystal Pillar.

The presentation of these awards is intended to be an incentive for the continued pursuit of excellence by those studying media and journalism and to focus public attention on outstanding cultural, educational, technological, entertainment, news and informational achievements by undergraduate college and/or high school students.

Crystal Pillar awards are presented to recipient schools for promotional purposes. Students listed on official entry are eligible to purchase awards.

High school awards note: regional high school recipients from all participating Regional Emmy® chapters will automatically advance to a national competition. Recipients of the national awards will be announced in the fall of 2025. For more information visit the website: emmyonline.org/nationalstudent

Special Thanks To The Judges From The Following Professional Media Organizations

**Diana Pierce Productions | Associated Press | acowsay film co. |
Around Town TV | Carlini Entertainment | Cocoa Creates | KARE | KCCI
| KMSP | KTIV | KSFY/KDLT | Mayo Clinic | Minnesota Women in Film &
TV | Twin Cities PBS | University of North Dakota Aerospace | WDAY |
WIZM**

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF
TELEVISION ARTS & SCIENCES
FOUNDATION

High School Solo Storyteller

Eastview Custodians

Eastview High School

Naomi Agboh, Solo Storyteller

High School Interview/Discussion

Adapted Sports

Saint Cloud - Tech High School

LiYun Nelson, Producer

Aidan Kiffmeyer, Producer

Matthew Keil, Advisor

High School Sports Program

Inside Jefferson Football - Oct. 14, 2025

Bloomington Educational Community Television (BEC-TV)

Andrew Marotz, Producer

Ian Ries, Director

Austin Arnold, Audio

Gabe Duits, Graphic Artist

Nathan Glick, Photographer

Tom Ringdal, Advisor

Alex Redding, Advisor

Paul Fourniea, Advisor

High School Public Service Announcement

We Are One

Aberdeen Central High School

Grey Hauge, Producer

Jackson Board, Producer

Erich Schaffhauser, Advisor

High School Talent-Performer

Rylan Hunt Nevermore Narrator

New Life Academy

College Animation / Graphics / Special Effects

1919 Rootbeer

Bethany Lutheran College

Luke Haines, Graphics Animator

3D Design & Animation Reel

Crown College

Noah Larson, Graphics Animator

Foriel that Fell from the Stars

Bethany Lutheran College

Maleah Pfeifer, Graphics Animator

In the Mist

Crown College

Andrew Sappia, Graphics Animator

Light Snack

Hennepin Technical College

Peter Rudolph, Graphics Animator

John McCaffrey, Advisor

Tub Surfing

Bethany Lutheran College

Alec Lade, Graphics Animator

Your New Greatest Fear

Bethany Lutheran College

Alec Lade, Graphics Animator

College Editor

Hometown Hero of the Hardwood

Iowa State University

Matthew Nielsen, Editor

Mason Kroll Composite

St. Cloud State University

Savannah Reinke Composite

St. Cloud State University

The Student Experience

University of Northern Iowa

Easton Steffen, Editor

College Public Service Announcement

Fatherhood

Hennepin Technical College

Ezekiel Thurston, Director
Spencer Jones, Cinematographer
Thythe Kue, Writer
Brian Schroeder, Advisor

Hearing Loss

Bethany Lutheran College

Emily Paschke, Graphics Animator

College Interview / Discussion

Legacy Red Carpet LIVE

Loras College

Anna Tallman, Producer
Gigi Shallenberger, Director
Michael White, Host
Madisyn Heim, Host
Mason Marrari, Graphics
Max Clasen, Audio
Tyler Kirk, Technical Director
Iva Senio, Crew, Live Stream
Aidan Joyce, Photographer
Zac Joerger, Photographer
Daniel Welter, Photographer

Media for Change: Interview with Shaffer Ridgeway

University of Northern Iowa

Ethan Vogt, Producer
Cade Williams, Producer
Francesca Soans, Advisor

Profile Shots: The Hidden Fortress & Star Wars

College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University

Landon Muonio, Producer
Bradyn Petrek, Host
Josh Akkerman, Advisor
Ethan Wittrock, Advisor

Reel 2 Real: How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)

Hennepin Technical College

Makizza Rich, Director
Luna Miller, Writer
Jack Kleppe, Host
Ezekiel Thurston, Host
J Kolden, Technical Director
Matt Donath, Audio
Spencer Jones, Video Playback
Grayson Kohout-Spidahl, Audio
Ryan Hall, Advisor

