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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Finnish Journalist to Receive WKU's Fourth Annual Fleischaker/Greene Award for Courageous International Reporting

BOWLING GREEN, KY — The School of Media at Western Kentucky University will welcome Finnish journalist Jessikka Aro to campus Oct. 15, 2019, as the recipient of the fourth annual Fleischaker/Greene Award for Courageous International Reporting.

Aro, an award-winning investigative reporter with the Finnish Broadcasting Company, specializes in Russia, extremism and information warfare. In 2014 she began investigating the pro-Kremlin social media troll techniques and their influence on public debates outside Russia's borders. Today, her reports are widely quoted and used in troll investigations internationally. As a result of her investigations, she became the target of serious and continuing international propaganda and hate speech campaigns.

Aro trains reporters and the general public to recognize and counter online disinformation and recently finished writing an investigative book about the Kremlin's information warfare. She is actively lobbying for better legislation to counter hybrid dangers and protect citizens from state-sponsored online security threats. In July 2019, Aro testified before the U.S. Congress regarding the Kremlin's campaign against the West.

The Award for Courageous International Reporting is given by the Fleischaker/Greene Fund for Excellence in First Amendment Issues at WKU. The award ceremony and Aro's presentation will be held at 7 CDT, Tuesday, Oct. 15, in the Gary Ransdell Hall auditorium on WKU's campus. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information about Aro's visit to campus, contact Teresa Jameson in the School of Media office, at 270-745-4143 or teresa.jameson@wku.edu.

About the Fleischaker/Greene Fund for Excellence

In 2008, Louisville attorneys Jon Fleischaker and Kim Greene created the Fleischaker/Greene Fund for Excellence in First Amendment Issues at Western Kentucky University. The Fund also supports WKU's Fleischaker/Greene Scholars in First Amendment Studies Program, which gives top students in the School of Journalism & Broadcasting the opportunity to take an advanced special topics class and brings nationally recognized speakers in journalism and First Amendment issues to the WKU campus.