



PRESS RELEASE—May 17, 2023 at 9 p.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time

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## **Students win national recognition for communications work**

PURCELLVILLE, VA – Students from throughout the United States are being honored for their outstanding communications efforts.

Nearly 2,000 students participated in this year’s contest sponsored by the National Federation of Press Women Education Fund. Students first competed in a state-wide communications contest and first place winners were selected to advance to the national round of competition. In states where a contest was not offered, NFPW hosted an at-large contest which the first place winners also advancing to the national competition.

Winner of the Julie Hoffman Best of the Best award were the graphics art team of Darshini Shankar, Rose Clark, Tsion Daniel, and Jane Martens, of Carmel, Indiana. They were honored for their graphic illustration in HiLite Newsmagazine, Do You Get Deja Vu? They are splitting a \$250 cash award and their school communications program will also receive a \$250 check.

The first-place winners in each category will receive a \$100 cash prize.

The national winners, announced May 17 in a Zoom ceremony, include:

### **Editorial**

First place –Southwest Career & Technical Academy Editorial Board, Southwest Career & Technical Academy, Las Vegas, Nevada, Affirmative Action — If Ended, Then Mend It

Second place -- Vivian Zhu, Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, Illinois, Challenging the Court of Law

Third place – Justin Ha, Granite Bay High School, Granite Bay, California, GBHS Shouldn’t Remove Content From the English Curriculum

Honorable mention – Maggie Hoppel, Noblesville High School, Noblesville, Indiana, Indiana V. Education; Jaya Khullar, Little Rock Central High School, Little Rock, Arkansas, A Question for the Culture.

### **Opinion**

First place – Isabella Xu, The Nueva School, Los Altos, California, Figure skating's expiration date;

Second place – Lizzy Sidman, Kaneland High School, Elburn, Illinois, The Reasons for Self-Defense Classes.

Third place – Anna Diorio, Inklings News, Westport, Connecticut, The damaging effects of: ‘I’m just teasing.’”

Honorable mentions – Maggie Hoppel, Noblesville High School, Noblesville, Indiana, Blood Money; Jack Baker, Little Rock Central High School, Little Rock, Arkansas, Supreme Court should uphold affirmative action for college admits; Rhys Hals, Strath Haven High School, Wallingford, Pennsylvania, Competitive culture breeds college elitism.

### **News Story**

First place – Jessy Gone, Huntley High School, Huntley, Illinois, Stay Positive Dawgs

Second place – Bailee Conway, Bellwood-Antis High School, Bellwood, Pennsylvania, Covid's lingering effects: Test scores fall with the rest of the nation, but improvements are in place

Third place – Bhakti Patel, Midway High School, Waco, Texas, Better ID Than Sorry

Honorable mentions – Ainsley Meyerson, Westside High School, Omaha, Nebraska, Memorial Soccer Game; Elise Fisher, Granite Bay High School, Granite Bay, California, Parents protest current English curriculum content at recent Site Council meeting.

### **Feature Story**

First place – Audrey Marvin, Har-Ber High School, Springdale, Arkansas, Student rises above behavioral struggles and redefines stereotypes

Second place – Joey Kauffman, The Haverford School, Haverford, Pennsylvania, Controversy swirls around fan section nickname

Third place – Vanessa Moreno, McHenry Community High School, McHenry, Illinois, At the center of ‘the drug triangle’

Honorable mentions – Katherine Heitmann, Sophie Henschel, Campbell Wood and Lyda Cosgrove, Shawnee Mission East High School, Prairie Village, Kansas, The Experience and Evolution; Lyanne Wang and Melina Nath, Acalanes High School, Lafayette, California, Learning to Weather the Storm of Mental Illness; Kimberly MacDonald, Sparkman High School, Huntsville, Alabama, One Donor at a Time.

### **Sports story**

First place – Michael Messele, East Mecklenburg High School, Charlotte, North Carolina, Hohm swims his way to UNC commitment

Second place – Jacob Hawn, Bellwood-Antis High School, Bellwood, Pennsylvania, Referee shortage sweeps the state

Third place – Ivan Ijzerman, Grace Gormley, and Takumi Weimann, Palo Alto High School, Palo Alto, California, California: Taking a Gamble?

