



## Nebraska Press Association Foundation

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LINCOLN – The Outstanding Young Nebraska Journalist Award was created and funded by Zean & Marilyn Carney, former publishers of the Wahoo Newspaper, Waverly News, Ashland Gazette, and David City Banner-Press and Past President of the Nebraska Press Association.

This award is awarded to three nominees from the weekly or daily categories. The nominees must be reporters, editors, photographers, graphic designers, production or advertising professionals who have worked for at least one year with a legal Nebraska newspaper.

A select panel of judges appointed by the Executive Director of NPA/NPAS considered among other items, the nominee's professionalism, creativity, comments or statements on goals, impact of their work on print journalism, the community of journalistic excellence.

The first place winner for the Outstanding Young Nebraska Journalist Award, in the weekly category, is Bethany Rachow of the Albion News and Petersburg Press. An excerpt from her nomination reads: "I strive to go beyond the ordinary to continually create fresh ideas. Each ad has its own personality, which can be achieved by using the right combination of words and graphics." The judge said: "If the design creativity of this young journalist is any indication, Albion area businesses are a lucky bunch. Whether she's designing grocery ads, athletic team congratulatory spreads or a colorful ad for a Main Street shop, she seems to have found those right combinations."

The second place winner of the Outstanding Young Nebraska Journalist Award, daily category, is Scott Koperski of the Beatrice Daily Sun. An excerpt from Scott's nomination reads: "The biggest trait journalists of today need to embrace is versatility. Journalists of today and tomorrow have to be not only talented writers, but also editors, photographers and designers. I've taken great pride in developing each of these talents, and can't wait to see what additional skills I can add to my arsenal." An excerpt from the judges' comments about Scott reads: "In just five years, this young journalist has gone from covering city hall to becoming news editor of the Beatrice Daily Sun, where publisher Patrick Ethridge says it's impossible to overstate his commitment to journalism and to serving readers."

The winner for the Outstanding Young Nebraska Journalist Award in the daily category is Nick Benes of the Norfolk Daily News. An excerpt from his nomination form reads: "It all comes back to honing my craft as a writer. That's probably my singular biggest goal in journalism — to become the best writer I can be." Norfolk Daily News editor Kent Warneke wrote in his letter of recommendation: "Nick has brought a fresh perspective, new ideas, an appreciate for the importance of high school athletics and a work ethic that is impressive to behold. He always has a positive attitude and is willing to help in any way possible to contribute to the success of the Daily News."

The Outstanding Young Nebraska Journalist Award was awarded Saturday, April 18, 2015, at the Nebraska Press Association's Annual Convention at the Downtown Holiday Inn in Lincoln, NE.