



KENTUCKY BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

2025 Excellence in Broadcasting Awards

Winners and Judges' Comments

RADIO

Behind the Scenes

WXCM-FM

Kristen Martin

Great job with the dogs. Sounds like you took the lead on this and it paid off. Animals and kids always grab attention! Great job helping your community.

Broadcast Leadership Awards

WEKU-FM

Mike Savage

Mikes looks to be a person who has made a difference in his community and region of Kentucky. Real commitment to radio – great job.

Locally Produced Commercial

Commonwealth Broadcasting Corporation – Glasgow

“Coca-Cola - A Bit More Holiday Magic”

Ben McCarty

Great voice, excellent mixing, and a really fun, creative concept that stands out. A well-produced piece with strong talent and smart creative direction.

Morning Show

WQXE-FM

“Brian & Trisha”

Brian Walker and Trisha Caudill

Very nice production with good content and lots of energy. These guys were good. The story about the car that pays like you pay through your phone was a stand-out. They seemed to mesh well together.

News Reporter of the Year

WKYU-FM

Lisa Autry

An excellent work of news! Very well written and reported. Easy to understand which is very important. Great voice and solid production throughout—everything sounds polished and professional. The delivery feels authentic and genuinely human—definitely not something AI could pull off this well.

On-Air Personality of the Year

WEKU-FM

Wendy Barnett

You have a beautiful voice for radio. Wendy Barnett's delivery immediately evoked a sense of seriousness and a dedication to telling the important stories.

Overall Digital Presence

WEKU-FM

Mike Savage

Overall Newscast/News Coverage

WKYU-FM

Very good pictures to go with your coverage. Good soundbites with real people telling good stories. A wide range of stories, all containing quality storytelling, strong delivery and engaging clips added of interviews. Fact-based, no leaning with opinions, good energy.

Rookie of the Year

Commonwealth Broadcasting Corporation – Glasgow
Will Perkins

Great reporting with excellent video and lots of soundbites. The editing was very good, as well. This is true community involvement and reporting. The pieces that were submitted absolutely showed a commitment to telling a story through production value, good lighting (for the video pieces), quick interview segments, VOs that made sense in the context of the overall story, and solid instincts for presentation.

Special Program or Feature

WEKU-FM
“Kentuckian Helps Addicts Recover”
Sam Dick

Good reporting from all angles, with excellent soundbites.

Sports Announcer of the Year

Commonwealth Broadcasting Corporation – Glasgow
Jay Turner

Station of the Year

WCVK-FM
Derek Gregory, Stephanie Matthews and Miranda Bishop

This is a really impressive radio station. They presented their description, mission statement, and accomplishments succinctly. The programming and production elements brought their message to life. One can see and hear their passion and thoughtfulness. This is well done audio and storytelling. Very entertaining! Great use of sound effects, listener involvement, humor, family values, and entertainment!

Talk Show

WLME-FM

“Live at 5”

Steve Turner and Vic Evans

Good production and energy and local lens. Nice inclusion of the guest talking about relevant content for the listener.

Uniquely Kentucky (public service award)

WBIO-FM

“Volunteer Owensboro”

Brian Basham and Rob Nichols

One of the main parts of a good community service program is the individual being interviewed. Great interviews, very informative, and well edited!

Use of Streaming Video

Heritage Media of Kentucky

K105 Digital Productions

Sam Gormley and Mark Buckles

Great use of streaming video, especially accompanying on-air broadcasts. Good variance on video angles (e.g., the overhead view of the duck race). Good use of CG to give the stream context on what's happening, who is speaking, etc. The live streaming of the students' reaction to winning a championship was neat. LOVE the idea of live streaming the 300th episode of the morning show. Really great work and use of live streaming.

TELEVISION

Behind the Scenes

WNKY-TV

Kathy Werner

A career of 40+ years in this industry is remarkable, especially so many years with one company. The fact that Kathy worked her way up from an entry-level position as a teenager to a director level roll says a lot about her dedication and determination. And her presence at so many community events is refreshing. Having someone like Kathy is a manager's dream. She is commended for her passion and devotion to her colleagues, company, and community.

Broadcast Leadership Award

WNKY-TV

Julie Milam

Daytime Newscast

WLKY-TV

“Major Snowstorm/Tornado Coverage”

Fantastic team coverage of weather events impacting a widespread area. Great chemistry across the entire team. There's nothing more comforting than a trusted news team during severe weather. In studio, in the field, meteorology in motion...from snow to floods, you're the community's boots on the ground. This is the value of live and local in broadcasting. Well done.

Evening Newscast

WLKY-TV

“Local Tornado/Scottie Scheffler”

Professional, compelling, wide-ranging coverage. Fantastic footage, raw emotion, great storytelling. Across the board the on-screen talent is top notch. Entire program is well executed technically. Great graphics and smooth transitions.

Locally Produced Commercial

WBKO-TV

“Family Enrichment Center Run Walk for Children”

McKayla Cash

Great opening. The connection to the TV show Friends really grabs attention. The commercial was short and sweet but, got what was important across without dragging it out.

Meteorologist of the Year

WKYT-TV

Alexa Minton

Good versatility! Excellent live presence and demonstrative standup. Very professional demeanor during in-studio segments. Outstanding explanations and concise scripting - great job relating the weather to people’s daily activities. Great vocal variety. Very nice presence, both friendly and authoritative. Interesting reports that go beyond just speaking to camera. For example, in one report, she shows the consistency of the snow and ice. Creative and useful information.

News Anchor of the Year

WLKY-TV

Caray Grace

Excellent on-air presence and interaction with video. Excellent energy and on-air presence. Impressive variation in delivery of concise and informative scripts.

