

Top three places in audio production awarded to Aims Community College's communication media students at Broadcast Education Association Festival of Media Arts



L to R: Lisa Berndt, Alexa Maxey and Anna Hunt.

Three Aims Community College radio students enrolled in the Communication Media program won first, second and third place in this year's Broadcast Education Association (BEA) Festival of Media Arts Two Year/Small School Audio Production category.

Alexa Maxey from Greeley won first place for her piece "Finding Healing, Choosing Joy." Lisa Berndt from Loveland took second with "Bullying through a Child's Eye." Anna Hunt from Hudson earned third place for "An Underdog Story."

"I'm so proud of our amazing communication media students and faculty for winning the top three places in the two-year audio production category," said Aims' President Dr. Leah L. Bornstein. "This achievement shows the quality education we offer in our Communication Media program, and I hope it encourages future students to consider Aims if they are interested in a career in broadcasting."

The Broadcast Education Association is an international academic media organization that drives excellence in media production and career advancement for educators, students and professionals. The BEA's Festival of Media Arts is a competitive festival

open to BEA faculty and student members. Prizes will be awarded during BEA's annual convention and Festival of Media Arts April 22-26, 2017 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Alexa Maxey's piece tells the story of a woman named Suzannah who had a stroke when she was nine months pregnant.

"I am honored to receive this award," Alexa said. "This will bring more exposure to my interview of an incredible woman with an unbelievable story of strength and healing." Listen to Alexa's project at

<https://soundcloud.com/aimsstudentradio/alexa-bea>.

Lisa Berndt said her project was driven completely by emotion. The purpose of her project was to honor a friend of her daughter, a second grader, who was bullied. He tragically passed away last May and Lisa says their friendship changed her life.

"I gave a group of kids a forum to speak openly and honestly, to have their voices heard and bring attention to an epidemic that is plaguing childhood," Lisa said. "I had no intention of entering the competition but did this project out of love and awareness. I am proud of my piece, not only as a student but as a mother." Listen to Lisa's project at <https://soundcloud.com/aimsstudentradio/lisa-bea>

Anna Hunt says her project meant a lot to her to because she wanted to tell her mom's life story. She says she wanted to show how hard work and determination can help you get to where you want to be no matter what is going on in your life.

"I have always worked really hard in my studies and have always strived to do my best," she said. "I decided I wanted to get into radio production and questioned if it was really the right job for me. After winning this award I have learned that radio is where I'm supposed to be." Listen to Anna's story at

<https://soundcloud.com/aimsstudentradio/anna-bea>.

Communication Media Instructor Joe Cross said, "It's very exciting as an instructor to know that the things we are teaching are being absorbed. Interviews are one of the hardest parts of the radio world and these three nailed it. I am very proud of all my students."

About the Aims Communication Media Program

Students in the Communication Media program learn media writing, how to create and edit their own music, digitally edit television programs, create video graphics and animation and take photographs. The certificate and degree programs prepare students for entry-level jobs and career advancement for those already in the field. For more information visit www.aims.edu/academics/comm-media.