



PRESS RELEASE

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STUDENTS NATIONWIDE INVITED TO COMPETE IN 46TH COLLEGE TELEVISION AWARDS OFFERING ASPIRING CREATORS THE HOLLYWOOD SPOTLIGHT

**Television Academy Foundation Opens Submissions for
Student Awards and Announces Inaugural “Vin Di Bona Trailblazer
Award for Nonfiction Series” to be Presented at 2027 Ceremony**

(**LOS ANGELES** – Sept. 29, 2026) — The Television Academy Foundation today announced submissions are open for its 46th College Television Awards, which rewards excellence in student-produced programs from colleges and universities nationwide, and the establishment of the “Vin Di Bona Trailblazer Award for Nonfiction Series” for the spring 2027 ceremony.

The deadline for entries is Oct. 15, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. (PDT) through the [TelevisionAcademy.com/CTA/submit](https://televisionacademy.com/CTA/submit) portal. Criteria for the awards reflect industry standards of excellence, imagination and innovation across categories. Nominations will be announced November 19, 2026.

New for the 2027 awards program is the “Vin Di Bona Trailblazer Award for Nonfiction Series,” a \$10,000 award sponsored by Emmy® Award-winning television producer, director and media entrepreneur Vin Di Bona, whose career has helped shape modern entertainment television. Best known as the creator and executive producer of *America’s Funniest Home Videos*, he is widely regarded as a pioneer of reality-based and user-generated programming, transforming home videos into one of the longest-running and most successful primetime entertainment franchises in television history.

Emulating the Emmy Awards selection process, Television Academy members judge College Television Awards entries. Awards and over \$40,000 in cash prizes will be presented by television stars at a red carpet ceremony in Hollywood to winning

teams in nine categories: Animation Series; Comedy Series (for undergraduate students); Commercial, PSA or Promo; Drama Series (for undergraduate students); News; Vin Di Bona Trailblazer Award for Nonfiction Series; Scripted Series (for graduate students); Sports; and the Loreen Arbus Focus on Disability Award.

The \$10,000 Loreen Arbus Focus on Disability Award recognizes either a student-produced program focused on people with disabilities or emerging artists with disabilities and is underwritten by the Loreen Arbus Foundation. In addition, the Seymour Bricker Humanitarian Award, a \$4,000 cash prize, is presented to each year's College Television Award-winning project judged to best highlight a humanitarian concern.

"Each year the Foundation presents the College Television Awards to spotlight rising talent in content creation and showcase their work to industry professionals in Hollywood," said Tina Perry, chair of the Television Academy Foundation. "This access and visibility to the industry often helps launch careers. We encourage students nationwide to submit their work for consideration."

Prominent College Television Awards alumni include CNN national correspondent Natasha Chen, *Shrek 5* director Brad Ableson, *Bridgerton* orchestrator Benjamin Hoff, *Family Feud* editor Pierre Dwyer, *Maya and the Three* executive producer Jorge R. Gutierrez and *CBS Mornings* producer Catherine Cannon.

The program also includes exclusive opportunities for all participating nominees to network and connect with industry executives over three days of professional development events with top entertainment industry talent and executives prior to the awards ceremony at the Television Academy in North Hollywood, California. College Television Award winners may also have the opportunity to participate as collegiate fellows and screen their projects at SeriesFest 2027, in Denver, Colorado. In addition, nominees and winners of the 46th College Television Awards automatically become members of the Television Academy Foundation's alumni family, gaining access to year-round networking opportunities, events and professional-development resources.

The deadline for entries is Oct. 15, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. (PDT) through the online portal at [TelevisionAcademy.com/CTA/submit](https://televisionacademy.com/CTA/submit); application fee is \$25. Detailed submission guidelines, rules, eligibility criteria and category descriptions are available online. For more information, applicants can also view the [College Television Awards Information Session](#).

The 2027 College Television Awards is supported by philanthropists and corporate partners including The Loreen Arbus Foundation and Vin Di Bona.

About the Television Academy Foundation

The Television Academy Foundation is dedicated to inspiring tomorrow's Emmy winners today by discovering and championing future television leaders. Through its celebrated nationwide programs — including its [Internship Program](#) and [College Television Awards](#) — the Foundation opens doors for emerging talent, empowering them to launch careers in television. The Foundation also produces [The Interviews: An Oral History of Television](#), an extraordinary archive that preserves the stories of the industry's most influential voices. Together, these initiatives inspire creativity, foster inclusion and shape the future of television. For more information on the Foundation, please visit TelevisionAcademy.com/Foundation.

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