College Solo Storyteller

Fr. Peter Documentary

Crown College

Sam Williams, Solo Storyteller

Madisyn Heim Storyteller Rooted in Passion Series

Loras College

Madisyn Heim, Solo Storyteller

NDSU Bird Research

MSU - Moorhead

Aaron Quanbeck, Advisor
Chris Hovden, Solo Storyteller

The Story of Coach Franz

Crown College

Noah Larson, Solo Storyteller

Touchdown in Dublin: Living in a Postcard

Iowa State University

Kayde Sheaffer, Solo Storyteller

UMN Men's Gymnastics Succeeds Despite Setbacks

University of Minnesota - Hubbard School of Journalism

Eitan Schoenberg, Solo Storyteller

College Commercial

Bunker Hill Golf Course

Loras College

Nora Bruxvoort, Producer

Camcorder Ad

Bismarck State College

Isaiah Johnson, Producer

DZOFILM Pictor Zoom Lens Commercial

Crown College

Noah Larson, Cinematographer

Katie Hauschild, Editor

Gavin Leuthold, Producer

Laundry Max: Clean Money Ad

Loras College

Maxwell Clasen, Director

Brady Oberfoell, Cinematographer

Mason Marrari, Editor

Therabody Commercial

Bethany Lutheran College

Alex Almeda, Director

College Sports Program

Bison Overtime Bracketology Special

North Dakota State University

Jack Higgins, Technical Director

Cash Rohman, Director

Grant Hubbard, Host

Ethan Ibach, Host

Blunation - 12/5/2025

University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

David Abel, Director

Gary Barta, Host

John McLean, Host

Michael Watson, Talent: Sports Analyst

Eli Benes, Talent: Sports Analyst

Maxwell Harding, Advisor

Husky Mag - December 10th, 2025

St. Cloud State University

Noah Grant, Producer

Thomas Riess, Producer

Key City Sports

Loras College

Caroline Hutchinson, Producer

David Peteres, Producer

Lucas Schoaf, Director

Duane Vetter, Host

Patrick Louscher, Reporter

Daniel Welter, Cinematographer

Hunter Jones, Reporter

Allen Catour, Cinematographer

Pregame: Before the Kickoff

University of Iowa

Elise Gan, Director

Collin Carrithers, Director

Prep Sports Central - November 17th, 2025

Iowa State University

Isaac Christensen, Producer

Prep Sports Central - November 3rd, 2025

Iowa State University

Taten Eighmy, Producer

Matthew Nielsen, Director

High School Music Video

Spirit Week Song

New Life Academy

Elizabeth Collins, Producer

Ellie Fredrickson, Advisor

Turkey Bingo Open

Eastview High School

Lilly Blumb, Director

Briel Green, Photographer

We Need You Here

Saint Cloud - Tech High School

Addison Wallace-Jones, Producer

LiYun Nelson, Performer

Benjamin Keil, Writer

Salmo Abdi, Photographer

Vernon Amundson, Writer

Riley Lundgren, Writer

Alexis Rieke, Performer

Andrew Bares, Performer

Ava Bauck, Performer

Maren Inkster, Editor

Matthew Keil, Advisor

Nasim Ibrahim, Performer

Salmo Ore, Performer

Maryama Hassan, Performer

Matthew Keil, Advisor

College Music Video

Beats of Your Heart

Bethany Lutheran College

Tyler Pasbrig, Director

Far From Here

Bethany Lutheran College

Reese Moorad, Graphics Animator

Going to see the MOTHMAN

Augsburg University

Travis Alajoki, Director

Nicholas Sachs, Composer

Jenny Hanson, Advisor

Studio Sessions: "Is Your Hope" by The Band

College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University

Gabe Evenocheck, Producer

Chenxu Yu, Cinematographer

Chloe Moore, Technical Director

Bernie Noria-Castillo, Audio

Samuel Edwards, Audio

Landon Muonio, Audio

Olivia Smith, Photographer

Margaret McConville, Photographer

Adam Jank, Photographer

Connor Mahoney, Performer

Jane McMahon, Performer

Max Meyer, Performer

Erin Utke, Advisor

Ethan Wittrock, Advisor

The Night (My Love)

Bethel University

Esperanza Ortega, Producer

Kaitlyn Baker, Producer

Bengt Mulberry, Producer

Tyler Gustafson, Producer

Paige Drew, Producer

Three Fake Girlfriends by LENT

Augsburg University

Reese Pesta, Director

Jenny Hanson, Advisor

High School Arts/Entertainment/ Cultural Affairs

Fashion In Depth

Apple Valley High School

Coda Nguyen, Reporter

Angelo Brown, Photographer

Hamid Hamud-Socoro, Producer

Jeylani Abdulaziz, Producer

Andrew McCluskey, Advisor

Tim Sheehan, Advisor

Ryan Franus, Advisor

Lakota Flag Song History

Aberdeen Central High School

Logan Glodrey, Producer
Erich Schaffhauser, Advisor

Math Musician

Eastview High School

Kayla Griglak, Reporter
Lucas Young, Photographer
Cadence Gensmer, Editor

Megan's Art

Eastview High School

Amy Nguyen, Reporter
Kevin Burch, Photographer
Sophia Barylo, Photographer

Somalia to the World

RYSE: SPEAK MPLS

Hamdi Mohamed, Director
Sundus Osman, Director
James Harris, Advisor

College Arts/Entertainment/ Cultural Affairs

Celebrating 35 Years: The All-America Concert Band

Morningside University

Gabriel Ruiz, Director
Carter Gill, Videographer
Leslie Werden, Advisor

Country Band Thrives Despite Distance

Iowa State University

Abby Altman, Producer
Carson Duinink, Producer

D Smoke at MSUM

MSU - Moorhead

Aaron Quanbeck, Advisor
Selah Jacoway, Reporter

Nate & Tate in Dublin - Episode 2

Iowa State University

Nathan Porter, Producer
Taten Eighmy, Producer

Nate & Tate in Dublin - Episode 3

Iowa State University

Nathan Porter, Producer
Taten Eighmy, Producer

High School Fiction - Short or Long Form Content

Expedition Yeti

Saint Cloud - Tech High School

Tucker Collette, Director
Nikita Brusso, Director
Theodore Klaverkamp, Editor
Andrew Bares, Photographer
Maren Inkster, Performer
LiYun Nelson, Performer
Benjamin Keil, Performer
Aprilia Borchert, Performer
Matthew Keil, Advisor

Mirror Image

FilmNorth

Willa Henkemeyer, Producer
Addison Maki, Editor
Zero McCoy, Director
Abby Stewart, Advisor

Mock Car Crash

Saint Cloud - Tech High School

Maren Inkster, Producer
Aprilia Borchert, Photographer
Benjamin Keil, Editor
Jonathan Hegge, Producer
Matthew Keil, Advisor

Pitch Perfect Auditions: The Flash Edition

Eastview High School

Amy Nguyen, Director
Cadence Gensmer, Photographer
Kayla Griglak, Photographer

UPPER MIDWEST
STUDENT PRODUCTION
AWARD

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF
TELEVISION ARTS & SCIENCES
FOUNDATION