Honorable mentions – Talia Moskowitz, Staples High School, Westport, Connecticut, Report highlights impact of wealth inequality on state championships in Connecticut; Claire Steinbrook, Southport High School, Indianapolis, Indiana, Pep it up; Ally SeEVERS, Millard South High School, Omaha, Nebraska, Bye Bye Backflips; Ella McIntyre, Mav Media, Fort Smith, Arkansas, Varsity Volleyball Ends Season in State Finals; Kelly Liu and Shannon Moser, Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, Illinois, Embodying Perfection; Kendall Cope, Sparkman High School, Huntsville, Alabama, Junior Triathlon Athlete Turns Champion.

### **Columns or Blog**

First place – Isabella Xu, The Nueva School, Los Altos, California, Must-read books from 2022

Second place – Karis Chen and Lydia Tong, Bellaire High School, Bellaire, Texas, 'She's not going anywhere'

Third place – Audrey Poynter, Greenwood High School, Greenwood, Indiana, It's time to normalize getting help

Honorable mentions – Teagan Lynch, Millard North High School, Omaha, Nebraska,

Twisted Reality; Greer McAllister, Har-Ber High School, Springdale, Arkansas, Real Life; Kyla Davidson, Sparkman High School, Harvest, Alabama, Senior Talks Mental Health.

### **Review**

First place – Hidayata Fatao, East Mecklenburg High School, Charlotte, North Carolina, Teens relate to HBO's Euphoria, not corrupted by it

Second place – Danielle Shumar, Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis, Indiana, Johnson has another hit on her hands

Third place – Kashvi Nagpal and Camden Wright, Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, Illinois, Spooky Specials."

Honorable mention – Evan Zimmerman, Conestoga Valley High School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Puppets on Broadway.

### **News or Feature Photo**

First place – Riley Eck, Shawnee Mission East High School, Fairway, Kansas, Tireless Fun

Second place – Cayden Gu, Palo Alto Senior High School, Palo Alto, California, Spirit Week – Sophomore class dance

Third place – Chenyao Liu, Carmel High School, Carmel, Indiana, Photo for story on stigma, perception of African-American Vernacular English

### **Sports Photo**

First place – Kelly Montague, Strath Haven High School, West Chester, Pennsylvania, They Can't Stop What They Can't Catch

Second place – Mason Smith, Auburn High School, Auburn, Alabama, Game Winning Touchdown in the Final Four

Third place – Cecilia Gerard, Westside High School, Omaha, Nebraska, Making Waves

Honorable mention – Amy Luttrell, Greenwood High School, Greenwood, Indiana, Fighting for the Ball; Tess Hubbard, Kirkwood High School, Kirkwood, Missouri, Turkey Day Game Nov. 24, 2022.

### **Cartooning**

First place – Arcade Encarnacion, Southwest Career & Technical Academy, Las Vegas, Nevada, TRUMPCORE 2022

Second place – Cecilia Urbanski, Marian High School, Omaha, Nebraska, Proud to be an American

Third place – Aila Cashatt, Har-Ber High School, Springdale, Arkansas, Carrying the Load.

### **Graphics/Photo Illustration**

First place – Darshini Shankar, Rose Clark, Tsion Daniel, and Jane Martens, HiLite Newsmagazine, Carmel, Indiana, Do You Get Deja Vu?

Second place – Esther Chung, Palo Alto High School, Palo Alto, California, Cover for Lasting Legacies

Third place – Olivia Lake, Sparkman High School, Madison, Alabama, Serial Killers Should Not Be Admired  
Honorable mention – Lacey Groover, Northern Lehigh High School, Slatington, Pennsylvania, The Words Come Flooding Back; Alexis Cobb, Huntley High School, Huntley, Illinois, Black History Month Cover.

### **Single Page Layout**

First place – Jennifer Huang and Kelly Liu, Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, Illinois, Pencils Down

Second place – Lily Groover, Susan Gilsbach, and Avery Diaz, Northern Lehigh High School, Slatington, Pennsylvania, The Slate front page

Third place – Sydney Fuehringer-Rolles, Westside High School, Omaha, Nebraska, Bow Tie Boys

Honorable mention – Darshini Shankar, HiLite Newsmagazine, Carmel, Athlete Spotlight: Pole vaulter, junior Julia Dong steps into varsity, looks forward to track season; Adya Burdick, Shawnee Mission East High School, Overland Park, Kansas, All About the Music.

