

The Bruce E. Konkle Rising Star Award

Nomination Instructions

This award was established to honor both SCSPA's rich history and the individual responsible for keeping that history, Bruce E. Konkle, SCSPA director 1985-2002. The first award was presented on Oct. 17, 2011.

The purpose of the award is to recognize scholastic journalism advisers who are making a difference in the lives of their media students by modeling what it's like to be excited about learning, encouraging professionalism in media production, and creating excitement in their classrooms for the love of written, verbal and visual communications.

Because this award is for a "rising star," the teacher's experience in advising must be between one and five years.

Who may nominate an adviser for this award?

Anyone who knows the nominee's qualifications as a publication adviser:

- the nominee's principal, assistant principal, department chair, or fellow teacher,
- a current or former publication adviser,
- a current or former student editor and/or staff who works/worked with the nominee.

Criteria:

- Nominee must be currently advising a South Carolina scholastic newspaper (print and/or online), yearbook, literary magazine or broadcasting program.
- Nominee must have been an active adviser between one and five years – all of them do not have to be at his/her current school.
- Past recipients of this award may not be nominated again.
- Nominee's program(s) must be a SCSPA member.

Material to submit:

- Letter of nomination (see "who may submit" above)
- At least one letter of recommendation supporting the nomination – may be from the principal, the adviser's department head, an editor, a parent or any other person who knows this individual as a scholastic journalism adviser.
- SAMPLES of the adviser's staff(s)' work- a magazine, copies of newspapers, a yearbook, a link to a broadcast program, or the URL of an online publication.

Nominations must be received by the SCSPA office by Sept. 23.

Send materials to:

SCSPA: Bruce E. Konkle Rising Star Award
School of Journalism and Mass Communications
University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. 29208

Letters of nomination and recommendation may be emailed to Leslie Dennis, SCSPA director: dennislc@email.sc.edu

Past recipients:

2011 – Katie Yon, Brashier Middle College Charter HS (online)
2012 – Karin McKemey, Fort Mill HS (broadcast)
2013 – Angela Childs-Kindred, James Island HS (yearbook)
2014 – Jennifer Erxleben, South Florence HS (yearbook)
2015 – AJ Chambers, Summerville HS (broadcast)
2016 – Shawntell Pace, Wando HS (broadcast)
2017 – Amanda Hajji, Lexington HS (yearbook)
2018 – Amanda Foster, Powdersville HS (literary magazine)
2019 – no award
2020 – no award
2021 – Candace Cannon, Lexington HS (yearbook)