College Fiction Short Form

BaLove Story

Bethany Lutheran College

Matthew Strom, Director

Cursed Melodies

University of Wisconsin - La Crosse

Libby Hummel, Producer

McKenna Bladl, Producer

Analsabel De La Torre, Producer

Amanda Keil, Producer

Matthew Crawford, Producer

Taylor Miller, Advisor

Light Snack

Hennepin Technical College

Peter Rudolph, Director

Saadman Maheer, Audio

Aidan Lynch, Graphics Animator

Jack Hinze, Graphics Animator

John Genco, Graphics Animator

Eduardo Dominguez Castillo, Graphic Artist

John McCaffrey, Advisor

The Forest

Hennepin Technical College

Kobe Session, Director

Nathan Petersen, Photographer

John McCaffrey, Advisor

The Good Stalker

Iowa State University

Bella Brandi, Producer

Nayeli Gonzalez, Producer

Irina Sacuiu, Producer

The Library Mystery

Iowa State University

Calleigh Klein, Producer

Michael Martinez, Producer

Faith Millsap, Producer

Jenna Whalen, Producer

The Truth Within

Bethany Lutheran College

Michael Lazzaretti, Director

Thick Skin

Augsburg University

Danielle Russell, Director

Kelsey Bosch, Advisor

College Fiction Long Form

Beside Still Waters

Bethany Lutheran College

Coleton Pringle, Director

Conspirituality

University of Wisconsin - Superior

Jake Edwards, Director

Brent Notbohm, Advisor

It's My Turn

University of Wisconsin - La Crosse

Greg Sokup, Producer

Lilly Schram, Producer

George Subra, Producer

Jackson DeBruin, Producer

Hillary Haarstad, Cinematographer

Taylor Miller, Advisor

Psyche

Loras College

Than San, Director

High School Non-Fiction

European Christmas Market

Eastview High School

Jaiden Tovsen, Editor

Nayla Venter, Photographer

Sophia Barylo, Editor

Jack O Lantern Spooktacular

Eastview High School

Sophia Barylo, Reporter

Nayla Venter, Photographer

Kirthana Rajulapati, Photographer

Robotics Mentor Video

New Life Academy

Ava LaValle, Producer

Ellie Fredrickson, Advisor

Thread for Thought

RYSE: SPEAK MPLS

Kamya Bell-Jones, Director

Jaya Tummala, Director

James Harris, Advisor

College Non-Fiction Short Form

Beyond the Spotlight

Bethany Lutheran College

Silas Schoeneck, Director

Dementia

Hennepin Technical College

Makizza Rich, Director

Brian Schroeder, Advisor

Faith Rodgers Testimonial

Western Iowa Tech

Evan Amundson, Cinematographer

London Russell, Producer

My People

University of Wisconsin - Superior

Patrick Douglas, Director

College Non-Fiction Long Form

Behind The Curtain - The Jason Show Story

University of Wisconsin - River Falls

Jackson Limberg, Director

Erik Johnson, Advisor

Built on Hope

Bethel University

Kathryn Kovalenko, Director

K Bierma, Editor

Luca Lombardi, Editor

Devanie Andre, Photographer

Karen Kerner: A Life Sew Perfect

University of Wisconsin - Superior

Drew Kerner, Director

Mystery Cave Underground: Mapping for the Future

University of Northern Iowa

Ryder Bates, Director

Francesca Soans, Advisor

Ride On: The Story of Gwen Maiers

Loras College

Ryan Haywood, Editor

Lucas Schoaf, Cinematographer

High School Director

Tiger Robotics - Live Competition

Saint Cloud - Tech High School

Alex Schaefer, Director

Matthew Keil, Advisor

We Need You Here - Music Video

Saint Cloud - Tech High School

Addison Wallace-Jones, Director

Matthew Keil, Advisor

College Director

9:00

Bethany Lutheran College

Noah Lippert, Director

Hometown Hero of the Hardwood

Iowa State University

Benji Genise, Director

Matthew Nielsen, Director

Mya Fryckman Director Composite

St. Cloud State University

Prep Sports Central - November 17th, 2025

Iowa State University

Caleb Sheldon, Director

Prep Sports Central - October 20th, 2025

Iowa State University

Nicholas Harmon, Director

High School Writer

Aaron Diaz Mora Composite

Apple Valley High School

Expedition Yeti

Saint Cloud - Tech High School

Tucker Collette, Writer

Nikita Brusso, Writer

College Writer

Derrick Pfingsten Composite

MSU - Moorhead

Nate Coen Composite

MSU - Moorhead

High School Photographer

Mock Car Crash

Saint Cloud - Tech High School

Maren Inkster, Photographer

Benjamin Keil, Photographer

Jonathan Hegge, Photographer

We Need You Here-Music Video

Saint Cloud - Tech High School

Vernon Amundson, Cinematographer

Riley Lundgren, Cinematographer

Alexis Rieke, Cinematographer

Winter Adventures at Tech High School

Saint Cloud - Tech High School

Alex Schaefer, Photographer

Andrew Bares, Photographer

Jonathan Hegge, Photographer

College Photographer

Megan Sirek Composite

MSU - Moorhead

Nate Coen Composite

MSU - Moorhead

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NATIONAL ACADEMY OF TELEVISION ARTS & SCIENCES

The Foundation of the Upper Midwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences – is proud to announce its 2026 Scholarship recipients.

Each year, the Foundation of the UMW Chapter of NATAS awards several scholarships to students within our chapter region (Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and western Wisconsin).

This year, thanks to help from generous sponsorship contributions from the the Ulysses Carlini family, The Beurline Family, The Welch Family as well as our chapter members and past Gold & Silver Circle recipients, we are able to award scholarships to area students! This year's scholarship recipients will receive \$1,500 for tuition & books costs for school in the fall of 2026.

Since 2002, the NATAS-UMW Foundation has awarded 111 scholarships worth \$239,500 to regional students who want to study media production or journalism in college.

The Upper Midwest Emmy® Foundation is a 501(c)(3) and donations to the Scholarship Fund are tax-deductible. You can donate at any time by scanning the QR code below.





Alex Schaefer

St. Cloud Tech High School



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF TELEVISION ARTS & SCIENCES
UPPER MIDWEST FOUNDATION

Welch Family Foundation Media Scholarship

The Welch Family Foundation Media Scholarship was created to support and inspire high school students across the Upper Midwest who are pursuing education and careers in media, communications, journalism, and storytelling. This scholarship reflects the Welch family’s deep belief in the power of education as a pathway to opportunity, leadership, and lifelong impact.

The scholarship honors the legacy of E. Thomas “Tom” Welch, who passed away in 2024. Tom was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, business leader, and lifelong champion of education. He and his wife, Rita, placed education at the center of their family’s values and worked tirelessly to ensure future generations had access to learning and growth opportunities.

Tom’s own story is one of resilience and determination. He lost his father at the age of 9 and grew up on a ranch in North Dakota, where he worked countless hours alongside hired help to support himself and to contribute to his family. Through grit, discipline, and an unwavering commitment to education, Tom earned enough money to put himself through college and later postgraduate law school. It was during his college years that he met the love of his life, Rita, while working at the student union at the University of North Dakota where they both went to college. They married in 1962 and built a life rooted in hard work, integrity, and service to others.

Over the course of his career, Tom became a highly respected banker and business owner, well known throughout the Twin Cities for his leadership, business acumen, and community involvement. Despite his professional success, Tom never forgot his beginnings or the role education played in shaping his future. He instilled those same values in his three children Colleen, Patrick, and Katie—and his 11 grandchildren.



Alex Schaefer’s been living and breathing media both in and out of the classroom.

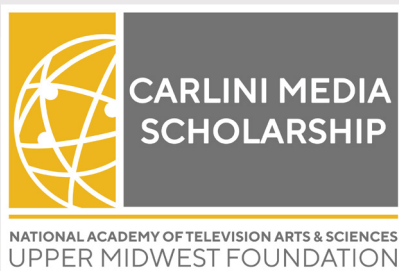
When Alex is not in class at St. Cloud Tech High School, you’ll probably find him at a racetrack capturing high-speed moments with a camera or flying drones for live broadcasts and post-production projects. Working in fast-paced, live event environments has sharpened his ability to think quickly, adapt on the fly, and deliver under pressure.

Alex has spent four years as part of The Tech Morning Show’s media production team, where he’s received four Upper Midwest Emmy® Foundation Student Production Awards and the AV All-Star Award. He’s directed and produced two live streams which gave him hands-on experience in leadership, coordination, and live show execution.