News Reporter of the Year

WKYT-TV

Phil Pendleton

Excellent writing and storytelling. Vocal tone is inviting and informative. Video editing and shooting are both clean and consistent. Standups are effective in delivering information without being distracting. Impressive use of interviews. Great storytelling and excellent use of visuals and natsound. Excellent variety of stories.

Overall Digital Presence

WLKY-TV

Alex Suckow

Great variety of digital elements to extend coverage of a story. Loved the inclusion of the reporter's on-the-scene video of the golfer getting arrested. Excellent extended coverage and infographics. Utilizes a variety of mediums to engage viewer in extended content.

Rookie of the Year

WDRB-TV

Adi Schanie

Great demonstrative standup and communication with photographer. Excellent use of graphics and drone footage. Concise and informative writing. Good on-air presence and interviewing. Great story telling. Stand out storyteller!

Special Program or Feature

WDRB-TV

"Crossroads"

Dalton Godbey and Tom Round

Stunning video quality that makes you feel like you've already been there. Fun to watch. Beautifully shot and edited. Very nice camerawork and storytelling.

Sportscaster of the Year

WLEX-TV

Maggie Davis

Very nice presentation. Friendly and knowledgeable.

Station of the Year

WKYT-TV

Jaime Kawaja and Robert Thomas

Very well covered! Great teamwork with all aspects involved! Excellent news coverage.

Uniquely Kentucky (public service award)

WPSD-TV

“The Crossroads Suncast: Severe Weather Response”

Bryce Patterson, Morgan Reagle and Charity Blanton

Excellent job on providing not only pertinent information to your region, but with doing it in an interesting manner! Enjoyed the variety of topics within just one episode. Great use of content marketing to bring in new audience for TV. Interesting look at BTS for new coverage and what happened that night.

Videographer of the Year

WLKY-TV

Scott Eckhardt

Absolutely beautiful shooting and coloring. Nice use of wide angles, very engaging visual storytelling. Excellent lighting, coloring and variety in the shots. This kind of shooting enhances storytelling and reporting a tremendous amount and should not be undervalued.

COMBINED RADIO and TELEVISION

Broadcast Sales

WNKY-TV

Jill Goodwin

COLLEGE RADIO

College Program of the Year

Murray State University

The production is well put together. The newscasts are informative and to the point with a well-rounded variety of local news. Delivery features facts without added opinions, and with enthusiasm and energy behind each story. Well done. Excellent content, terrific editing, and smooth delivery.

News Reporter of the Year

Murray State University

Zacharie Lamb

Great energy in your voice and very clear. Listeners can hear you just fine. Great job!! Clear communication, high energy with respect to the stories and understanding, emphasis on the facts or opinions. Stories and interviews were well produced. Great use of sound bites and interviews. Good tone and pace.

Newscast/Coverage

Morehead State University

Sydney Graham

Great delivery, use of audio bites, and sound friendly. You know what you are talking about. Great job! Clear and concise information with a nice tempo in flow, focusing on facts without opinion.

Overall Digital Presence

Murray State University

The voices are strong and well-suited for broadcast. Great tone and presence throughout. The talent is clear and the foundation is solid. Easy to play the spots. Good choice of visuals.

Special Program or Feature

Morehead State University

“Morehead Planning Commission Approves Zoning for Medical Marijuana Businesses in City Limits”

Sydney Graham

This is a new and complex topic for so many people. The slightly agitated and suspicious voices of the board members/those in attendance made for compelling audio.

Student Broadcaster of the Year

Murray State University

Zacharie Lamb

You take your time reading which is a good thing. Great job.

COLLEGE TELEVISION

College Program of the Year

Western Kentucky University – TV

Each member of the on-air staff demonstrated poise and professionalism. The camera work and graphics certainly looked like they could be a local affiliate for any network. Beautifully edited with captivating storytelling. You can hear the passion and enjoyment in the VO on the B-role video. Nice job in conveying the facts of the news and reserving opinions for personality focused segments like discussing the weather.

News Reporter of the Year

Western Kentucky University – TV

Adi Schanie

The stories were well thought out, but the sound editing was rough. One can see the passion in the storytelling and the interviews were captivating. Reporter's delivery is very strong with a beautiful confidence in her work.

Newscast/Coverage

Western Kentucky University – TV

Beautiful job conveying facts without personal opinions. Clear and concise storytelling. The human-interest stories were quite captivating. Such comprehensive coverage for less than 20 minutes. Great variety...from national stories to campus stories, and attention to how these stories impact students or KY residents. Donovan Roach is so likeable as a meteorologist. He's engaging and fresh. Hannah and Adi are capable and confident anchors. Good eye contact with the viewer, and appropriate gestures and facial expressions.

Overall Digital Presence

Murray State News – TV

The Murray State News

Love the use of TikTok for this audience. Great variety of storytelling. Excellent writing and delivery of scripts. Good video shooting and editing.

Special Program or Feature

Western Kentucky University – TV

"Dylan Black"

Ryan Murphy

Didn't see this one coming; the piece makes an impact so quickly. A fantastic piece. Everything a human-interest story should be. Heartwarming, inspiring, telling a story through words and visuals. It wouldn't matter where someone was from, this has mass appeal nationwide. The showstopper was the throwback to the childhood interview. These are the types of stories we need to give us a break from the woes of the world. The video paired up very well with the storytelling. Fantastic job.

Student Broadcaster of the Year

Western Kentucky University – TV

Ryan Murphy

Excellent work. Confident, approachable delivery.