

Professional Keystone Media Awards - Specialty Category Winners
Distinguished Writing Awards

Year	Division	Award	Organization	Credits	Entry Title
2026	Overall	Winner	PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg	John Luciew	Stabbed Pa. teacher Ellen Greenberg 'wanted that happy ending.' It never arrived; From hidden adoption to advocate: NFL star Ricky Watters' surprising second act; Homeless man killed in Harrisburg 'Tent City' fire had a 'whole other life'
2025	Overall	Winner	The Philadelphia Inquirer	Barbara Laker	Rochelle Marcus Yates shooting investigation; Michael Gaynor arrest; Child witnesses; Coerced confessions; Innocence Project
2024	Overall	Winner	TheBurg, Harrisburg	Maddie Gittens	Starting Over; The Best of Pal's; On the Move
2023	Overall	Winner	The Philadelphia Inquirer	Lynette Hazelton	Philly's Girl in the Box remains an overlooked mystery; Paying a Premium; Fighting Food Apartheid
2022	Overall	Winner	The Philadelphia Inquirer	Jason Nark	An exploration of Pennsylvania's unique cultural landscape
2021	Overall	Winner	The Philadelphia Inquirer	Barbara Laker	The Body Collector; We're In This Together; Every Day Is A Fresh Hell
2020	Overall	Winner	Reading Eagle Company	David Mekeel	Series: No Homes of their Own
2019	Overall	First Place	York Daily Record/Sunday News	Mike Argento	Michael Lehman walks free; Jehovah's Witnesses' culture of cover up; York County flood victims
2019	Overall	Second Place	Pittsburgh Post-Gazette	Stephen J. Nesbitt	The rise and shame of Jung Ho Kang; Le'Veon Bell - villain or vilified?; In the heart of Squirrel Hill
2018	Overall	First Place	Philadelphia Media Network	David Gambacorta	Dead bodies and billions in tax dollars: The secret, profitable world of private prisons
2018	Overall	Second Place	Philadelphia Media Network	Maria Panaritis	Ungodly Pain: Legacy of a Predator Preist
2017	Overall	First Place	Philadelphia Media Network	Amy S. Rosenberg	Teen Killers; The Berns meet the Birds; Miss. Delegate Recalls 1964
2017	Overall	Second Place	Reading Eagle Company	Jim Lewis	We don't know unless we try; Finding strength in forgiveness; Caretakes of history
2016	Overall	First Place	PennLive/The Patriot-News, Harrisburg	John Luciew	Inside the 22-year hunt; 'Dirty Kids'; Ex-Mayor's obsession

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2016	Overall	Second Place	Beaver County Times	Marsha Keefer	Life of Pie; A long-lost son, returned; An altruistic army
2015	Multi-day Publications	First Place	Reading Eagle Company	Dave Mekeel	Defying expectations; Lessons from defeat; The worst kind of loss; Making history
2015	Multi-day Publications	Second Place	Philadelphia Daily News	Stephanie Farr	Stories by Stephanie Farr - Chillin' Wit'...Philly Jesus
2015	Weekly Publications	First Place	TheBurg	Paul Barker	The Tests of Time
2015	Weekly Publications	Second Place	Philadelphia City Paper	Emily Guendelsberger	A Bitter End; Who Throws a Party for the Trash Man?; The Pilgrim's Tale; Next Stop Citi Hall; A VIP Line to City Hall; Increased Lightning
2014	Multi-day Publications	First Place	The Times-Tribune	Christopher J. Kelly	Christopher J. Kelly
2014	Multi-day Publications	Second Place	Philadelphia Daily Publications News	Jason Nark	UPHILL (GUN)BATTLE, WAR AT HOME, BEAUTY & THE STREETS
2014	Weekly Publications	First Place	Philadelphia Weekly Publications	Randy LoBasso	Mixed Signals; The New Guy; Purplevania
2014	Weekly Publications	Second Place	The Elizabethtown Advocate	Dan Robrish	Legal recognition of marriage is personal to Me and My Family; Supreme Court Wisely Upholds State's Rights on Marriage Laws; Marriage Law Deserves Vigorous Defense Against ACLU Lawsuit
2013	Daily Publications	First Place	The Patriot-News	John Luciew	A Year on the Farm; A complicated legacy: Death of Joe Paterno; Finding solace: The Clouse family one year after the fire
2013	Daily Publications	Second Place	The Herald, Sharon	Nick Hildebrand	Let's mourn Craig's death rather than start gun debate / I told you so: Santorum has what Romney sorely lacks / Politicians don't practice kitchen table accounting
2013	Weekly Publications	First Place	Philadelphia Weekly Publications	Tara Murtha	Frame of Mind; Reporting for Duty; The Truth About Buzz Bissinger
2013	Weekly Publications	Second Place	Central Penn Business Journal	Heather Stauffer	The health care game - with dancing; Post-election, question is how PPACA will be implemented; Through changes and challenges, Whitaker Center takes long view