Beyond media, Alex has logged 50+ volunteer hours supporting VEX Robotics events. He’s assisting with setup and technical support. Alex has also served as a mentor during a four-day summer robotics camp for elementary students and helped lead activities at a winter camp for younger kids.



Lizzy Nyoike
University of Minnesota



Lizzy Nyoike used her summer break last year from the University of Minnesota for an incredible opportunity to join the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) Student Multimedia Projects in Cleveland, Ohio — where she pitched stories, sharpened her interviewing skills, and collaborated with passionate student journalists from across the country. It was fast-paced, inspiring, and solidified her love for storytelling.

These days, you can find Lizzy interning at CCX Media, a hyperlocal cablecast news station covering nine northwest suburban cities in Minnesota. She also hosts Northwest City Politics, where Lizzy sits down with local representatives to break down the issues shaping our communities. Whether she’s behind the camera or behind the mic, Lizzy is all about amplifying local voices and making civic conversations accessible.

Outside of media, Lizzy is a Lifetime Girl Scout and currently serves as a Girl Scouts River Valleys National Delegate. Lizbeth volunteers with a BIPOC girls troop, helping uplift and empower the next generation of leaders. She also served as Vice President of the Rebound Inc. Youth Advisory Board in partnership with Hennepin County, advocating for youth voices and community impact.

Storyteller. Community advocate. Leader. And always ready for the next big opportunity.

Ulysses A. Carlini was a pioneer of television, starting one of the first CBS TV stations in the county in 1953, and working in TV for decades in everything from TV program director to announcer, writer, salesman and production to hosting and entertaining kids on “live” TV Saturday Morning Shows as “Peppo the Clown” and “Fire Chief Andy” in the 50s & 60s.

He also managed TV stations in Kentucky, Indiana and Nebraska for more than 60 years including as Vice President/General Manager of KNOP-TV, and created the Greater Nebraska Television, Inc. Network. Ulysses joined other TV legends including Johnny Carson to receive the Nebraska Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame Award, and honored to serve on the National Broadcasting Association as board member in the 1970s.

Ulysses’ media passion was passed down to his family. His daughter-in-law Jodi Ritacca Carlini is an Emmy® Award-winning storyteller, the former President of the Upper Midwest Emmy® Chapter, former NATAS Trustee Alternate, and a 2019 inductee into the Silver Circle Honor Society.

Ulysses’ grandson Joe Carlini received Upper Midwest Emmy® Student Production Awards and Regional Emmy® Awards. Joe is an independent video producer and screenwriter living in Los Angeles.

Besides being a distinguished broadcaster, Ulysses was a WWII veteran who received a Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart for his heroic combat service. Thanks to the educational assistance of the Veterans GI Bill, he was grateful to be the first in his family to go to college, and graduate from DePaul University and receive his master’s degree at Northwestern University.

Thanks to donations from Ulysses’ family, we are proud to honor his legacy with the Carlini Media Scholarship.

Applications are open to all college students seeking leadership roles in media. The Carlini family will give special consideration to a student who is a Gold or Blue Star family member, U.S. veteran or currently serving in the military. We’d like to thank the Carlini family for its generous donations to provide this scholarship



Gretchen Fuller is a Twin Cities native storyteller who feels just as at home behind a camera as she does in a control room.

In Fall 2024, Gretchen served as the Video and Multimedia Intern at The Public Interest Network, where she blended visual storytelling with environmental advocacy. From mission-driven media to game-day excitement, Gretchen has built a dynamic production background — working as a camera operator for NSPN.TV, capturing high school sports across Minnesota, and operating camera for Harvard University Athletics.

Gretchen grew up in Maple Grove and now attends Boston University, where she is completing her undergraduate degree. Gretchen has immersed herself in every corner of production. She's a former member of the Athletics Video Production Crew, operating camera and stepping into technical directing roles. She's worked on a live weekly news broadcast, Good Morning BU, contributed to over 30 class and extracurricular film projects, and serves as a photographer for the university newspaper, The Daily Free Press.

Looking ahead, Gretchen has accepted a place in the Broadcast Journalism MA program at City St George's, University of London for the 2026–27 academic year — an exciting next chapter as she continues sharpening her skills in global media and journalism.

Driven, versatile, and always ready to hit “record,” Gretchen brings passion, precision, and creativity to every production she joins.



Gretchen Fuller

St. George's University
of London



The Beaurline Family Foundation honors the legacy of the late Carl M. and Sandra Jean Beaurline. Post-secondary education for their two children (Carla Jean and Carl John) was extremely important to Carl and Sandy Beaurline. Carl is considered a 1995 Augsburg Alumni and was made “One of Augsburg University’s Own” on October 23, 2018, at age 75. He passed away June 12, 2020, at age 76.

Carl enrolled at Macalester College when he graduated from Humboldt High School in 1961. Unfortunately, he was drafted into the Army during the Vietnam War, but instead chose to enlist in the Navy.

He was a pioneer in the medical device industry (primarily cardiovascular products). Carl was the 113th employee at Medtronic and has over 25 FDA Clearances and 2 Patents. Carl had 6 pages of college classes, certifications, patents, and 22 products by the FDA. Yet, he still had no official college degree.

Carl and his wife Sandy’s Daughter, Carla Beaurline, was inducted into the Silver Circle Honor Society for the Upper Midwest Emmy’s on October 15, 2022.

A lifelong Minnesota native, Carla is the current Founder and Owner of Around Town TV & Around Town Media. Around Town TV started its 20th year on air January 2022 and is Minneapolis/St. Paul’s longest airing TV community showcase.

Carla’s on-air resume includes a 13-year stint with Shop NBC, guest host for QVC, a host for Talk of the Twin Cities, and providing her talents as an on-air spokesperson for many Twin Cities-based businesses. Carla graduated from Augsburg College in 1991 with a double major in Communications and Sociology.

