



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BEA Announces the 2026 Festival of Media Arts and “Best of” Festival Award Winners

Washington, D.C. – Nineteen faculty and student works have been chosen to receive the BEA “Best of” Awards – the top awards given during BEA’s Festival of Media Arts, a competitive festival for BEA faculty and student members.

Best of Festival winners will be honored at the 24th Annual BEA Best of Festival Awards Ceremony in Las Vegas on Sunday, April 19, 2026, as part of BEA’s annual convention. During the ceremony, recipients will be recognized with a specialized screening of their winning project and a cash award of \$1,000 from the Diana King Memorial Endowment. The 2026 Best of Festival winners were selected from a pool of 2,250 entries, representing over 300 colleges and universities in the following competitions: audio, documentary, film & video, interactive multimedia, news, scriptwriting, sports and two-year colleges.

2026 Best of Festival Winners

Audio Competition - Faculty

The Traveling Radio Show Goes to the CSU!; Jeff Jacoby, San Francisco State (Long-Form Production Category)

Audio Competition - Student

Deliver U.S.; Krystal Guerra, Texas Christian University (Narrative Audio Category)

Documentary Competition - Faculty

Chicken Ghetto; Sangsun Choi & Paul Lee, Kennesaw State University (Short-Form Category)

Documentary Competition - Student

Hunter; Jack Hanning, Carter Moore, Nick Reed & Rylie West, University of Tennessee (Documentary Feature Category)

Film & Video Competition - Faculty

Kid Super Pilot; Christian Washington, Huntington University Arizona (Narrative Video Category)

Film & Video Competition - Student

Southern Apocrypha; Eli Murray, Ethan Hickey, Jordan Moore & Amy Csaki, Middle Tennessee State University (Narrative – Mini Narrative Category)

Komets Blackout Night Promo; Bryce Garrett, Huntington University (Promotional Category)

Interactive Multimedia Competition - Faculty

Eyes of Freedom Immersive; Pat Clark, University of Colorado Boulder (Interactive Reality Category)

Interactive Multimedia Competition – Student

As Tough As Ice; Murphy McFarlane, Syracuse University (Multimedia Storytelling Category)

News Competition - Faculty

From Denver to Mecca: A CNN producer's personal pilgrimage to Islam's holiest site; Kareem El Damanhoury, Muhammad Darwish, Angelica Pursley & Matog Saleh, University of Denver (Television Feature News Reporting Category)

News Competition - Student

40 Feet In the Air; Boone Kilpatrick, Syracuse University (Radio Reporting Category)

The New Florida Follies; Alex Land, University of Florida (Television Reporting Category)

Centre County Report: April 4, 2025; Allie Wenskoski, Sarah Schultz, Francie Ebert, Hannah Neurohr, Owen Gelber & Denys Khrulov, Penn State University (Television Newscast Category)

Scriptwriting Competition - Faculty

All These Lonesome Graveyards; Nathan Patton, Missouri State University (Original Television Series Pilot Category)

Scriptwriting Competition - Student

Bandit; Cooper Johnson, Missouri State University (Original Television Series Pilot Category)

Sports Competition - Faculty

Authentic ACC: Syracuse Spring Football; Jordan Kligerman, Austin Beehner, Mike Lang & Richard Wiesmann, Syracuse University (Long Form Sports Video Category)

Sports Competition - Student

Ball State Sports Link: My Black Is; Nate Locker & Amadou Diallo, Ball State University (Promotional Video/Tease/PSA Category)

Student Two-Year Colleges Competition

25 Years of Harper Radio; Zoe Meshenberg, Harper College (Non-Narrative Audio Category)

Graduate Student Competition

Piloting the Past into the Future; Rio Harper, Dian Ling, Nicole Cummings & Nathan Olszewski, Syracuse University (Documentary)

For a complete list of winners for all the Festival of Media Arts competitions, please visit beaweb.org/festival

About the Broadcast Education Association (BEA): BEA is the premiere international academic media organization, driving insights, excellence in media production, and career advancement for educators, students, and professionals. There are currently more than 2,500 individual and institutional members worldwide. Visit www.beaweb.org for more information.

About the BEA Convention: BEA's annual convention is held in conjunction with NAB Show in Las Vegas every spring. Co-located at the Las Vegas Convention Center, BEA's annual convention attracts over 1,200 educators and students with 200 sessions, events, research panels, technology workshops and an exhibit hall, making BEA NAB Show's largest conference partner. [Click here](#) for more information.

About the Festival of Media Arts: The BEA Festival of Media Arts is an international refereed exhibition of faculty creative activities and a national showcase for student work. The Festival provides a venue for exhibition of winning submissions, including recognition of project authors, through showcase and awards sessions held during BEA's annual convention in Las Vegas. The Festival seeks to enhance and extend creative activities, teaching, and professional standards in broadcasting and other forms of electronically mediated communication. The "Best of" Festival awards are made possible by the Diana King Memorial Endowment in 2020. The endowment was a gift from The Charles & Lucille King Family Foundation, the original sponsor of the Festival. Visit www.beaweb.org/festival for more information.