### **Double-truck Layout**

First place – Bria Howard, Sparkman High School, Huntsville, Alabama, Creating Confidence

Second place – Timothy Bui, Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, Illinois, Coaching Off-Court

Third place – Alexa Leiting, Millard South High School, Omaha, Nebraska, The Hubbub Surrounding Grub

Honorable mention – Chenyao Liu, Carmel High School, Carmel, Indiana, "SOUR" Discography; Lily Daniel and Brooke Hudacek, Palo Alto High School, Palo Alto, California, Off the Slopes.

### **Environment**

First place – Kaila Chun, Kylie Tzeng, and McKenna Rausch, Palo Alto High School, Palo Alto, California, The Place We Call Home

Second place – Anna Olp, Kaneland High School, Elburn, Illinois, What climate change looks like in the midwest region

Third place – Madeline Phuong, Homestead High School, Fort Wayne, Indiana, The Reality of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Honorable mention – Cecelia Urbanski, Marian High School, Papillion, Nebraska, How far is too far?

Resisting climate change; Steele Matthews and Gryffyn May, Little Rock Central High School, Little Rock, Arkansas, Board Considers Solar Energy at Schools; Julia Barbati and Danielle Berdik, Shaler Area High School, Glenshaw, Pennsylvania, Sustainability class helps preserve another green space; Nathen Going, Caesar Rodney High School, Camden, Delaware, Earth Day - Be Our Change; Rileigh Glassman, Sparkman High School, Harvest, Alabama, It Is Up To The People To Make Changes to the Environment; and Sama Lilo, Albuquerque School of Excellence, Albuquerque, New Mexico, "ICE STUPAS," Will it Help Mother Earth?

### **Radio or Podcast Prepared Report**

First place -- Farhana Khan, Mount Pleasant High School, Wilmington, Delaware,

Frozen at MPHS TCC

Second place – Carolina Cuadros, Katya Dubinin, and Collin Fan, Carlmont High School, Belmont, California, Insulin Prices are on the Rise

Third place – Timmy VanEtten, Homewood-Flossmoor High School, Flossmoor, Illinois, Lunch Prices;

Honorable mention – Brody Heidemann, Gretna High School, Omaha, Nebraska, GHS NFL Playoff Predictions.

### **Radio/Television Interview or Talk Show**

First place -- – Patrice St. Jean, Homewood-Flossmoor High School, Flossmoor, Illinois, Student Activists;  
Second place – Max Coughlin, Westside High School, Omaha, Nebraska, Full Court Press  
Third place -- Gemma Calabria, Mount Pleasant High School, Wilmington, Delaware, GSA TCC  
Honorable mention – Sofia Reyes, Ally Williams, Madds Dittmer, Tyree Anthony, and Spencer Smith, Oakland Unified School District, Oakland, California, The Town Talks Season 2 Episode 2 Rafael Casal; Marcela Aju Mejia, Stamford High School, Stamford, Connecticut, Getting to know our Superintendent.

### **Best Newscast: Radio or Television**

First place – Nevaeh Robinson and Carsyn Hobson, Bryant High School, Bryant, Arkansas, Hornet News Now Episode 2 2022  
Second place – HSETV staff, Grace Ballard, Molly Kellum, Halle Guiden, Meghan Haws, Kenneth Kay, Luke Dodd, Joshua Coulon, Kaiden Corliss, Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers, Indiana, HSETV Royal Rundown  
Third place – Umanga Ghimire and Emily Jasa, Westside High School, Omaha, Nebraska, Warrior Television Broadcast Package  
Honorable mentions – Finnegan Courtney, Staples High School, Westport, Connecticut, On The Wreckord - Episode 6; Brendan Smith, Mount Pleasant High School, Wilmington, Delaware, Tiger TV | October 10th, 2022; and The Phoenix Times, Albuquerque School of Excellence, Albuquerque, New Mexico, The Phoenix Times SY 22 23 Opening Broadcast.

