

Pat Pisarik Student 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 2025. 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 Oct. 12, 2024, and Oct. 10, 2025.

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). Artifacts may include any one or combination of the following:

- Original images, video, 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 Friday, Nov. 28, before 4 p.m. 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 prior to the conference. 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. Finalists for the Journalist of the Year award will be introduced at the awards ceremony in Des Moines.

This award was named in honor of the late Pat Pisarik, a founding member of ICMA and a longtime journalism professor at Loras College. Pat passionately embraced the role of the press as unbiased contributors to democracy and as a voice for the marginalized.