The Beaurline Family Foundation supports higher education and create opportunities for youth. “Your best investment is your education.” Carl Beaurline



High School Talent - News or Sports

Carleigh Bogue Composite

New Life Academy

Kate Soledad Sanchez Composite

Apple Valley High School

College Talent - News or Sports

Abby Altman Composite

Iowa State University

Annie Witt

South Dakota State University

John McLean Composite

University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

Nathan Porter Composite

Iowa State University

Noah Grant Composite

St. Cloud State University

Olivia Stepes Composite

St. Cloud State University

Selah Jacoway Composite

MSU - Moorhead

High School Sports Story

Changes Create Championship Caliber Team

Eastview High School

Avery Nielson, Editor

Hannah Sinkinson, Photographer

Nayla Venter, Photographer

March or Tackle

Aberdeen Central High School

Mason Muilenburg, Producer

Erich Schaffhauser, Advisor

One of Ours: Greta Marcott

Apple Valley High School

Lyric Schowalter, Editor

Mia Holmstrom, Reporter

Ikram Madar, Editor

Ryan Franus, Advisor

Andrew McCluskey, Advisor

One of Ours: Kamran Wimberly

Apple Valley High School

Abby Garner, Writer

Kalaysia Poindexter, Photographer

Angela Busia, Editor

Amina Mussa, Producer

Ryan Franus, Advisor

College Sports Story

A Partnership of Progress

Bethany Lutheran College

Emily Doyle, Editor

Caitlin Clark's return

University of Iowa

Elise Gan, Reporter

Collin Carrithers, Reporter

Cole Krueger, Reporter

Ryan Paris, Reporter

Golden Touch: Back-to-Back

St. Cloud State University

Savannah Reinke, Producer

Iowa-Nebraska Football

University of Iowa

Elise Gan, Reporter

On the Pitch: Gretta Macdonald

St. Cloud State University

Savannah Reinke, Producer

St. Thomas employee set for second Paralympics

University of St. Thomas

Adam Mueller, Reporter

High School Public Affairs / Community Service

Black Business Week

RYSE: SPEAK MPLS

Saty Jaimes-Botello, Director

Aminah Turner, Director

James Harris, Advisor

Cooks for Kids

Eastview High School

Hannah Sinkinson, Reporter

Nayla Venter, Photographer

Give Today Receive Tomorrow

Aberdeen Central High School

Mason Muilenburg, Producer

Erich Schaffhauser, Advisor

Mental Health

Eastview High School

Mia Noonan, Solo Storyteller

OHS Food Cupboard Helps Combat Food Insecurity

Oskaloosa High School

Logan Lint, Editor

Kylie Owens, Reporter

Kim Gile, Advisor

College Public Affairs/Community Service

Du-Valor

Loras College

Mason Marrari, Producer

Scooters Push Safety Guidelines

University of Iowa

Liz Schultz, Reporter

Student's Free Speech on Campus

University of Iowa

Morgan Burhans, Reporter

TEDx St. Cloud - Stephen Rider

St. Cloud State University

Mya Fryckman, Director

Savannah Reinke, Producer

The Reality of Underage Drinking Culture

University of Iowa

Hannah Lipski, Reporter

High School Magazine Program

A Very Special EagleEye - Episode 250

Apple Valley High School

Carter Hanson, Reporter

Frankie Warumzer, Reporter

Coda Nguyen, Reporter

Ash Pazdernik, Writer

Max Uchenik, Editor

Mohamed Mohamed, Producer

Angelo Brown, Photographer

Jacob Hanson, Producer

Alvin Souriyong, Photographer

Andrew McCluskey, Advisor

Eagle Zone 9.24.25

Aberdeen Central High School

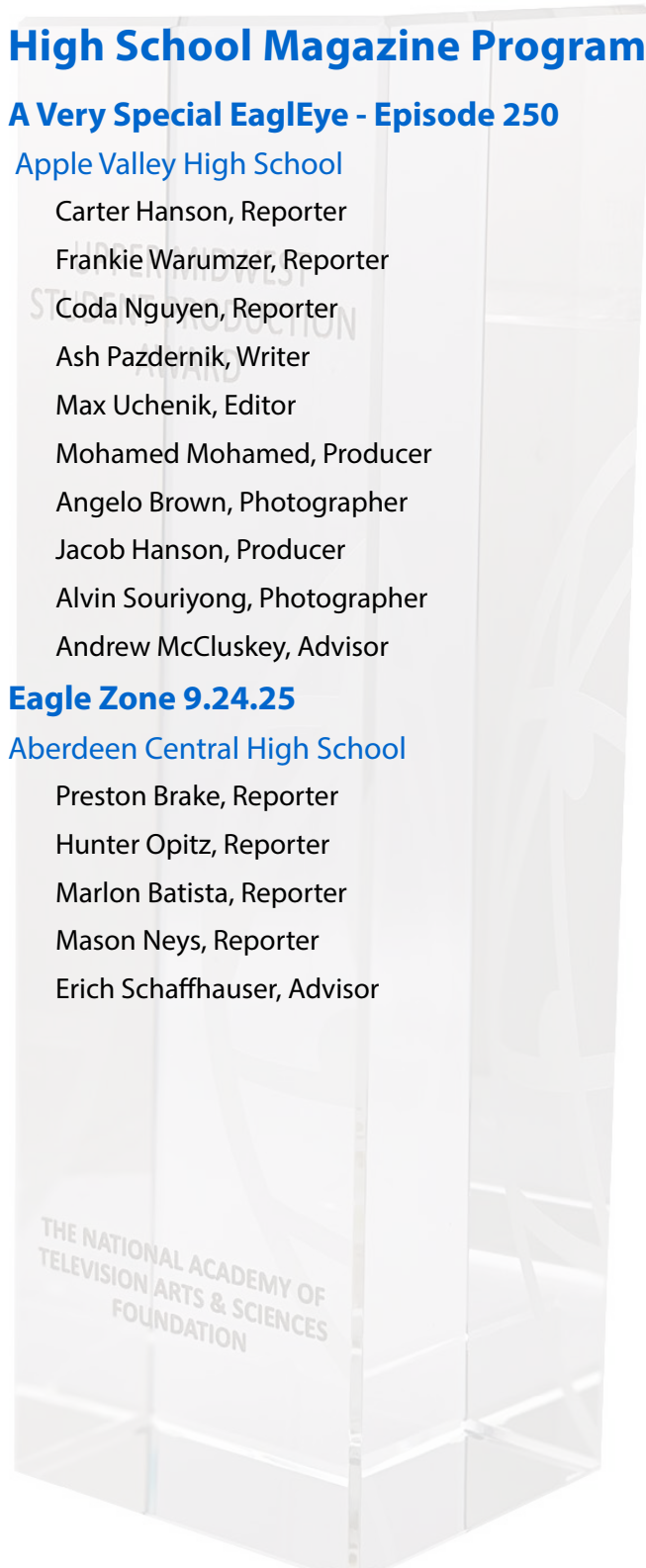
Preston Brake, Reporter

Hunter Opitz, Reporter

Marlon Batista, Reporter

Mason Neys, Reporter

Erich Schaffhauser, Advisor



Tech Morning Show S7/E9

Saint Cloud - Tech High School

Riley Lundgren, Host
Addison Wallace-Jones, Host
Benjamin Keil, Writer
Ava Bauck, Writer
Abrielle Bushman, Writer
Alex Schaefer, Technical Director
Theodore Klaverkamp, Director
LiYun Nelson, Editor
Salmo Abdi, Reporter
Kacilynn Dobbs, Solo Storyteller
Andrew Bares, Photographer
Vernon Amundson, Photographer
Aidan Kiffmeyer, Photographer
Matthew Keil, Advisor

