



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BEA Announces 2026 School Rankings Based on Student Achievement

Washington, D.C. – The Broadcast Education Association (BEA) is pleased to announce the 2026 rankings of schools based on the creative achievement of their students. The rankings, which began in 2022, are founded on the results from the BEA Festival of Media Arts. The BEA Festival is the preeminent international media competition focused on student and faculty creative endeavors. In the last five years alone, nearly 8,250 student creative works were submitted from BEA’s more than 300 member institutions around the globe for BEA’s extensive juried process.

The BEA rankings take a unique approach to the evaluation of academic media programs from across the globe. Instead of being an overall evaluation of an academic unit’s curriculum and structure, comparison of institutions is done by looking at outcomes. Those outcomes are the quality and consistency of students’ creative works from one participating institution as compared to others. While BEA has been systematically evaluating student work for over 30 years, the annual rankings are based on the past five-year period of student success.

Schools and students can submit their creative content in multiple media categories including Audio, Documentary, Film & Video, Interactive Multimedia & Emerging Technologies, News, Scriptwriting, and Sports. Student creative work goes through a rigorous blind-juried process that includes multiple evaluations by both academic and professional experts from across the country. Standards for Festival winners are quite high. On average, only the top 20% of entries are even considered for awards. These finalists are then judged for five levels of awards: First Place, Second Place, Third Place, Award of Excellence and the special honor of being Best of Festival. The rankings take into account both the quantity and quality of student work. For instance, Best of Festival winners are given a higher weight than Awards of Excellence.

Each school’s student achievements are then calculated and ranked for each of the seven competition categories. Additionally, there is an Overall Ranking based on a combined achievement across the multiple media creative disciplines, and specifically in this case, combined across all Festival competitions. Newer categories without five years of results were not considered for this year’s rankings. While the BEA honors outstanding achievements of both faculty and students, the rankings focus solely on student accomplishments. In the “2026 BEA Festival School Rankings,” 159 schools are represented with student winners. The statistics are compiled and confirmed by the BEA Festival Advisory Committee, which is made up of past Festival Chairs and Creative Directors.

Please [click here to access the 2026 BEA School Rankings](#).

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 2,000 individual and institutional members worldwide. Visit www.beaweb.org for more information.

About the Festival of Media Arts: The Festival of Media Arts was created and is organized by BEA faculty across the globe to honor the amazing works of both students and faculty. It is an international refereed exhibition of faculty and student creative activities and 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. Over \$19,000 in prizes is awarded each year, thanks to the generous longtime sponsorship of the Foundation and the continued Diana King Memorial Endowment. The Charles & Lucille King Family Foundation was established in 1988 to support individuals, institutions and organizations committed to educational excellence and professional development.

Visit www.beafestival.org for more information.