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Contact:

Tonya Weber

tweber@netaonline.org

803.978.1575



Celebrating Excellence in Public Media: 57th Public Media Awards *NETA Announces Honorees*

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Columbia, SC – The National Educational Telecommunications Association proudly announces the 57th annual Public Media Awards honorees, recognizing the exceptional achievements of member stations in community engagement, content, education, and marketing and communications. Winners will be revealed on Monday, September 15, during the virtual [2025 NETA Conference](#).

“In a time when connection and community matter more than ever, stations are bringing public media’s mission to life in powerful ways, reflecting the values and vision of the system by serving communities with integrity, innovation, and a deep commitment to storytelling that matters,” said NETA President Eric Hyyppa. “Congratulations to all the honorees. Their work is truly remarkable.”

The Public Media Awards celebrate a mosaic of creative and diverse work that reflects the collective power of public media to educate, inform, inspire, and connect.

With the exception of the overall excellence categories, stations compete within divisions based on their station size. Awards are judged by a group of expert panelists from within the public media system, as well as industry professionals working outside of public media.

57th Public Media Award Honorees:

EDUCATION CATEGORIES

Educational Resources for the Classroom

- Blue Ridge PBS, Virginia Roots, Season 2
- Maryland Public Television, Carl the Collector | PBS LearningMedia Collection
- Prairie Public, Carls's Crates: Classroom Boxes for Neurodiverse Learners
- SCETV, SC Skillionaires
- WHRO, Algebra, Functions, & Data Analysis
- WNET, Mission US: Spirit of a Nation

Educational Resources for the Community

- Blue Ridge PBS, Getting Started in Virginia Schools
- SCETV, Carl the Collector Event
- SCETV, HBCU Week NOW
- WEDU, Learn & Grow Together
- WHRO, Situational Awareness Games and Guides

Teacher Professional Learning

- Alabama Public Television, STEM Days for Teachers
- South Florida PBS, KidVision PreK Teachers Association
- WNET, Serious History, Serious Games: Using "Mission US" in the Classroom to Foster Historical Empathy

Innovation in Education

- Ball State PBS, Public Media Accelerator (PMX) Fellowship Program
- GPB, Georgia Farmcraft
- Maryland Public Television, Maryland Center for Media Literacy & Education
- WHRO, Spotlight Earth

Youth Media – New for 2025!

- Arkansas PBS, Student-Led Sports Social Video Marketing
- Ball State PBS, Meet the Artists - News Feature
- PBS North Carolina, Excellence in Wilmington
- PBS Western Reserve, By Nature's Design
- UEN, Students in Focus

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CATEGORIES

Local Project

- Kansas City PBS, Reel Black Film Fest Presented by Kansas City PBS
- Kansas City PBS, "We Are Latinos III" Film Screening
- SCETV, Never Forgotten: The Emanuel Nine
- VPM, When, Then, 90by5
- WTCI PBS, Activism: "Our Voice" in Action
- WUCF, America250 Initiative: Civic Engagement, History, and Unity
- WVIA, American Dreams

National Project

- Arkansas PBS, Leonardo da Vinci Day
- Nashville PBS, Leonardo da Vinci Youth Maker-Mixer
- Panhandle PBS, Leonardo da Vinci in the Texas Panhandle: Panhandle PBS Community Engagement
- WNET, American Masters Renegades Series National Station Engagement: Reaching New Audiences Through Representation and Accessibility
- WTCI PBS, Leonardo da Vinci Screening Event

Community Initiative

- Basin PBS, Basin PBS Back to School Festival
- SCETV, Never Forgotten: The Emanuel Nine
- SCETV, SCETV Safe Space: Navigating Stress Close to the Edge
- VPM, Racism: Challenging Perceptions

Kids & Family

- Nashville PBS, Live with 100 Black Kings of Middle Tennessee
- Rhode Island PBS, Rhode Island's Week of the Young Child Celebration
- WMHT, Carl the Collector's Museum Adventure: Discover: Collect, Explore!
- WNET, Cyberchase: Green It Up
- WUCF, Vystar Preschool Book Drive
- WVIA, Carl the Collector Family Engagement

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS CATEGORIES

Integrated Media Campaign

- PBS North Carolina, PBS NC's Elections 2024
- Twin Cities PBS, "Stage" Season 4: Connecting Artists and Audiences Across Platforms
- Twin Cities PBS, Stand Up for Twin Cities PBS
- WNIT, My WNIT Story