The Flash 10.8.25

Eastview High School

Kirthana Rajulapati, Reporter
Mia Noonan, Reporter

College Magazine Program

Campus News 4-26-25

MSU - Moorhead

Chris Hovden, Producer
Nate Coen, Producer
Drew Berg, Producer
Aaron Quanbeck, Advisor

Huskies On The Road - Season 1, Episode 1

St. Cloud State University

Mason Kroll, Producer
Joey Guzek, Producer
Benjamin Koshiol, Producer
Calvin Amundson-Geisel, Producer
Mackenzie Hareland, Producer

Media for Change: The Pursuit of Happiness

University of Northern Iowa

Cade Williams, Photographer
Luis Alvarez, Producer
Kyle Williams, Producer
Daniel X. Mitchell, Producer
Cameron Rausch, Director
Ethan Vogt, Director
Karson Kleve, Audio
Francesca Soans, Advisor

The Collegian Report Magazine Show

South Dakota State University

Emily Attrill, Director
Emily DeCock, Producer
Brayden Byers, Producer

High School Live Sporting Event / Game

Boys' Hockey: The Final Battle of Bloomington

Bloomington Educational Community Television (BEC-TV)

Thomas Fyler, Producer
Ian Ries, Audio
Brayden Kinney, Photographer
Andrew Marotz, Photographer
Hailey Schwain, Video Replay
Connell Krouth-Chelmo, Photographer
Paul Fourniea, Advisor

Football: Kennedy at Jefferson

Bloomington Educational Community Television (BEC-TV)

Thomas Fyler, Producer
Ian Ries, Director
Gabe Duits, Audio
Andrew Ingebritsen, Graphic Artist
Brayden Kinney, Photographer
Aiden Akif, Photographer
Shania Batchelder, Photographer
Colton Grimme, Video Replay
Paul Fourniea, Advisor

UPPER MIDWEST
STUDENT PRODUCTION
AWARD

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF
TELEVISION ARTS & SCIENCES
FOUNDATION

Lynx vs Bulldogs Boys Wrestling

Webster City High School

Evangeline Streigle, Technical Director
Tony Williams, Photographer
Kendra Schultz, Photographer
John Wilwerding, Sports Anchor
Braxton Flattery, Sports Anchor
Austin Priborsky, Advisor
Mark Murphy, Advisor

Tiger Robotics Competition

Saint Cloud - Tech High School

Alex Schaefer, Producer
Benjamin Keil, Photographer
Andrew Bares, Audio
Aidan Kiffmeyer, Audio
Jonathan Hegge, Photographer
Matthew Keil, Advisor

College Live Sporting Event / Game

2025 CCHA Mason Cup Championship Game

Bethany Lutheran College

Skylar Fisher, Producer
Jaksyn Graham, Director

Football: Loras vs Simpson

Loras College

Brock Booth, Play-by-Play
David Peters, Analyst
Nora Bruxvoort, Director

Men's Basketball: Bethel vs. Augustana

Bethel University

Paige Drew, Director
Tyler Gustafson, Talent: Play-by-Play
Weston Catton, Video Replay
Calvin Bloomquist, Talent: Sports Analyst
Symone Harms, Reporter
Aiden Penner, Reporter
Bengt Mulberry, Photographer
Jesus Arriaza-Lopez, Photographer
Elliot Dickson, Photographer
Jacob Marziano, Photographer
Ryken Kulenkamp, Photographer

Men's Hockey - St. Cloud State vs Denver

St. Cloud State University

Mya Fryckman, Director

High School Promotional Video

ATEC

Aberdeen Central High School

Jackson Board, Producer
Erich Schaffhauser, Advisor

Business Electives

Eastview High School

Amy Nguyen, Producer
Sophia Barylo, Editor
Kevin Burch, Cinematographer

Nevermore Sock Puppet Promotion

New Life Academy

Elizabeth Collins, Producer
Rylan Hunt, Writer
Ellie Fredrickson, Advisor

Zach in the Box Choir Promo

New Life Academy

Zachary Dzioba, Producer
Ellie Fredrickson, Advisor

College Promotional Video

2025 Minnesota State Men's Hockey Hype Video

Bethany Lutheran College

Luke Haines, Producer

Bethel Men's Basketball Intro 2025-26

Bethel University

Ryken Kulenkamp, Producer

Weston Catton, Producer

Bengt Mulberry, Photographer

Jacob Marziano, Photographer

Sam Sheedlo, Editor

Tyler Gustafson, Audio

Bethel Track and Field Intro 2025-26

Bethel University

Symone Harms, Producer

Aiden Penner, Producer

Jesus Arriaza-Lopez, Producer

Paige Drew, Producer

Bethel Volleyball Intro 2025

Bethel University

Elliot Dickson, Producer

Kaitlyn Baker, Producer

Esperanza Ortega, Producer

Bryna Eigenfeld, Producer

Huskies On The Road Trailer

St. Cloud State University

Mason Kroll, Producer

Benjamin Koshiol, Producer

Joey Guzek, Producer

Calvin Amundsen-Geisel, Producer

MacKenzie Hareland, Producer

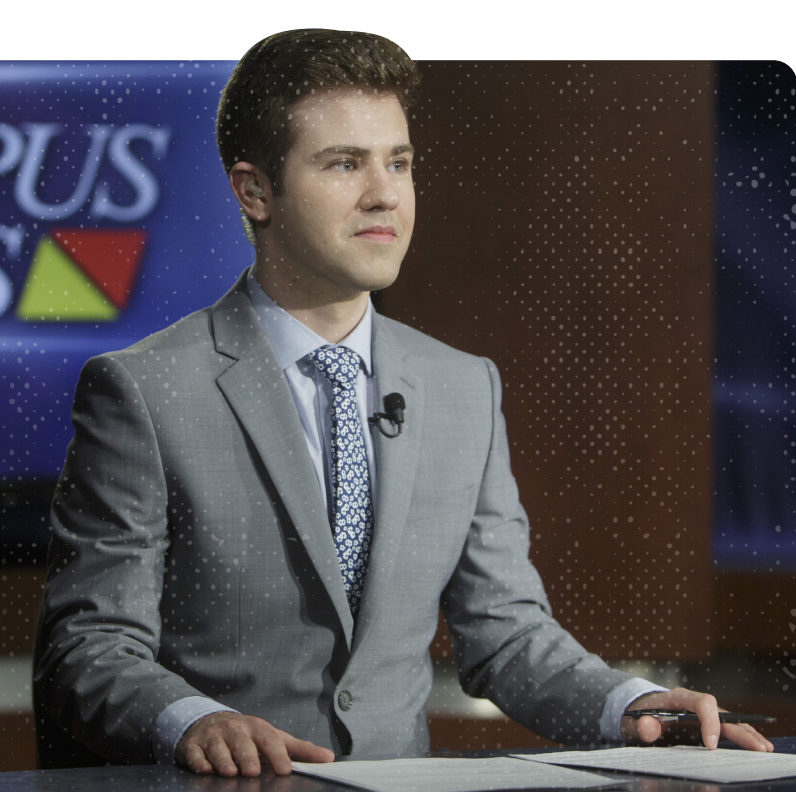
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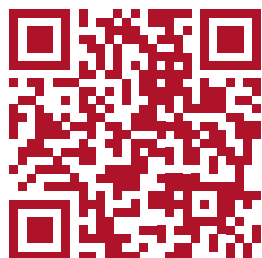
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- **Integrated Advertising and Public Relations**
- **Multimedia Journalism**
- **Photojournalism**