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2012	Daily Publications	First Place	Reading Eagle Company	Jason Brudereck	The struggle to survive; Site for poor eyes; Officials: City restaurants, cultural events...; Flint schools struggling to help students improve lives; Return to ground zero: 'I am not what happened to me'; 1 step leads texter to unwanted fame
2012	Daily Publications	Second Place	The Philadelphia Inquirer	Melissa Dribben	Rapture-ready; The silent battle for women in military: Sexual assault; Grace amid the losses
2012	Weekly Publications	First Place	Philadelphia Weekly Publications	Tara Murtha	Distinguished writing - Tara Murtha
2012	Weekly Publications	Second Place	Northeast Times, Trevoise	Jenny Swigoda	The War Within
2011	Daily Publications	First Place	York Daily Publications Record/Sunday News	Mike Argento	So Far Away; Murder still haunts; A special gift: Sisters reunite
2011	Daily Publications	Second Place	The Herald, Sharon	Joe Pinchot	Flying the Coop / The buddy system / Day for saying thanks to all
2011	Weekly Publications	First Place	Philadelphia Weekly Publications	Tara Murtha	Dodge City, Nightmare on Earp Street, Many Faces of Battle
2011	Weekly Publications	Second Place	Press And Journal	Jim Lewis	Distinguished writing - Press And Journal
2010	Daily Publications	First Place	The Patriot-News	Ford Turner	No Backing Down; He Was a Ray of Sunshine; I Have to go There
2010	Daily Publications	Second Place	The Philadelphia Inquirer	Melissa Dribben	He Just Went to Work; A Hand for the Empty Seat at the Table; Just a Day's Work for a Hero
2010	Weekly Publications	First Place	Chestnut Hill Local	Joel Hoffmann	An Open Letter to the Class of 2009; Apartment Fire Raises Questions; Calling All Farm Hands
2010	Weekly Publications	Second Place	Philadelphia City Paper	Isaiah Thompson	Cop Coop D'Etat; Believe it or Not; Meet Your New Neighbor
2009	Daily Publications	First Place	The Philadelphia Inquirer	Melissa Dribben	A Life of Frustration and Tragedy; Tragedy Draws a Crowd, Questions; Gracing the City
2009	Daily Publications	Second Place	Philadelphia Daily Publications news	David Gambacorta	When Heroes are Hurt
2009	Weekly Publications	First Place	Chestnut Hill Local	Joel Hoffmann	Caruso's checks out Indefinitely; Unspinning the Political Candidates; Debate Continues

