NAJA announces 2014 National Native Media Award winners

NORMAN, Okla. -- The Native American Journalists Association will recognize more than 200 members for their coverage of Indian Country during the 2014 National Native Media Awards Banquet July 12. The annual competition recognizes excellence in reporting by Native and non-Native journalists across the U.S., and Canada.

The categories are divided as follows:

- Student Category
- Associate Category
- Division I Circulation below 4,000
- Division II Circulation 4,000 8,000
- Division III Circulation above 8,000

This year, NAJA honors three distinguished individuals and media outlets with the highest levels of achievement within the field of journalism.

2014 NAJA Elias Boudinot Free Press Award

The recipient of the 2014 NAJA Elias Boudinot Free Press Award is the Osage News, for recognition of their work in highlighting public officials' responsibility in following open records laws.

2014 NAJA Richard LaCourse/Gannett Foundation Al Neuharth Investigative Journalism Award

In partnership with the Gannett Foundation, NAJA offers an annual \$5,000 award to recognize groundbreaking work by a journalist or a team that creatively uses digital tools in the role of community watchdog.

The recipient of the 2014 NAJA Richard LaCourse/Gannett Foundation Al Neuharth Investigative Journalism Award, for the second consecutive year, is freelance reporter Tristan Ahtone (Kiowa).

2014 NAJA Medill Milestone Achievement Award

The 2014 NAJA Medill Milestone Achievement Award recognizes important contributions made by journalists in the past, as well as encourages the new generation of Native journalists to achieve career excellence. This award honors NAJA's mission and the exemplary people who have led the way with outstanding work and contributions to the field of journalism.

Included with this award is a \$5,000 prize, sponsored by the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.

The recipient of the 2014 NAJA Medill Milestone Achievement Award is Executive Editor of the Cherokee Phoenix, Bryan Pollard (Cherokee).

All 2014 Native Media Award winners who are unable to attend the banquet may request to have their awards shipped. An additional mailing fee may be required. For more information, please contact Rebecca Landsberry at RebeccaLandsberry@naja.com.

2014 National Native Media Award Winners

Student category

RADIO

Best Feature Story – Radio

First Place Christine Trudeau NPR Translated into Navajo, 'Star Wars' will be

Second Place Sarah Jones KCNP Pal Jussely MMA fighter

TV

Best Feature Story – TV / Online (combined category)

First Place
Rebekka Schlichting
Vision Maker Media
One bucket at a time

Second Place Rebekka Schlichting Vision Maker Media Honoring the spirit of life

Third Place
Dawn Fuentes
Haskell Indian Leader
Haskell cultural showcase

Best News Story – TV

First Place

Marcus Barnoskie The Haskell Indian Leader KU students join Haskell students in protesting South Lawrence Trafficway

Second Place
Tiara Eagle Elk
The Haskell Indian Leader
Kansas Governor apologizes for Native American Boarding schools

PRINT

Best Editorial - Print

First Place Charlie Perry The Haskell Indian Leader Chalked

Second Place Charlie Perry The Haskell Indian Leader Surviving Finals: Ten Steps to Stay Sane

Third Place
Lucretia Lovato
The Haskell Indian Leader
Losing the true meaning of Commencement Powwow

Best Column - Print

Scott Starr OU Daily

Best Environmental Story - Print

Larissa Jimmy Navajo Times

Best Feature Photo - Print

Ryan Coody Haskell Indian Leader

Best Feature Story – Print

First Place
Ryan Coody
The Haskell Indian Leader
Haskell is a Foundation for Change

Second Place

Charlie Perry
The Haskell Indian Leader
Haskell Pueblo Club raises money for fallen Hopi football star

Best News Story – Print

First Place
Lori Hasselman
The Haskell Indian Leader
Beason Rallies for housing eligibility exceptions

Second Place Lori Hasselman The Haskell Indian Leader WPO gets support from KU Student Senate

Third Place Ryan Coody The Haskell Indian Leader Gov. Brownback visits Haskell, issues apology proclamation

Best News Photo - Print

Ryan Coody Haskell Indian Leader

Best Sports Photo - Print

Ryan Coody Haskell Indian Leader

General Excellence - Print

Haskell Indian Nations University Haskell Indian Leader

Associate Category

TV

Daily/Weekly - Associate Division III **Best Coverage of Native Americans - TV**Anar Virji