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MOORHEAD

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FOUNDATION

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION & JOURNALISM

Contact Denise Gorsline

☎ 218.477.2983 ✉ gorsline@mnstate.edu

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2026 Student AV All Star Honorees

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF TELEVISION ARTS & SCIENCES – UPPER MIDWEST FOUNDATION recognizes students who are an incredible technical asset to the overall success of a school or non-profit educational student video media program.

Educators could nominate a junior or senior from their school or organization's media program. These are the behind-the-scenes, technical, dependable and engaged students in the video program or club. The go-to students who help keep the school's content on the air.



Ava LaValle
New Life Academy

Ava LaValle is the creative force behind New Life Academy's weekly news show introductions.

Ava brings fresh ideas and bold energy to every episode. Whether it's an animated sequence, a themed intro for Homecoming or Theater Week, or a clever twist on a classic TV show opening, she writes, directs, edits, and often animates it all — sometimes on very short notice.

Ava is skilled in scriptwriting and knowledgeable in Adobe Premiere, Adobe Fresco, directing, and sound mixing. She is a reliable leader who can take a project from concept to completion. She also produces videos for the robotics team, showcasing her versatility as a storyteller.

Beyond her technical talent, Ava excels at collaboration — creating space for others' ideas while confidently guiding the overall vision. Her creativity, willingness to try new techniques, and constant innovation have elevated the school's entire news program.

High School Hard News Report

Bats

Aberdeen Central High School

Hunter Opitz, Multimedia Journalist (MMJ)
Erich Schaffhauser, Advisor

Bus Shortages

Eastview High School

Anais Moti, Reporter
Kami Obeng, Photographer

Homecoming Traditions Then & Now

Apple Valley High School

Mariana Abaunza Hernandez, Reporter
Emma Michel, Photographer
Eileen Moreno Torres, Editor
Andrew McCluskey, Advisor
Ryan Franus, Advisor

Lunch Rush

Eastview High School

Amy Nguyen, Reporter
Cadence Gensmer, Photographer
Kevin Burch, Photographer
Sophia Barylo, Photographer

Osprey in Eagle Territory

Apple Valley High School

Ashton Drahos, Editor
Sarah Taleb, Photographer
Dayana Fuentes Castanon, Photojournalist
Ashley Ortiz Sion, Reporter
Ryan Franus, Advisor

College Hard News Report

From Washington D.C. to Iowa City: No Kings

University of Iowa

Kayla Smith, Reporter
Kabedi Mutamba, Reporter

ICE Detainment

University of Iowa

Collin Carrithers, Reporter

Student Narcan Bill

MSU - Moorhead

Drew Berg, Reporter
Aaron Quanbeck, Advisor

UMN Workers Rally for Academic Freedom

University of Minnesota - Hubbard School of Journalism

Eitan Schoenberg, Multimedia Journalist (MMJ)

High School Feature News Report

Break Dancing

Eastview High School

Sophia Barylo, Reporter
Kevin Burch, Photographer

Cafeteria Staff Appreciation

Apple Valley High School

Aaron Diaz Mora, Writer
Kate Soledad Sanchez, Reporter
Estrella Dominguez Diaz, Editor
LaJoia Shepherd, Photographer
Andrew McCluskey, Advisor

Local Eats: Ajeen Bakery

Apple Valley High School

Kareena Amnay, Reporter
Aishah Ahmed, Editor
Rayan Khalif, Photographer
Andrew McCluskey, Advisor
Tim Sheehan, Advisor

Teen Sleep Habits

Apple Valley High School

Kate Soledad Sanchez, Reporter
Estrella Dominguez Diaz, Photographer
Andrew McCluskey, Advisor
Ryan Franus, Advisor
Tim Sheehan, Advisor

