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Celebrating Excellence in Public Media: 57th Public Media Awards

NETA Announces Winners

September 15, 2025

Columbia, SC – The National Educational Telecommunications Association proudly announces the 57th annual Public Media Awards winners, recognizing the exceptional achievements of member stations in community engagement, content, education, and marketing and communications.

A mosaic of relevant content that reflects both creativity and diversity that paint rich stories of truth and consequence. Piece-by-piece and member-by-member, we come together as choreographers of the public good, to spark more imagination and inspiration than we ever could have alone.

"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 Public Media Award winners. Their work is truly impactful."

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.

View the PMA57 winners' gallery.

57th Public Media Award Winners:

EDUCATION CATEGORIES

Educational Resources for the Classroom

- Division 1 WNET, Mission US: Spirit of a Nation
- Division 2 Blue Ridge PBS, Virginia Roots, Season 2

Educational Resources for the Community

- Division 1 SCETV, Carl the Collector Event
- Division 2 Blue Ridge PBS, Getting Started in Virginia Schools

Teacher Professional Learning

• Division 1 – South Florida PBS, KidVision PreK Teachers Association

Innovation in Education

- Division 1 GPB, Georgia Farmcraft
- Division 2 Ball State PBS, Public Media Accelerator (PMX) Fellowship Program

Youth Media - New for 2025!

- Division 1 Arkansas PBS, Student-Led Sports Social Video Marketing
- Division 2 PBS Western Reserve, By Nature's Design

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CATEGORIES

Local Project

- Division 1 Kansas City PBS, "We Are Latinos III" Film Screening
- Division 2 WVIA, American Dreams

National Project

- Division 1 WNET, American Masters Renegades Series National Station Engagement: Reaching New Audiences Through Representation and Accessibility
- Division 2 WTCI PBS, Leonardo da Vinci Screening Event

Community Initiative

- Division 1 SCETV, Never Forgotten: The Emanuel Nine
- Division 2 VPM, Racism: Challenging Perceptions

Kids & Family

- Division 1 WUCF, VyStar Preschool Book Drive
- Division 2 WVIA, Carl the Collector Family Engagement

MARKETING & COMMINICATIONS CATEGORIES

Integrated Media Campaign

- Division 1 (tie) Twin Cities PBS, Stand Up for Twin Cities PBS
- Division 1 (tie) Twin Cities PBS, "Stage" Season 4: Connecting Artists and Audiences Across Platforms
- Division 2 WNIT, My WNIT Story

Special Event

- Division 1 WHRO, 2025 TowneBank Spelling Bee
- Division 2 WTCI PBS, Ale tRail

Promotion

- Division 1 SCETV, Southern Songwriters with Patrick Davis
- Division 2 Blue Ridge PBS, The Prairie Preacher Trailer

Social Media

- Division 1 PBS North Carolina, Sci NC
- Division 2 Northern California Public Media, The Center for Environmental Reporting

Annual Report

- Division 1 PBS Wisconsin, 2024 Annual Report
- Division 2 (tie) Ball State Public Media, Annual Report
- Division 2 (tie) VPM, Annual Report (2023 2024)

CONTENT CATEGORIES

News & Public Affairs

- Division 1 AZPM, AZPM Presents Death Behind Bars
- Division 2 Wyoming PBS, A State of Mind: High Risk

Cross-Platform Content - New for 2025!

- Division 1 (tie) Austin PBS, Decibel
- Division 1 (tie) SCETV, Never Forgotten: The Emanuel Nine
- Division 2 VPM, Finding Edna Lewis

Cultural Feature

- Division 1 (tie) Arkansas PBS, Passage
- Division 1 (tie) PBS North Carolina, My Home Swan Song
- Division 2 Panhandle PBS, The West Texas Boys

Historical Feature

- Division 1 Connecticut Public, Where Then Shall We Go?
- Division 2 WGTE, Magic of the Old West End

Topical Feature

- Division 1 Public Media Connect, Jeffrey's Journey
- Division 2 Northern California Public Media, Climate California: Second Language

Education

- Division 1 WHRO, Intergalactic Goodspeed
- Division 2 WGTE, Taking Ownership of Your Health

Visual Arts

- Division 1 PBS Utah, The Neon Comeback: Local Artists Transform Salt Lake's State Street
- Division 2 Blue Ridge PBS, Artistic Encounters: Meet the Artist

Performing Arts

- Division 1 (tie) Nebraska Public Media, JAM: The Talbott Brothers
- Division 1 (tie) PBS SoCal, 2024 Media Access Awards
- Division 2 (tie) WKU PBS, ROMP Country GongBang
- Division 2 (tie) WKU PBS, ROMP Molly Tuttle

Digital Media

- Division 1 WNET, American Graduate: Jobs Explained
- Division 2 Wyoming PBS, Our Wyoming: Leading the Pack

Short Form

- Division 1 WNET, Wordsville
- Division 2 Northern California Public Media, Climate California: Explorations

Podcast

- Division 1 WETA, On Our Minds: Election 2024
- Division 2 (tie) VPM, RVA's Got Issues Season 2
- Division 2 (tie) WGTE, Rethinking Jails + Justice

Military Chronicles

Division 1 – PBS Utah, Inside the Military's Language Olympics

Visual Design

- Division 1 (tie) Alabama Public Television, In the Margins
- Division 1 (tie) Houston Public Media, Roots of Resistance

Radio - News & Public Affairs

- Division 1 WHRO, Weekly Edition
- Division 2 Alaska Public Media, Talk of Alaska

Radio - Society & Culture

- Division 1 WKAR, WKAR Michigan Minutes, 2024
- Division 2 Northern California Public Media, The Wonderland Radio Hour

Radio - Environment

- Division 1 WHRO, Hampton coalition fights to protect historic New Deal-era community from flooding
- Division 2 Alaska Public Media, The Potential for a Mount Spurr eruption | Talk of Alaska

Radio - Local Storytelling

• Division 2 – Ball State Public Media, Pop of Culture

INDEPENDENT PRODUCER CATEGORY

 Alabama Public Television; Kaitlin Smith, William David Glenn, Glynn & Sharon Smith – PARATUS A 20th Anniversary Special

OVERALL EXCELLENCE CATEGORIES

Excellence in Education

SCETV, Evolution & Revolution: Advancing Public Media for All

Excellence in Community Engagement

• South Florida PBS, Community Outreach

Excellence in Marketing/Communications

• Arkansas PBS, Overall Excellence in Marketing & Communications

Excellence in Content

Austin PBS, Made in Austin, Watched Everywhere

Excellence in Innovation

PBS Wisconsin

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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 QNETA_Tweets, Facebook QNETAstations, Instagram and Threads QNETA_grams, and LinkedIn QNETA_grams, and analthicabusiness QNETA_grams, and analthic