Special Event

- Northern California Public Media, 3rd Annual NorCal Public Media Food and Wine Awards
- PBS Wisconsin, "Funk it up!" with PBS Wisconsin
- SCETV, SCETV celebrates America's 250 anniversary with filmmaker Ken Burns
- WHRO, 2025 TowneBank Spelling Bee
- WTCI, Ale tRail

Promotion

- Blue Ridge PBS, The Prairie Preacher - Trailer
- SCETV, Arriving: Leo Twiggs and his Art
- SCETV, Graceball: The Story of Bobby Richardson
- SCETV, Southern Songwriters with Patrick Davis

Social Media

- Northern California Public Media, The Center for Environmental Reporting
- PBS North Carolina, Sci NC
- Rhode Island PBS, Rhode Island 101
- Twin Cities PBS, Stand Up for Twin Cities Social Media Campaign
- WNET, Cyberchase: Protect My Public Media

Annual Report

- Ball State Public Media, Annual Report
- Houston Public Media, 2024 Impact Report
- Northern California Public Media, 2024 Local Content and Service Report to the Community
- OETA, 2024 Local Content Service Report
- PBS Wisconsin, 2024 Annual Report
- Twin Cities PBS, 2024 Report to the Community
- VPM, Annual Report (2023 - 2024)
- WVIA, 2024 Community Impact Report

CONTENT CATEGORIES

News & Public Affairs

- AZPM, AZPM Presents Death Behind Bars
- Blue Ridge PBS, What it Takes, Season 6
- Kansas City PBS, Kansas City Week in Review - "On the Ballot" Special
- Nebraska Public Media, "What If...Nebraska" Series
- PBS Western Reserve, City Centric
- Wyoming PBS, A State of Mind: High Risk

Cross-Platform Content – New for 2025!

- Austin PBS, Decibel
- Austin PBS, Pan Pals
- SCETV, Never Forgotten: The Emanuel Nine
- VPM, Finding Edna Lewis
- WHRO, Democracy at Work
- WMHT, Reflections on the Erie Canal Series
- WVIA, Aging Together in Pennsylvania

Cultural Feature

- Arkansas PBS, Passage
- Northwest Public Broadcasting, Billy's Magic
- Panhandle PBS, The West Texas Boys
- PBS North Carolina, My Home - Swan Song
- SCETV, Arriving: Leo Twiggs and His Art
- WLAE, Blue - The Life and Art of George Rodrigue
- WMHT, North to New York; The Great Migration in NY's Capital Region
- WNIT, Echoes of the Great Migration - Family Stories of Resilience

Historical Feature

- Connecticut Public, Where Then Shall We Go?
- Maryland Public Television, 6 Days
- New Mexico PBS, Tara Walch
- OETA, Back in Time: Oklahoma's Nazi Prisoners
- PBS Utah, Hollywood in Utah
- Prairie Public, Trapped in Paradise
- WGTE, Magic of the Old West End
- WHUT, The Legacy Series: Black Georgetown
- WKU PBS, Jonesville: When Sunflowers Fall
- WVIA, VIA Short Takes: The Day Carbondale Stood Still

Topical Feature

- Idaho Public Television, Outdoor Idaho: Beyond the Buzz
- KMOS, Fentanyl and Families in the Midwest
- Northern California Public Media, Climate California: Second Language
- Public Media Connect, Jeffrey's Journey
- WEDU, Good Natured
- WKAR, Support Line: America and Track to Ukraine
- Wyoming PBS, Headwinds: Bikepacking the Red Desert

Education

- GBH, High School Quiz Show
- SCETV, Community Forum on Education Tour
- West Virginia Public Broadcasting, Almost Heavens
- WGTE, Taking Ownership of Your Health
- WHRO, Intergalactic Goodspeed

Visual Arts

- Blue Ridge PBS, Artistic Encounters: Meet the Artist
- LPB, Ziggy's Arts Adventure! Season 3
- PBS Utah, The Neon Comeback: Local Artists Transform Salt Lake's State Street
- Nebraska Public Media, Brandon Bailey's Vision of the West (Nebraska Stories)
- Nebraska Public Media, "What If...Nebraska" Drone Show
- Northern California Public Media, Connect the Bay: Elba Raquel
- OETA, Gallery America: Harvey Pratt

Performing Arts

- Iowa PBS, Studio 3 Live: The Foxies
- Nebraska Public Media, JAM: The Talbott Brothers
- Northern California Public Media, Connect the Bay: Rising Phoenix Lion Dancers
- PBS SoCal, 2024 Media Access Awards
- WHUT, That DC Sound Pt. 2: Homegrown
- WKU PBS, ROMP - Country GongBang
- WKU PBS, ROMP - Molly Tuttle