College Feature News Report

Iowa City Middle Schooler Cooks Up a Storm

University of Iowa

Kabedi Mutamba, Reporter

Lift Heavy, Live Strong - Joshua Neumann's Story

St. Cloud State University

Savannah Reinke, Producer

Mime Workshop

MSU - Moorhead

Dallas Korelc, Reporter

Aaron Quanbeck, Advisor

NDSU Kiddie Days

MSU - Moorhead

Selah Jacoway, Reporter

Aaron Quanbeck, Advisor

Two Bands, Part 1

Iowa State University

Abby Altman, Reporter

Matthew Nielsen, Photographer

Two Bands, Part 2

Iowa State University

Abby Altman, Reporter

Matthew Nielsen, Photographer



Mya Fryckman

St. Cloud State University

UPPER MIDWEST
STUDENT PRODUCTION
AWARD

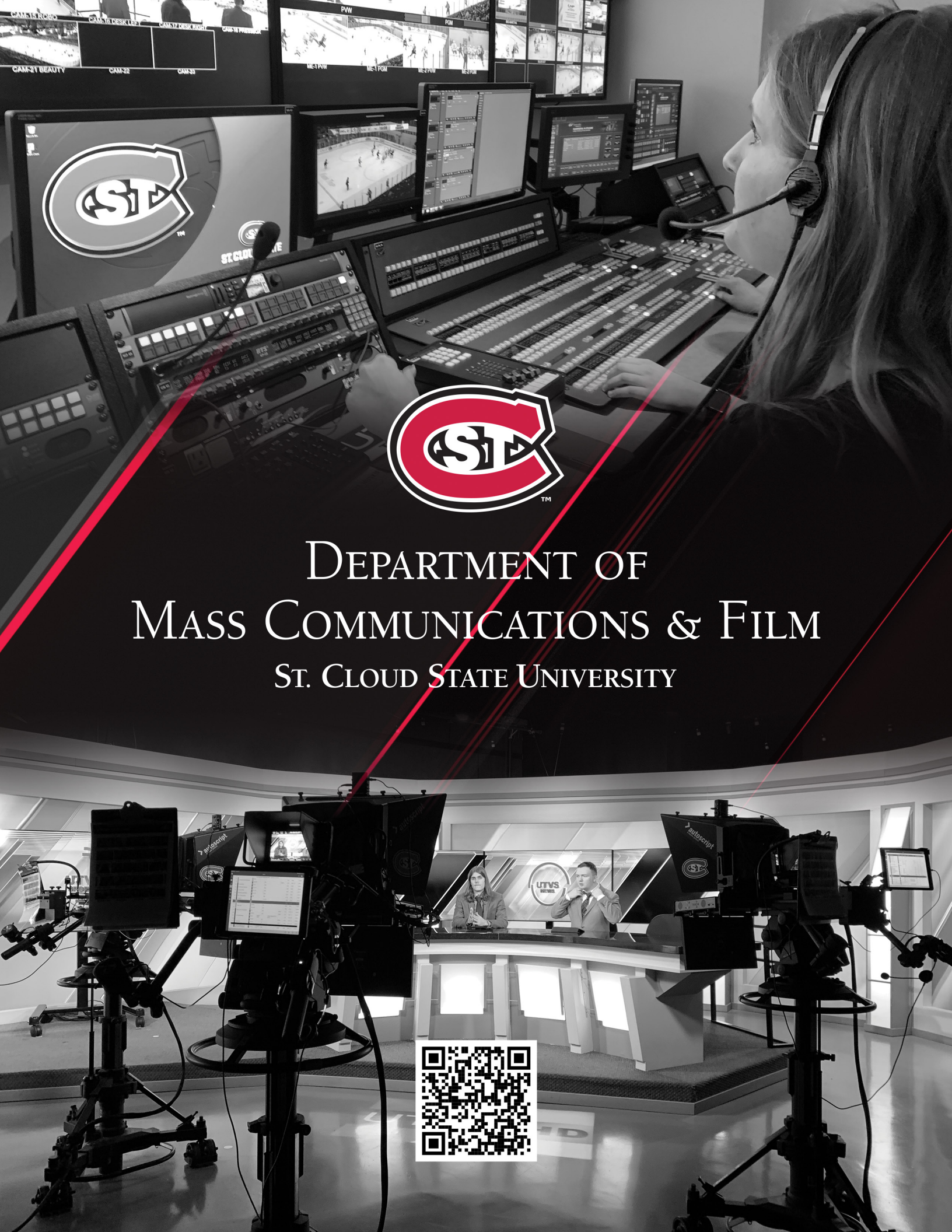
Mya Fryckman is a powerhouse in live production and broadcast leadership. Mya is currently Station Manager of UTVS Television at St. Cloud State University. She guides the daily operations and long-term vision of the campus station, balancing creativity with technical precision and strong team leadership.

From directing live DI hockey broadcasts on Fox9 and CW Twin Cities to producing large-scale events like KVSC Trivia Weekend and TEDx St. Cloud, Mya thrives under pressure. She's led everything from live studio shows to multi-day coverage, calling shots, managing crews, coordinating talent, and ensuring every broadcast meets professional standards.

A four-year broadcast student engineer, Mya brings exceptional technical expertise in signal flow, routing, live switching, encoding, and troubleshooting — often solving problems before others even see them.

She understands production from every angle, from big-picture strategy to perfectly wrapped over-under cables.

Confident, collaborative, and highly skilled, Mya doesn't just run productions — she elevates them.



DEPARTMENT OF
MASS COMMUNICATIONS & FILM
ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY



High School Headline News

Eagle Zone Mobile 10.1.25

Aberdeen Central High School

Delainey Falken, Producer
Ellie Isaak, Producer
Daviour Williams, Producer
Brady Heilman, Editor
Erich Schaffhauser, Advisor

Tech Morning Show S6/E11

Saint Cloud - Tech High School

Tucker Collette, News Anchor
Nikita Brusso, News Anchor
Andrew Bares, Sports Anchor
Alex Schaefer, Technical Director
Benjamin Keil, News Anchor
Maren Inkster, News Anchor
Aprilia Borchert, Weather Anchor
Jonathan Hegge, Photographer
LiYun Nelson, Editor
Matthew Keil, Advisor

College Headline News

Husky Headlines - November 5th, 2025

St. Cloud State University

Mya Fryckman, Producer
Thomas Riess, Producer

Johnnie Bennie Campus News - 2/7/2025

College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University

Olivia Smith, Producer
Chloe Moore, Producer
Gabe Evenocheck, Technical Director
Landon Muonio, Audio
Ben Bugbee, News Anchor
Dasha Gray, News Anchor
Pola Milosz, Weather Anchor
Ethan Wittrock, Advisor

High School Newscast

Eagle Zone Live 11.20.25

Aberdeen Central High School

Mason Muilenburg, News Anchor
Logan Glodrey, Reporter
Abdallah Osman, Reporter
Yandel Martinez, Reporter
Erich Schaffhauser, Advisor

EagleEye Episode 251

Apple Valley High School

Mariana Abaunza Hernandez, News Anchor
Emma Michel, News Anchor
Eileen Moreno Torres, Director
Ashton Drahos, Producer
Ava Lopez, Producer
Najma Mohamed, Photographer
Andrew McCluskey, Advisor
Ryan Franus, Advisor
Tim Sheehan, Advisor

New Life News Episode 813

New Life Academy

Camden Fischer, News Anchor
Carleigh Bogue, News Anchor
Nolan Bayer, Producer
Ava LaValle, Graphics Animator
Ellie Fredrickson, Advisor

The Flash 12.10.25

Eastview High School

Kierra Sherard, News Anchor
Lilly Blumb, News Anchor

College Newscast

Coyote News: September 17 Newscast

University of South Dakota

Nathan DeGreef, Producer

Jacob Peirce, Producer

DITV Newscast - 05.09.2025

University of Iowa

Johnny Valtman, Director

Kayla Smith, Director

Brady Behrend, Director

Collin Carrithers, Director

Madison Johnson, Director

The Deep Dive: Fall 2025 Top Stories

University of St. Thomas

Eli Bieker, Producer

Grace Woelfel, News Anchor

Lucy Troester, News Anchor

This Week on Campus - December 5th, 2025

Western Iowa Tech

Asha Loutsch, Host

Luke Larson, Host

Ike Scott, Sports Anchor

Evn Amundson, Director

Jonathan Denne, Director

Jack Stahle, Technical Director

Tighe Graves, Audio

Savannah Jones, Reporter

Chris Mansfield, Advisor

UTVS News - December 2nd 2025

St. Cloud State University

Thomas Riess, Producer



Congratulations
to all of the nominees!



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