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2009	Weekly Publications	Second Place	Potter Leader-Enterprise	Donald Gilliland	Commissioner's Secret Deals Outside the Law; Outdoors; From the Editor
2008	Daily Publications	First Place	The Daily Publications Item	Damian Gessel	In search of foot traffic, Dirt, drive, devotion, From heroin to heroine
2008	Daily Publications	Second Place	The Patriot-News	Ford Turner	Portfolio
2008	Weekly Publications	First Place	Philadelphia City Paper	Tom Namako	Welcome home soldier, Food fend, Wait a second
2008	Weekly Publications	Second Place	Philadelphia City Paper	Doron Taussig	85 shots, The deluge, An American tragedy
2007	Daily Publications	First Place	The Philadelphia Inquirer	John Shiffman	Drugnet
2007	Daily Publications	Second Place	The Morning Call	Kathleen Parrish	Hidden Hands
2007	Weekly Publications	First Place	Mountain Home	Michael Capuzzo	Collection
2007	Weekly Publications	Second Place	Philadelphia City Paper	Brian Hickey	Collection
2006	Daily Publications	First Place	Erie Times-News	Robb Frederick	Performance adds weight; In face of death; Ill winds
2006	Daily Publications	Second Place	York Daily Publications Record/Sunday News	Jennifer Vogelsong	Celebrating a quinceanera; Linking hearts; Makeovers
2006	Weekly Publications	First Place	Philadelphia City Paper	Mike Newall	Path of the righteous man; Emergency breakdown; Prayer for Grays Ferry
2006	Weekly Publications	Second Place	Philadelphia Weekly Publications	Kia Gregory	A dream deferred; Flood of emotion; Always room for Moore
2005	Daily Publications	First Place	The Patriot-News	Jim Lewis	
2005	Daily Publications	Second Place	Beaver County Times	April Johnston	
2005	Weekly Publications	First Place	Philadelphia Weekly Publications	Liz Spikol	
2005	Weekly Publications	Second Place	Philadelphia City Paper	Doron Taussig	
2004	Daily Publications	First Place	The Patriot-News	Jim Lewis	Driven by love, Mr. Ernie returns & West shor woman had cookies for all
2004	Daily Publications	Second Place	Sranton Times/Tribune	Christopher Kelly	Pilgrimage
2004	Weekly Publications	First Place	Philadelphia City Paper	Howard Altman	The longest day
2004	Weekly Publications	Second Place	Philadelphia City Paper	Brian Hickey	Boy wonder, Crime against humanity & The iceman
2003	Daily Publications	First Place	Tribune-Review, Greensburg	Robb Frederick	
2003	Daily Publications	Second Place	Pittsburgh Post-Gazette	Michael Fuoco	
2003	Weekly Publications	First Place	Philadelphia City Paper	Howard Altman	
2003	Weekly Publications	Second Place	South Hills Record Star, Monroeville	Brian Estadt	
2002		First Place	Beaver County Times	Bill Toland	

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2002		Second Place	Pittsburgh Post-Gazette	Dennis Roddy	
2002		Honorable Mention	The Patriot-News, Harrisburg	Jim Lewis	
2001		First Place	The Patriot-News, Harrisburg	Jim Lewis	
2001		Second Place	Reading Eagle Company	Tracy Ramussen	
2000		First Place	York Daily Record	Ivelisse DeJesus	Autisum: The story of Derek and Bryce
2000		Second Place	The Times Leader, Wilkes-Barre	Bob Nocek	Surviving the Silence
2000		Second Place	Pittsburgh Post-Gazette	Mackenzie Carpenter	Jim Roddy: Up close and personal
1999		First Place	Erie Times-News	Ed Palattella	Two live running a parallel course
1999		Second Place	Greenburg Tribune-Review	Robb Frederick	The new class
1999		Honorable Mention	Beaver County Times	Bob Bauder	The Balkan powderkeg
1998		First Place	Philadelphia City Paper	Frank Lewis	Famous Seamus
1997		First Place	Beaver County Times	Torsten Ove	The empire builder
1997		Second Place	York Daily Record	Ivelisse DeJesus	Jerry's love endures while Millie's memory fades
1996		First Place	York Daily Record	Mike Argento	Deadly liaison
1996		Second Place	Pittsburgh Post-Gazette	Dennis B. Roddy	A date with death
1995		First Place	Beaver County Times	Torsten Ove	Faith: when children have children
1995		Second Place	Pittsburgh Post-Gazette	Douglas Heuck	A safe haven in a troubled world
1995		Honorable Mention	The Daily Item, Sunbury	Robb Frederick	Jacob's World
1994		Winner	Pittsburgh Post-Gazette	Diana Nelson Jones	25 years ago, the world collapsed
1993		Winner (tie)	The Evening Sun, Hanover	Ann E. Diviney	The old road
1993		Winner (tie)	The Philadelphia Inquirer	Rick Lyman	Where Somalia's walking skeletons come to eat - or die
1992		Winner	The Patriot-News, Harrisburg	Michael Stetz	Out of curiosity, city man takes a shot at it; The tiniest wage biggest battle of all; Residents stubbornly loyal...
1991		Winner (tie)	The Philadelphia Inquirer	Carol Morello	
1991		Winner (tie)	The Pittsburgh Press	Mark Warnick	
1990		Winner	The Pittsburgh Press	Douglas Heuck	A rose wilting is still a rose
1989		Winner	The Pittsburgh Press	Douglas Heuck	
1988		Winner	The Philadelphia Inquirer	David Zucchini	
1987		Winner	The Philadelphia Inquirer	Donald C. Drake	