Al Jazeera English

Beyond VAWA

Daily/Weekly - Associate Division III **Best Environmental Story - TV** Anar Virji Al Jazeera English

Choctaw Water Justice

RADIO – No Entries

ONLINE

Daily/Weekly - Associate Division III

Best Feature Story - Online

First Place

Carrie Jung Clausen

Al Jazeera America

Drought forces some Native Americans to choose which tradition to save

Second Place

Mark Fogarty

SourceMedia

Where the buffalo are neighbors

Third Place

Stephanie Woodard

Indian Country Today Media Network

The Long and Winding Road: Wandering Medicine v. McCulloch

Daily/Weekly - Associate Division III

Best News Story - Online

First Place

Stephanie Woodard

Indian Country Today Media Network

Supreme Court decision rolls back voting rights for S.D. Indians

Second Place

Gale Courey Toensing

Indian Country Today Media Network

Early treaties prove U.S. founding fathers would have deemed VAWA constitutional

Daily/Weekly - Associate Division III

Best Coverage of Native Americans - Online

First Place

Stephanie Woodard

Indian Country Today Media Network

21st Century voting rights struggles

Second Place

Jason Coppola

Al Jazeera English

South Dakota Foster Program raises concerns

Third Place
Gale Courey Toensing
Indian Country Today Media Network
Washburn's bold plan to fix Interior's federal recognition process

PRINT

Associate Division III – Circulation above 8,000

Monthly / Semimonthly - Associate Division III **Best Sports Story - Print**Nathan Pettengill

Topeka Magazine

Monthly / Semimonthly - Associate Division III **Best Sports Photo - Print**Nathan Pettengill

Topeka Magazine

Monthly / Semimonthly - Associate Division III **Best Feature Story - Print**First Place

Ron Karten

Smoke Signals Chemawa Cemetery

Second Place
Dean Rhodes
Smoke Signals
Female presence discovered at Fort Yamhill

Third Place Ron Karten Smoke Signals Return of the ring

Monthly / Semimonthly - Associate Division III **Best News Story - Print**

First Place Ron Karten Smoke Signals Doomsday prep

Second Place

Dean Rhodes Smoke Signals Tribal member recalls Boston bombing

Third Place Dean Rhodes Smoke Signals Mike Larsen farewell

Monthly / Semimonthly - Associate Division III **Best News Photo - Print** Michelle Alaimo Smoke Signals

Daily/Weekly/Monthly/Semimonthly Associate Division II-III (combined category) **Best Environmental Story - Print** First Place Talli Nauman

Talli Nauman
Native Sun News
Cowboys and Indians choose sides

Second Place
Eileen Soler
The Seminole Tribune
At Big Cypress, invasive species on eviction list

Third Place Ron Karten

Plugged in: Electric car charging station opens at Grand Ronde

Daily/Weekly/Monthly / Semimonthly (combined category) - Associate Division III Best Coverage of Native Americans - Print

First Place
Ron Karten
Smoke Signals
Tribe protests U of O reorganization

Second Place Cindy Yurth Navajo Times

Dogs and Glonnies: Strays of the Rez

Third Place Bill Donovan Navajo Times 'Star Wars' to be dubbed into Navajo

Associate Division II - Circulation between 4,000 - 8,000

Monthly/Semimonthly - Associate Division II Best Sports Photo - Print

First Place

Eileen Soler

The Seminole Tribe

Bucking bronco challenges Rodeo cowboy

Second Place

Beverly Bidney

The Seminole Tribe

Slam-dunk champion Kenny Dobbs jumps youth

Third Place

Beverly Bidney

The Seminole Tribe

From the sand trap

Monthly/Semimonthly - Associate Division II

Best Feature Photo - Print

First Place

Eileen Soler

The Seminole Tribe

Elder's hands create Seminole keepsakes

Second Place

Eileen Soler

The Seminole Tribe

Shawl dancer exemplifies tradition

Third Place

Wil Phinney

Confederated Umatilla Journal

Catching a buzz

Monthly/Semimonthly - Associate Division II

Best Feature Story - Print

First Place

Wil Phinney

Confederated Umatilla Journal

Use it and lose it

Second Place

Eileen Soler

The Seminole Tribe

Cattlewomen forge ahead

Third Place Wil Phinney

Confederated Umatilla Journal

Cisco Minthorn: Return to Rez 'changed my life'

