



James L. Highland

Media Adviser of the Year Award

Sponsors:

Kentucky High School Media Institute
School of Media,
Western Kentucky University

APPLICATION

The application packet consists of

- One-page resume
- Letters of support — no more than four letters please
- Type this information on a separate sheet:
 1. Your Name
 2. Home Address
 3. Home phone
 4. Email
 5. School name
 6. School address
 7. School phone
 8. Name of student media advised
 9. Description of advising experience
 10. List any Teaching Awards, Media Awards, Professional Journalism Activities
- Description/narrative of your experiences in advocating for your students' First Amendment rights and responsibilities (no more than 500 words).

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School of Journalism & Broadcasting

About the award

The Western Kentucky University Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists was advised by James L. Highland for 30 years. In addition to inspiring students to protect journalists' freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment, he has also worked nationwide to assist student publication advisers whose jobs were endangered. As a result of his efforts as vice president for campus chapter affairs of the national SPJ, many newspaper and yearbook advisers still have their jobs, and university administrators have a healthier respect for the First Amendment.

Teachers and administrators face incredible pressures to reduce budgets, cut elective courses and to focus exclusively on achievement testing. They also face pressures to make student publications and broadcasts into public relations tools, representing only mainstream opinions and subjecting content to administrative approval. The Hazelwood Supreme Court decision enabled administrators to deprive students of many rights guaranteed under the First Amendment. Jim Highland worked tirelessly for more than two decades to support and protect Kentucky high school media advisers and their programs, inspiring them to maintain high professional and ethical standards.

The James L. Highland Media Adviser of the Year Award has been established to recognize journalism advisers and media teachers who actively support and protect the First Amendment rights of students through inspiring high ethical and professional standards. In addition, the award will recognize advisers' outstanding achievement in media classrooms and in student publications and broadcasts.

Award benefits

The winner will be presented with a plaque from the WKU School of Journalism and Broadcasting during an awards ceremony at the November 22, 2019, Media Scholars Day at WKU.

Deadline and entry

Entries must be received by October 25, 2019, at 4 p.m. Central Time.

All required materials should be emailed to Sam Oldenburg at samual.oldenburg@wku.edu. Please send one email with all materials attached.

For further information about the James Highland High School Media Adviser of the Year Award, contact Sam Oldenburg at samual.oldenburg@wku.edu.