MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

Supporting quality community journalism.

MPA Foundation 2026
Annual Journalism Scholarship Application

Application and support material must be submitted electronically on or before *Sunday, Nov. 15, 2026 at 5 P.M.*

To qualify, the student must:

- Be a Michigan resident or eligible for in-state tuition.
- Be a current student graduating no earlier than May, 2027.
- Have substantial experience as a collegiate or community news media staffer as shown by a portfolio submitted with the nomination materials.
- Be currently enrolled in at least one journalism course or provide a transcript (official OR unofficial) showing previous enrollment in journalism courses.
- Demonstrate an interest in and potential for pursuing a career in community journalism through work as a reporter, editor, digital and/or photojournalist at a Michigan media outlet, including campus publications.
- If the Foundation is to consider financial need (not an overriding scholarship criterion), the application should include a financial aid award document.

The application must include:

- The completed application page.
- A current resume.
- A transcript (official or unofficial; former preferred.)
- 2 samples of the applicant's journalistic work.
- A 500 word essay that:
  1. Explains how the applicant views his/her future in community journalism.
  2. Details previous and current experience in community journalism/campus media.
  3. Explains why the applicant is deserving of the scholarship as evidenced by their work in journalism.
- Three letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a journalism faculty member and/or publication adviser. All letters must include the sender's contact information. Do not submit letters from current students or family members (Suggested: teachers, advisors, newspapers/internships.)
- A current, professional looking head and shoulders color photo to be used in the announcement brochure and other promotional materials (300dpi resolution).

Michigan Press Association Foundation
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Lansing, MI 48917
517.610.4813
diana@michiganpress.org

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MPA Foundation Community Journalism Scholarship Application

Name: _____

☐ Junior
☐ Senior

Expected Graduation Date: _____

Journalism GPA (if applicable): _____ Overall GPA: _____

College/University: _____

Home Address: _____

_____

Campus Address: _____

_____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Name: Advisor/Journalism Instructor/Department Chair

_____

_____

_____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Application checklist. Submit all materials together:

- ☐ Completed application
- ☐ Resume
- ☐ Transcript
- ☐ 2 samples of journalistic work
- ☐ 500 word essay
- ☐ 3 letters of recommendation
- ☐ Professional headshot

Past MPA Foundation Scholarship Winners include...

John Bebow (Western Michigan University, 1989)

CEO/Publisher Bridge Michigan and The Center for Michigan



Katrese Stafford (Eastern Michigan University, 2011)

Associate Press



Nora Naughton (Eastern Michigan University, 2015)

Senior Reporter, Autos at Insider, Inc.



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NEW Student Member Category

Annual dues: $10

This membership category is designed for students at a Michigan college or university who are interested in a career in media. Proof of college attendance (student ID or a letter from a faculty member) is required. Receive the E-Bulletin, Weekly Briefings, discounted registration fees and networking with publishers and editors.

https://michiganpress.org/mpa-membership/student-membership/

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