Monthly/Semimonthly - Associate Division II

Best News Story – Print

First Place
Wil Phinney
Confederated U

Confederated Umatilla Journal

Tribes troubled by timber 'harvest'

Second Place
Wil Phinney
Confederated Umatilla Journal
Wyit View back on ballot

Third Place
Eileen Soler
The Seminole Tribe
Seminole Swinomish secure first intertribal commerce

Monthly/Semimonthly - Associate Division II **Best Coverage of Native Americans – Print**Jessica McBride

Muscogee Nation News

DIVISION I – Circulation below 4,000

Daily/Weekly/Monthly/Semimonthly (combined category)

Associate Division I

Best Environmental Story – Print

First Place

Jeremy Wade Shockley

Southern Ute Drum

Tracking elk using today's technology

Second Place

Ace Stryker

Southern Ute Drum

Council extends special protection to rare white deer on reservation

Third Place

Val Niehaus

Potawatomi Traveling Times Celebrating 10 years of clean air and water

Monthly/Semimonthly – Associate Division I **Best Coverage of Native Americans – Print**First Place

Justus Caudell and Cary Rosenbaum

Tribal Tribune

Suicide Series

Second Place Valerie Niehaus Potawatomi Traveling Times A Story of One Man's Struggles to Raise a Family

Third Place
Winda Collins
Potawatomi Traveling Times
Bill Miller Performs for FCP Community

Professional Category
Division III – Circulation above 8,000

RADIO Division III

Daily/Weekly - Division III **Best Feature Story – Radio**Tristan Ahtone

Daily/Weekly - Division III **Best News Story – Radio**First Place

Tristan Ahtone

NPR

Mentally ill patients in N.M. scrambling to find help

Second Place Antonia Gonzales National Native News The Lone Ranger

Third Place
Tara Gatewood
Native America Calling

The Battle for Baby Veronica

Daily/Weekly - Division III

General Excellence - Radio

First Place

Tara Gatewood

Native America Calling

Second Place Antonia Gonzales Alaska's Native Voice

Third Place Antonia Gonzales National Native News

TV Division III

Monthly / Semimonthly - Division III **Best Feature Story – TV**First Place

Terria Smith & Frank Blanquet

FNX | First Nations Experience

FNX NOW: Special Report from Torres Martinez

Second Place Roger Graham Grayson makes bows, arrows using 'old way' Cherokee Phoenix

Third Place
Terria Smith & Frank Blanquet
FNX | First Nations Experience
FNX NOW: Anahucalmecac

Monthly / Semimonthly - Division III Best News Story - TV

First Place
Stacie Guthrie
Cherokee Phoenix
Hungry fed during Iron Gate's 'Cherokee Nation Day'

Second Place Mark Dreadfulwater Cherokee Phoenix

Former John Ross home site found and studied

Daily/Weekly/Monthly/Semimonthly (combined category) - Division III **General Excellence – TV**

First Place
Jack Kohler
FNX
On Native Ground

Second Place Mekahlo Medina KNBC-TV

ONLINE

Daily/Weekly - Division III

Best Sports Story - Online

First Place Tristan Ahtone Al Jazeera America

The coolest cowboys are from Indian Country at National Rodeo Finals

Second Place Rhonda LeValdo Native News Online

Umatilla Schimmel sisters living their dreams on basketball's big stage

Daily/Weekly - Division III **Best Editorial – Online**

First Place Tristan Ahtone Fronteras Desk

Acceptable Racial Slurs In Journalism (The Dreaded R-Word)

