

ASSOCIATION CODE: INBA (all caps)

ENTRY FEE: \$25 per entry

All entries MUST be received by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, March 30, 2026.

ENTRY RULES: Entries must have been broadcast between April 1, 2025, and Mar. 30, 2026. Some categories allow students to submit Students may submit series reports, but they will be considered as one story. You can enter more than one category as long as the proper entry fee is submitted for each. Entrants are welcome to write a cover letter to explain entries. ENTRIES ARE NOT VALID UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED. Payment can be made either through Paypal on the ACES website or by mailing a check.

CONTEST RULES: SINBA is pleased to award students in Illinois who have excelled in broadcast production in both radio and television. All entries should be submitted online. Entries outside category descriptions will be rejected without refund. No refunds will be issued for incomplete entries or submissions that won't play for the judge.

WHAT WORK IS ELIGIBLE?: Eligibility includes undergraduate or graduate work done for a college, university or commercial radio or television station or cable outlet. The submission must be the original work of the entrant.

Finalists will be announced April 7 and the SINBA awards ceremony will take place April 18 at the INBA's Best of Broadcast Awards in Champaign.

STUDENTS MAY ENTER WORK:

1. As long as the story is filmed, written, and edited by a undergraduate or graduate.
2. If an undergraduate or graduate works, volunteers or interns at a commercial radio or TV station or cable outlet completed the work. Keep in mind: All work done at commercial, non-campus stations (reporting, writing, editing, etc.) must be the sole work of the student.
3. If it is done while part of an internship, but only work that is entirely (reporting, writing, editing, etc.) the work of the student.

WHAT IS NOT ELIGIBLE? :

1. Work that is shot, edited or reported by a professional at a station and then handed off to a student employee or intern who simply re-voices the piece using the professional's video, script and/or nat sound. If the story contains even one sound bite or piece of nat sound or script that is not the work of a student, that piece is not eligible. Sometimes this is called "rehash."
2. Work from undergraduates who were at one time professionals (people who have been in 'the real world' who have gone back to school to earn a degree) is not eligible.

ENTRIES ARE NOT VALID UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED OR A PAYMENT PLAN HAS ARRANGED WITH EMILY MANLEY.

**IMPORTANT: Video submissions must be done through YouTube, Vimeo or another video hosting site. URLs are then pasted into entry form. Special characters in file names should be avoided. Stick with letters, numbers, dots, dashes and underscores. NO # or apostrophes!**

**PLEASE take the time to double check the name of your entry and the name of the person set to receive the award to make sure it's spelt correctly. Questions regarding ACES platform to reset a password, or to troubleshoot during the entry process, please email [ermanley23@gmail.com](mailto:ermanley23@gmail.com).**

Radio

**OUTSTANDING HARD RADIO PROGRAM:** (Hard category: Topical news) For content and production of a regularly scheduled local program that runs from 15 minutes to an hour. The program must be produced by students. Each institution is limited to one entry. Judging will be based on content, writing, editing, news judgement, use of audio, and voicework. (This award goes to an institution; NOT an individual producer).

**OUTSTANDING SOFT RADIO PROGRAM:** (Soft category: Sports show, interview show, magazine/feature show) For content and production of a regularly scheduled local program that runs from 15 minutes to an hour. The program must be produced by students. Each institution is limited to one entry. Judging will be based on content, writing, editing, use of audio and voicework. (This award goes to an institution, NOT an individual producer)

**OUTSTANDING RADIO NEWSCAST:** For content and production of a regularly scheduled local newscast produced by students. Each institution is limited to one entry. Each newscast should be no shorter than three minutes and no longer than 15 minutes. Judging will be based on content, writing, editing, news judgement, use of audio, and voicework. (This award goes to an institution; NOT an individual producer)

**OUTSTANDING RADIO NEWS REPORTING:** For individual achievement in radio news reporting that shows student enterprise, creativity, clear writing and quality production. Each entry can consists of no more than three news stories. Entries should show skill in handling various kinds of stories, and can include more than one news story (like a resume reel). Judging will be based on content, writing, editing, news judgement, use of audio, and voicework.

**OUTSTANDING RADIO SPORTS REPORTING:** For individual achievement in radio news reporting of a sports story or event. Entries should show student enterprise, creativity, clear writing and quality production. Entries may include play-by-play, in-depth coverage of a sports event, sports team or sports feature. Each entry should not include more than three sports stories or events. Play-by-play broadcast of sports events are not eligible.

**OUTSTANDING RADIO SPORTS PLAY-BY-PLAY:** For individual achievement in radio play-by-play of a live sports event. Entry should show ability to convey what is going on in the field or the court in a clear, concise, informative and colorful manner. Entries also will be judged on delivery and knowledge of the game. A student can submit entries from up to 3 games, but game clip must last no longer than 5 minutes. Students who submit play-by-play aired on different stations should specify on which station each game was broadcast.

**OUTSTANDING USE OF SOUND:** For individual achievement in use of sound in a radio story. Entries should show the students ability to creatively use natural sound in a news story. One story per entry.

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#### Television

**OUTSTANDING HARD TELEVISION PROGRAM:** (Hard category: Topical news) For content and production of a regularly scheduled local program that runs from 15 minutes to half an hour. It must be produced by students. Judging is based on content, writing, editing, news judgment announcing and graphic presentation. Each institution is limited to one entry. (This award goes to an institution; NOT an individual producer)

**OUTSTANDING SOFT TELEVISION PROGRAM:** (Soft category: Interview show, magazine/feature show) For content and production of a scheduled local program that runs from 15 minutes to half an hour. The program must be produced by students. The show may be either program or special coverage (example: election night special programming, documentary, etc.). Each institution is limited to one entry. Judging is based on content writing, editing, news judgement, and announcing. (This award goes to an institution; NOT an individual producer)

**OUTSTANDING SPORTS TELEVISION PROGRAM:** For content and production is a scheduled sport show, not sportscast, running from 15 minutes to half an hour. The program must be produced by students. Judging will be based on content, writing, editing, news judgement, and announcing. Each institution is limited to one entry. (This award goes to an institution; NOT an individual producer)

**OUTSTANDING TELEVISION NEWSCAST:** For content and production of a regularly scheduled local newscast produced by students to a general audience. Each institution is limited to one entry. Entry will be judged on presentation, content, continuity, and news judgement. (This award goes to an institution; NOT an individual producer)

**OUTSTANDING TELEVISION NEWS REPORTING:** For individual achievement in television news reporting that shows student enterprise, creativity, clear writing and quality production.

Each entry consists of showing no more than three news stories. Entries should reflect skill in handling various kinds of stories, and can include more than one news story (like a resume reel).

**OUTSTANDING TELEVISION SPORTS REPORTING:** Entries should show student enterprise, creativity, clear writing and quality production. An entry may include television play-by-play, in-depth coverage of a sports event, sports team or sports feature. Each entry consists of a showing no more than three sports stories or events. Judging will be based on content, writing, editing, news judgement and announcing.

**OUTSTANDING TELEVISION PHOTOGRAPHY:** For individual achievement in television news photography that shows student creativity, enterprise, editing ability and mastery of photojournalism techniques. Each entry consists of showing no more than three news stories. Stories should include examples of hard news as well as features and may include sports. Judging will be based on editing and creative use of both video and sound.