



**SCHOOL OF MEDIA**  
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

*James L. Highland*

**Media Adviser  
of the Year Award**

Sponsors:

Western Kentucky University

*School of Media*

*Student Publications*

**APPLICATION**

The application packet consists of

- Current resume or CV
- Letters of support — no more than four letters please
- Type this information on a separate sheet:
  1. Your Name
  2. Email
  3. School name
  4. School address
  5. School phone
  6. Name of student media advised
  7. Description of advising experience
  10. List any Teaching Awards, Media Awards, Professional Journalism Activities
- Description/narrative of your experiences in advocating for your students' First Amendment rights and responsibilities (no more than 500 words).

## *James L. Highland*

### *Media Adviser of the Year Award*

Western Kentucky University

#### **About the award**

The Western Kentucky University Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists was advised by James L. Highland for 30 years. In addition to inspiring students to protect journalists' freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment, he also worked nationwide to assist student publication advisers whose jobs were endangered. As a result of his efforts as vice president for campus chapter affairs of the national SPJ, many newspaper and yearbook advisers kept their jobs, and university administrators have a healthier respect for the First Amendment.

Teachers and administrators face incredible pressures to reduce budgets, cut elective courses and to focus exclusively on achievement testing. They also face pressures to make student publications and broadcasts into public relations tools, representing only mainstream opinions and subjecting content to administrative approval. The Hazelwood Supreme Court decision enabled administrators to deprive students of many rights guaranteed under the First Amendment. Jim Highland worked tirelessly for more than two decades to support and protect Kentucky high school media advisers and their programs, inspiring them to maintain high professional and ethical standards.

The James L. Highland Media Adviser of the Year Award has been established to recognize journalism advisers and media teachers who actively support and protect the First Amendment rights of students through inspiring high ethical and professional standards. In addition, the award will recognize advisers' outstanding achievement in media classrooms and in student publications and broadcasts.

The 2023 James L. Highland Media Adviser of the Year will be announced during an awards ceremony as part Media Scholars Day at WKU on Friday, March 24.

#### **Deadline and entry**

**Entries must be received by Friday, Feb. 17.**

All required materials should be emailed to Sam Oldenburg at [samual.oldenburg@wku.edu](mailto:samual.oldenburg@wku.edu). Please send one email with all materials attached.

If you have any questions about the James Highland High School Media Adviser of the Year Award, contact Sam Oldenburg at [samual.oldenburg@wku.edu](mailto:samual.oldenburg@wku.edu).