

The National Scholastic Press Association recently released its national awards for individual contests and Newspaper Pacemakers, as announced at the (virtual) Nov. 21 National Journalism Convention.

Echo students received a National Newspaper Pacemaker for the last school year's print editions. The National Pacemaker is the highest award the organization gives to student news media and dates back to 1927. Echo has been a National Newspaper Pacemaker Finalist every year since 2010 and has won the prestigious award five times since. This year, only 21 newspapers won a National Pacemaker. Echo is the only school from Minnesota on the newspaper list.

Additionally, during the convention Echo won fourth in Best of Show for its online new site, slpecho.com.

Four students also placed nationally in NSPA's individual awards. (NSPA awards First through Fifth places and then about another two to five are recognized as Honorable Mentions in each category.)

NSPA individual award winners:

Marta Hill, Maggie Klaers, Izzy Kanne, Talia Lissauer, [Impeachment video](#), Honorable Mention
Maggie Klaers, [News story](#), Honorable Mention
Maggie Klaers, Artist of the Year, Fourth Place
Maggie Klaers, [Design of the Year](#), Fourth Place

Columbia Scholastic Press Association named Echo news and online site a finalist for its Crown awards Dec. 2. This national award is CSPA's highest honor for a hybrid news organization. Final awards will be announced in March.

CSPA also announced its individual winners in November. Similar to NSPA the individual awards only one First, Second, Third and then up to three Certificate of Merit awards for each category.

CSPA individual award winners:

Maggie Klaers, Page One Design category for "Climate Change," Third Place

Maggie Klaers and Sophie Livingston, News Page Design category for "City Election Provides Opportunity," Certificate of Merit

Maggie Klaers, Feature Page Design category for "Vaping," Second Place

Maggie Klaers, Sports Page Design category for "Hockey," Certificate of Merit

Maggie Klaers, Single Subject News or Feature package, Single-Page Design for "Vaping," Third Place

Sophie Livingston, Single Subject News or Feature package, Single-Page Design for "Haters will Hate," Certificate of Merit

Staff, Editorial Writing for "Park's Prom Timing Error Inexcusable," Certificate of Merit

State awards:

Echo, the student-led newspaper and website at St. Louis Park High School won the following awards at the Minnesota High School Press Association's (MHSPA) Virtual Fall Convention.

Convention Best of Show: First place, Online News Site

MHSPA individual awards:

Broadcast News Story: First Place, George Floyd memorial organized in St. Louis Park, Marta Hill, Maggie Klaers

Broadcast Feature Story: Second Place, Winter One Act, Maggie Klaers

Newspaper/News magazine Page/Spread Design: Third place, Election design, Maggie Klaers

Editorial Cartoon: Second Place, Hennepin County should vote to welcome refugees, Maggie Klaers

Editorial Cartoon: Fourth Place, Pass-no credit systems value unclear, Maggie Klaers

Newspaper/News magazine Editorial/Opinion Story: First Place, Why the press does what it does, Marta Hill

Newspaper/News magazine News Story: Second Place, I can't breathe: protesters unite against police violence, Marta Hill, Talia Lissauer

News magazine Sports Story: Second Place, Cutting through the complaints: is the sports budget fair?, Kaia Myers, Grace Schultz

Online Multimedia Story Package: First Place, George Floyd memorial organized, Marta Hill, Maggie Klaers, Talia Lissauer, Emily Ziessman

Photojournalism

News Photo: First Place, George Floyd memorial, Emily Ziessman

Feature Photo: Second Place, Senior ladies homecoming photo, Anna Benishek

Photo Illustration: Fourth Place, Bike photo illustration, Jane Pupeza

Social Media Promotion: Fourth Place, Echo/Journalism promo video, Ryan Barnett, Maddie Schutte

Additionally, the Journalism Educators of Minnesota awarded *Echo* with "Gold" distinctions in both the News Websites and Newspapers and News magazines categories.

***New York Times* photojournalism finalist**

Out of more than 1,000 submissions from students across the world to the annual School of *The New York Times* photojournalism challenge, senior Talia Lissauer was chosen as one of 10 finalists. The contest aimed to document students' time in quarantine. James Estrin, a Pulitzer Prize winning, senior staff photographer, selected the 10 finalists and two winners. The two winners were featured in the nationwide print edition of *The New York Times* on November 5.