### **Video News Story**

First place – Ellie Lakatos and Travis McGinnis, Southwest Career & Technical Academy, Las Vegas, Nevada, 'GIRLS IN TECH' Promotes STEM Careers  
Second place – Alexis Gleim and Alex Foster, Noblesville High School, Noblesville, Indiana, Classroom Changes  
Third place – Chelsea Jensen and Carsyn Hobson, Bryant High School, Bryant, Arkansas, Financial Reality Fair  
Honorable mentions – Aneesh Tiwari, Palo Alto Senior High School, Palo Alto, California, Palo Alto Renames Columbus Day Holiday; Azam Hostetler, Joseph A. Foran High School, Milford, Connecticut, Holocaust Survivor Interview; Jady Paul and Maddie McGee, Millard North High School, Omaha, Nebraska, Extra Extra On Stage; Ethan Petro, Caesar Rodney High School, Camden, Delaware, World History Pumpkins.

### **Video Feature Story**

First place – Sylvan Prey-Harbaugh and Joyce Huang, Strath Haven High School, Wallingford, Pennsylvania, Haven on TikTok  
Second place – Aubrey Griffin, Donna Unger and McKenzie Vitale, Noblesville High School, Noblesville, Indiana, Ms. Mechanic  
Third place – Linda Lin, Carlmont High School, San Carlos, California, Street Fruit: Peeling back the layers to the street vendor phenomenon  
Honorable mention – Lydia Bruckner, Millard South High School, Omaha, Nebraska, Ready, set, march!; Presley Hudson, Lakeside High School, Hot Springs, Arkansas, Mr. Orr as Santa; Lea Ryndak, Homewood-

Flossmoor High School, Flossmoor, Illinois, Sewing; and Nadine Akumiah, Padua Academy, Wilmington, Delaware, First State Delaware.

### **Video Sports Story**

First place – Nate Locker and Kalel Fargo, Homewood-Flossmoor High School, Flossmoor, Illinois, Bigger Than Basketball

Second place – Nikhil Behal, Max Bonnstetter, Emily Neumann, Nelda Kerr and Mario Capitelli, Palo Alto Senior High School, Palo Alto, California, Long Shot

Third place – Trace Downs and Carter Maksymovitch, Noblesville High School, Westfield, Indiana, "It's Video Games, Man..."

Honorable mention – Joe Vermillion and Umanga Ghimire, `Westside High School, Omaha, Nebraska, Kicker Tristan Alvano reflects on high school career and looks toward future; Cordie Burt, Auburn High School, Auburn, Alabama, Tiger TV | Auburn Football vs Thompson Preview; Liv Timp, Wylie Crews, Mason Heller, and Owen Backer, Kirkwood High School, Kirkwood, Missouri, Kirkwood vs Lindbergh. Boys Varsity Basketball Game.

### **Yearbook Layout**

First place – Brooklyn Lul, Lexington High School, Lexington, Nebraska, Created to Create

Second Place – Katie Word, Sparkman High School, Madison, Alabama, Go Big Red

Third place – Sophia Scarpaci, Archmere Academy, Wilmington, Delaware, Halloween Page

Honorable mention – Jessica Cabanting, Hermoigne Sarmiento and Alexa Rondez, Southwest Career & Technical Academy, Las Vegas, Nevada, Let's Get Loud Weekly: SEA-KING Out Sea Monkeys; Kaylee Ostrowski, Freedom Area High School, Freedom, Pennsylvania, Hands-on learning.

### **Yearbook Photo**

First place – Josie Torres, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School, Shawnee, Kansas, No More Waiting

Second place – Erica Williams, Sparkman High School, Madison, Alabama, Tuesday Night Lights

Third place – Jesse Navarette, Har-Ber High School, Springdale, Arkansas, Best Show on Turf

Honorable mention – Gabby Theis, Dorchester High School, Friend, Nebraska, Baylor making a chemistry mixture.

### **Yearbook Copywriting**

First place – Nina Kudlacz, Ralston High School, Ralston, Nebraska, For Tanner

Second place – Anna Marciniak, Huntley High School, Huntley, Illinois, Community Contributions

Third place – Mary Kate Gulley, Midway High School, Waco, Texas, Teacher of the Year Cantwell.