**Special ICMA Awards**

**ICMA Journalist of the Year**

This award is given to the outstanding journalist serving collegiate media in the past calendar year. The journalist must be enrolled as a full-time student for the spring and fall semesters in 2017. No more than three students from each ICMA-member college/university may enter the contest. Because excellent storytelling is essential to all forms of media, judges will place particular emphasis on entrants’ abilities to effectively locate and tell stories vital to targeted audiences.

To complete the entry, all nominees must submit:

* One nominating letter from the student media advisor
* A 500-word essay from the nominee discussing why he or she should be considered for this award
* Five original media artifacts representing the student’s work that were published or aired between November 25, 2016 and November 24, 2017.

The five required artifacts will be submitted online (**betternewspapercontest.com**) and may include published or aired material that has appeared in campus-supported student media (online, print, broadcast) during the past calendar year. Artifacts may include any one or combination of the following:

* original images
* writing
* production work
* design
* on-air reporting or personality
* leadership of a team project

Student nominees must articulate in their essay how they served as the **primary contributors** of the artifacts they submit for consideration. The stories may be of any length.

Deadline for submission of all materials is **December 1, 2017**. Preliminary judges will include the ICMA President and contest directors, who will determine three finalists. Those finalists will be notified prior to the ICMA conference in February and will interview with the panel of judges on Thursday morning of the conference. The judging panel will include a representative from the Iowa Newspaper Association, the Iowa Broadcasters Association and another professional. The winner will be announced at the ICMA awards ceremony.

The ICMA Journalist of the Year award will provide $500 in cash and a plaque to the winner.

**ICMA First Amendment Award**

Awarded to student journalist or media team who besthighlights issues relating to the First Amendmenton a college campus. Story or project may rely on any delivery platform (broadcast, print, multimedia or some combination). A brief (~400 word) essay explaining the context for the project is recommended, but not required. Limit of one entry perstudent/team. No limit on entries per university/college.