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2022 Diverse Student Journalist Awards Announced by PNA Foundation

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 22, 2022 – The Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association Foundation has announced its inaugural Diverse Student Journalist Awards presented through the annual Student Keystone Media Awards Contest.

These special awards recognize both a talented college and high school student journalist, of a diverse background, for outstanding contributions to their newsrooms. Diversity includes, but is not limited to ancestry, color, disability or handicap, race, religious creed, sexual orientation, age, veteran status and economic status. Entries include examples of work produced and published as well as nomination letters from faculty advisers or supervising editors.

Honored in 2022 are Alisha Tarver, a 2021 communications graduate of Penn State Greater Allegheny, McKeesport, where she was news editor at *The GA-Zette* and Owen Levan-Uhler, a senior at Northern Lehigh High School, Slatington, currently serving as editor in chief of the school's newspaper, *The Slate*.

Tarver receives a framed certificate and a \$500 cash award, sponsored by The Lenfest Institute. She was lauded by the judges for “her impressive behind-the-scenes leadership in willing the publication to continue publishing during Covid with a full redesign. Tarver clearly is a peer leader with both feet on the ground.” She was also recognized for taking the editorial lead on issues of racial equity, community engagement and Black women's health.

Levan-Uhler receives a framed certificate and a \$500 cash award, sponsored by the PNA Foundation. According to his nomination letter, “Owen ‘came out’ in an article when he mentioned being part of ‘our community’ in his column about Pride. For being a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community, it is hopeful to see someone like Owen fighting for what he believes to be just in our world – for his own future.” Levan-Uhler was also noted as “one of the hardest working young adults I have ever had the pleasure to know, as well as teach and advise,” said Christopher Barnes.

Starting this year, the PNA Foundation and The Lenfest Institute joined forces to sponsor Diverse Student Journalist Awards. According to Melinda Condon, executive director of the PNA Foundation, “We created these special awards as part of our continuing efforts to recognize, improve and impact diversity, equity and inclusion. An important part of our mission is to develop the next generation of journalists. Our hope is that the \$500 cash awards as well as the special recognitions will encourage these students to pursue careers in journalism.”

About the PNA Foundation:

The Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association Foundation is an independent, non-profit corporation organized as a public foundation. Its mission is to provide training and resources to PNA members, to develop the next generation of readers and journalists, and to educate the public on the importance of the First Amendment and the role of a free press.

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