Second Place

Ray Cook

Indian Country Today Media Network

Memorial Day, the Veterans' celebration of the Day of the Dead

Daily/Weekly - Division III

Best Column - Online

First Place Steve Russell

Indian Country Today Media Network

Blacks and Indians should stand together against a common oppressor

Second Place Ruth Hopkins Indian Country Today Suicide as genocide

Daily/Weekly - Division III

Best Feature Story – Online

First Place

Tristan Ahtone

Al Jazeera America

A broken system: Why law and order is faltering on the Rez

Second Place

Suzette Brewer

Indian Country Today

Trafficking Native children: The seamy underbelly of U.S. adoption industry

Third Place

Rob Capriccioso

Indian Country Today

Supreme problem: One tribe pressured to disregard sovereignty for good of the

whole

Daily/Weekly - Division III

Best News Story - Online

First Place

Rob Capriccioso

Indian Country Today

White House trying to cheat tribes on health costs

Second Place

Rob Capriccioso

Indian Country Today

Obama's VAWA law signing spotlights Native women warriors

Third Place

Suzette Brewer

Indian Country Today

The gloves come off: Rights suit filed as adoption of Veronica stalled

Daily/Weekly - Division III

General Excellence - Online

First Place

Indian Country Today

Second Place
On Native Ground

Daily/Weekly - Division III

Best Digital Publication – Online

Indian Country Today

PRINT

Division III – Circulation above 8,000

Daily/Weekly/Monthly/Semimonthly (combined category) – Division III Best Sports Story – Print

First Place

Sunnie Clahchischiligi

Navajo Times

For Raynell

Second Place

Quentin Jodie

Navajo Times

KGAK personality broadcasts state games in Diné language

Third Place

Quentin Jodie

Navajo Times

Hopi boys break national record with 24th team title

Daily/Weekly/Monthly/Semimonthly (combined category) – Division III Best Column – Print

First Place

Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton

Native American Times

Will they believe in sovereignty in 14 years?

Second Place

Shannon Shaw Duty

Osage News

A full blood, a half blood and a no blood walk into a bar ...

Third Place

Sunnie Clahchischiligi

Navajo Times

Does Jacoby deserve the rank of 'hero'?

Daily/Weekly/Monthly/Semimonthly (combined category) – Division III Best Environmental Story – Print / Online First Place Debra Krol Winds of Change Magazine Honoring the Eagle

Second Place Terri Hansen Indian Country Today Wisconsin ignored findings of scientists to rewrite mining laws

Daily/Weekly/Monthly/Semimonthly (combined category) – Division III **Excellence in Beat Reporting – Print/Online**

First Place
Mary Annette Pember
Indian Country Today
Automatic Weapons &

Automatic Weapons & Guards in Camo: Welcome to Mining Country, Wis.

Second Place Jonnie Taté Walker Argus Leader Inmate group champions Indian customs

Third Place Alastair Bitsoi Navajo Times Window Rock School District

Daily/Weekly - Division III PRINT

Daily/Weekly – Division III **Best Sports Photo - Print** First Place Donovan Quintero Navajo Times Champs

Second Place Donovan Quintero Navajo Times Muttonbuster

Third Place Rhonda LeValdo Native News Online

Jude and Shoni Schimmel after the game

Daily/Weekly – Division III **Best Feature Photo – Print**Donovan Quintero

Navajo Times

Star Tipi

Daily/Weekly – Division III Best Feature Story – Print

First Place Taté Walker Argus Leader Media Healing with more than medicine

Second Place Taté Walker Argus Leader Media George Eagleman

Third Place Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton Native American Times Put down the fry bread: Indulge in moderation

Daily/Weekly – Division III **Best News Photo - Print** First Place Krista Allen

Navajo Times Cracked Road

Second Place Donovan Quintero Navajo Times Butcher Contest

Third Place Donovan Quintero Navajo Times Code Talkers

Daily/Weekly – Division III **Best News Story – Print** First Place Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton Native American Times
Baby Veronica prompts reflection, prayer circles, across Indian Country

Second Place Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton Native American Times Victim advocate's death stuns Native community, raises VAWA concerns