Digital Media

- Alabama Public Television, In the Margins
- PBS Wisconsin, Illuminating Cana Island
- WHUT, DECADES: The Sweet Voice of Candy Shannon
- WNET, American Graduate: Jobs Explained
- WNET, Mission US: Spirit of a Nation
- Wyoming PBS, Our Wyoming: Leading the Pack

Short Form

- GPB, Tiny Mic, Big Designs
- Idaho Public Television, Created: Defying Expectations: Yidan Guo
- Nashville PBS, The Good in Us: Voces de Nashville
- Northern California Public Media, Climate California: Explorations
- VPM, 60th Anniversary Short
- WGCU, Reflections of a Colored Girl: Powerful Colored Women
- WNET, Wordsville

Podcast

- Blue Ridge PBS, ActiVAtED Learning, Season 2
- Nashville PBS, A Word on Words
- VPM, RVA's Got Issues - Season 2
- WETA, On Our Minds: Election 2024
- WGTE, Rethinking Jails + Justice
- WNET, Going Wild with Dr. Rae Wynn-Grant

Military Chronicles

- Iowa PBS, Dogs of Service Documentary
- Kansas City PBS, Winning the War: Harry, Ike & the Fight for Democracy
- PBS Utah, Inside the Military's Language Olympics

Visual Design

- Alabama Public Television, In the Margins
- Arizona PBS, Voter Ed
- Austin PBS, Meredith Roberts
- Houston Public Media, Roots of Resistance

Radio – News & Public Affairs

- Alaska Public Media, Talk of Alaska
- Northern California Public Media, The Debate of Measure
- WHRO, Weekly Edition
- WKU NPR, Drying out and starting over: McLean Co. battles back from flooding not seen in 75 years

Radio – Society & Culture

- Northern California Public Media, The Wonderland Radio Hour
- WHRO, Another View: What happened to Alabama?
- WKAR, WKAR Michigan Minutes, 2024
- WKU PBS, 'I would love to know what they are talking about': A Bowling Green group aims to help adult refugees learn English

Radio – Environment

- Alaska Public Media, The Potential for a Mount Spurr eruption | Talk of Alaska
- Northern California Public Media, Savoring Sonoma: Russian Riverkeeper
- WHRO, Hampton coalition fights to protect historic New Deal-era community from flooding

Radio – Local Storytelling

- Ball State Public Media, Pop of Culture
- Northern California Public Media, The 707
- WKU NPR, As Jimmy Carter turns 100

INDEPENDENT PRODUCER CATEGORY

- Alabama Public Television; Kaitlin Smith, William David Glenn, Glynn & Sharon Smith – PARATUS A 20th Anniversary Special
- PBS Western Reserve; Daniel Zietlow, Amir Caspi, Julie Jackson, Ryan Vachon, Amy Turner, Ben Fout, Sarah Kovac, Rebecca Haacker – Gathered in Darkness
- SCETV, PBS North Carolina, and LPB; Nick Price, Heather Leighton – Reel South
- VPM; Kyle Jonas, Ben Saunders, Joey Schihl, Johnny Phan – Chasing Cambodia

OVERALL EXCELLENCE CATEGORIES

Excellence in Education

- Iowa PBS, Educational Impact
- Maryland Public Television, What a Year of Educational Excellence
- SCETV, Evolution & Revolution: Advancing Public Media for All

Excellence in Community Engagement

- Arkansas PBS, Overall Excellence in Community Engagement
- South Florida PBS, Community Outreach

Excellence in Marketing & Communications

- Arkansas PBS, Overall Excellence in Marketing & Communications
- PBS North Carolina
- SCETV, Connecting Communities: Integrated Marketing Excellence
- WHRO, Smarter and Happier

Excellence in Content

- Austin PBS, Made in Austin, Watched Everywhere
- VPM, Original Content
- WMHT, Excellence in Content

Excellence in Innovation

- PBS Appalachia, Overall Excellence in Innovation
- PBS Wisconsin
- WHRO, Time Machine Video

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About NETA

The National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) is a professional association representing 304 member stations in 49 states, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. NETA

provides leadership, general audience content, educational services, professional development, and trusted financial management services, including human resources and benefits administration, to individual public media licensees, their affinity groups, and public media as a whole. For more information, visit netaonline.org and follow us on X [@NETA Tweets](https://twitter.com/NETATweets), Facebook [@NETAstations](https://www.facebook.com/NETAstations), Instagram and Threads [@NETA_grams](https://www.instagram.com/NETA_grams), and LinkedIn [@NETAbusiness](https://www.linkedin.com/company/NETAbusiness).