Third Place Krista Allen Navajo Times Pavement buckles

Daily/Weekly – Division III **Best Layout – Print** Navajo Times

Daily/Weekly – Division III **General Excellence – Print** Navajo Times

Monthly/Semimonthly - Division III PRINT

Monthly/Semimonthly – Division III **Best Sports Photo – Print**First Place

Shannon Shaw Duty

Osage News

Osage Pro MMA Fighter 1

Second Place Chalene Toehay Osage News Native youth play soccer

Third Place Shannon Shaw Duty Osage News Osage Pro MMA fighter 2

Monthly/Semimonthly – Division III **Best Feature Photo – Print**First Place

Jennifer Bell

Hownikan

Tracking Wadase

Second Place Chalene Toehay Osage News Eagle

Third Place Chalene Toehay Osage News Father Son Walk

Monthly/Semimonthly – Division III

Best Feature Story – Print

First Place
Tara Gatewood
Native Peoples Magazine
In Plain Sight

Second Place Shannon Shaw Duty Osages reflect on Wounded Knee occupation of 1973 Osage News

Third Place Shannon Shaw Duty Home featured in 'August: Osage County' built by Osage allottee Osage News

Monthly/Semimonthly – Division III Best News Photo – Print

First Place
Will Chavez
Cherokee Phoenix
Brown gives up fight for Veronica

Second Place Charlene Toehay Osage News Osage Ballet Pay Tribute to Marie Tallchief

Third Place Shannon Shaw Duty Osage News Cultural Oil Monthly/Semimonthly - Division III

Best News Story – Print

First Place

Benny Polacca

Osage News

Osage News and Osage Nation chief headed to court

Second Place

Shannon Shaw Duty

Osage News

Osage casino denies sponsorship for Osage MMA fighter

Third Place

Shannon Shaw Duty

Osage News

Oklahoma AG to BIA: State should take over oil and gas monitoring in the Osage

Monthly / Semimonthly - Division III

Best Layout - Print

First Place

Cherokee Phoenix

Second Place

Osage News

Third Place

Smoke Signals

Monthly/Semimonthly - Division III

General Excellence – Print

First Place

Cherokee Phoenix

Second Place

Osage News

Third Place

Hownikan

Professional Category – Division II

ONLINE – No Entries

RADIO

Daily/Weekly - Division II **Best Feature Story – Radio**Gary Fife

Mvskoke Radio

Daily/Weekly - Division II **General Excellence – Radio**Gary Fife

Mvskoke Radio

TV

Daily/Weekly - Division II **Best Feature Story – TV**First Place

Jason Salsman

Native News Today

Arizona Diamondbacks team with Salt River

Second Place Kyla McKown Native News Today Genealogy

Third Place Darren Brown Cheyenne and Arapaho TV Indian Post Office Murals

Daily/Weekly - Division II **General Excellence - TV**First Place

Cheyenne and Arapaho TV

Second Place Native News Today

PRINT Division II

Monthly/Semimonthly - Division II **Best Sports Photo – Print**First Place

Debra Croswell

Confederated Umatilla Journal

Second Baseman

Second Place Sterling Cosper Muscogee Nation News MCN citizens qualify for INFR

Third Place
David Micchaud
Native Sun News
LeBeau gathers his team during LNIC

Monthly/Semimonthly - Division II **Best Sports Story – Print**First Place

Rosemary Stephens

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Tribune

Former cheerleader lifts the bar

Second Place
Jill-Marie Gavin
Confederated Umatilla Journal
Shoni and Jude Schimmel: More than hoop stars

Third Place
Darren DeLaune
Muscogee Nation News
Sixtown keeps tradition and culture alive through stickball

Monthly/Semimonthly - Division II **Best Editorial – Print**First Place

Jill-Marie Gavin

Confederated Umatilla Journal

We should do what our elders would have expected from us

Second Place

Tim Giago

Native Sun News

When it comes to Wounded Knee the tribe should, "Stop, Look and Listen"

Third Place

Chuck Sams

Confederated Umatilla Journal

Common law, civil law, Creator's law

Daily/Weekly/Monthly/Semimonthly (combined) - Division II

Best Column - Print

First Place

Brandon Ecoffey

Native Sun News

Getting clobbered by a six-year-old

Second Place

Darren DeLaune

Muscogee Nation News

One small greeting can light up a world

Monthly/Semimonthly - Division II

Best Feature Photo - Print

First Place

Rosemary Stephens

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Tribune

Christmas Surprise

Second Place

Sterling Cosper

Muscogee Nation News

MCN businesswoman helps Native artists thrive

Third Place

Jill-Marie Gavin

Confederated Umatilla Journal

Whitney Minthorn, Crow's Shadow prints

Monthly/Semimonthly - Division II

Best Feature Story – Print

First Place

Rebecka Lyman

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Tribune

Teen girl receives life through organ donation

Second Place

Rosemary Stephens Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Tribune Soldier says goodbye to military life as he pursues culinary career

TIE FOR THIRD PLACE

Third Place Rosemary Stephens Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Tribune Losing son takes father on journey of recovery

Third Place
Jill-Marie Gavin
Confederated Umatilla Journal
Living her own life

Monthly/Semimonthly - Division II

Best News Photo - Print

First Place
Sterling Cosper
Muscogee Nation News

Over 200 Natives respond to call of 'cyber-drum'

Second Place Amanda Rutland Muscogee Nation News Groundbreaking held for \$335 million River Spirit expansion

Third Place
Gary Fife
Muscogee Nation News
Head start teaches life skills

Monthly/Semimonthly - Division II

Best News Story – Print

First Place Sterling Cosper Muscogee Nation News Obama signs third reauthorization of VAWA

Second Place Amanda Rutland Muscogee Nation News Newtown United Methodist recognized as historic landmark

Third Place

Rebecka Lyman Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Tribune Calumet school board members confronted with forged parent signatures for federal grant money

Monthly/Semimonthly - Division II **Best Layout - Print**First Place

Seminole Tribune

Second Place Lakota Country Times

Third Place Muscogee Nation News

Monthly/Semimonthly - Division II **General Excellence - Print**First Place

The Seminole Tribune

Second Place Muscogee Nation News

Third Place Lakota Country Times

Daily/Weekly/Monthly/Semimonthly (combined) - Division II **Best Digital Publication – Print** Lakota Country Times

Professional Category – Division I

TV – No Entries Radio – No Entries

ONLINE

Division I - Circulation below 4,000

Monthly/Semimonthly - Division I **Best Digital Publication**Sho-Ban News

PRINT

Daily/Weekly/Monthly/Semimonthly (combined) - Division I **Best Sports Story - Print**First Place

Cary Rosenbaum

Tribal Tribune

Just 'Guck'

Second Place Steve Bonspiel The Eastern Door Local hockey player crowned champion

Monthly/Semimonthly - Division I
Best Feature Photo - Print
First Place
Jeffrey Keeble
Potawatomi Traveling Times
Fancy Dancer

Second Place Jeffrey Keeble Potawatomi Traveling Times Fancy Air

Third Place Damon Toledo Southern Ute Drum Funk invades casino

Monthly/Semimonthly - Division I **Best Feature Story - Print** First Place Cary Rosenbaum Tribal Tribune Paratrooper Down

Second Place Steve Bonspiel The Eastern Door A man with deep love for photography, people, town

Third Place Steve Bonspiel The Eastern Door Shirley Zachary had an intense passion for golf and chips

Monthly/Semimonthly - Division I
Best News Photo - Print
First Place
Damon Toledo

Southern Ute Drum To kids from one to 92

Second Place Damon Toledo Southern Ute Drum Academy rides the rails

Third Place
Jeffrey Keeble
Potawatomi Traveling Times
Horse

Monthly/Semimonthly - Division I
Best News Story - Print
First Place
Cary Rosenbaum
Tribal Tribune
Never in my life

Second Place Steve Bonspiel The Eastern Door Educators vow to fight Ottawa

Third Place Karenia Simpson Tribal Tribune Emerson: Culture essential to learn the language

Monthly/Semimonthly - Division I **Best Column - Print**First Place

Cary Rosenbaum

Tribal Tribune

Second Place Steve Bonspiel The Eastern Door

Monthly/Semimonthly - Division I **Best Layout - Print**First Place

Eastern Door

Second Place Potawatomi Traveling Times

Third Place Tribal Tribune

Monthly/Semimonthly - Division I **General Excellence - Print**First Place

Tribal Tribune

Second Place The Eastern Door

Third Place Potawatomi Traveling Times

NAJA thanks all of the 2014 judges, their outlets and organizations for the donation of time and expertise spent on making this year's awards possible:

- University of Omaha Nebraska
- Society of Professional Journalists
- Society of Environmental Journalists
- Asian American Journalists Association
- Center for Investigative Reporting