PRESS RELEASE

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TELEVISION ACADEMY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2026 ALEX TREBEK LEGACY FELLOWS AND MEDIA EDUCATORS CONFERENCE LINEUP

Conference Connects College Professors Nationwide With Leading Hollywood Creatives and Executives for Sessions on the Latest Developments in Media Arts and Technology Oct. 21-23

(**LOS ANGELES** – Oct. 13, 2026) — The Television Academy Foundation today announced registration is open for its 2026 Media Educators Conference to be held Oct. 21-23 at the Television Academy Foundation in North Hollywood, California. In addition, it named 18 professors from across the country who will receive Alex Trebek Legacy Fellowships to attend the three-day event.

The annual Media Educators Conference, open to college and university media arts educators nationwide, aims to bridge the gap between academia and the television industry, ensuring that attending educators are well-equipped to teach the next generation of media professionals. Faculty attendees receive a one-year complimentary academic membership to the Television Academy. The conference price is $350 per person. To register visit **TelevisionAcademy.com/mec/register**. Registration closes Oct. 14, 2026.

Since 2021, the Foundation has offered Alex Trebek Legacy Fellowships — established by the Harry & Judy Friedman Family Foundation in honor of the late television icon and *Jeopardy!* host Alex Trebek — providing financial support for educators from community colleges and minority-serving institutions to attend the conference.

The 2026 Alex Trebek Legacy Fellows selected are: Danyelle Greene (Florida Atlantic University); L. David Hansen (Madison Area Technical College); Randy Yohe (Marshall University); Dan Johnson, Jr. (Paine College); Sherita Stanley (Prairie View A&M University); Dante Mozie (South Carolina State University); Darrell Roberson (Southern University and A&M College); Duane Prefume (University of Houston); Darius Dawson (University of Colorado Boulder); Rob Eckard (University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire); Kent Kay (College of the Desert); Bobby Chastain (Purdue University); Christopher Karadjov (California State University, Long Beach); Nancy Wang Yuen (Crafton Hills College); Cole Quirk (De Anza College); Tracie Lewis (El Camino College); Jennifer Vaughn (Los Angeles City College); and Idit Dvir (Howard University).

The three-day conference will kick off with opening remarks from Television Academy Foundation Executive Director Anne Vasquez and feature informative media industry panels on a variety of topics including:

- **The State of the Industry** with the *Los Angeles Times* entertainment business reporter Samantha Masunaga, *The Wrap* TV editor Jose Alejandro Bastidas, *The Hollywood Reporter* senior entertainment writer David Canfield, and *Variety* senior entertainment writer Angelique Jackson, with *emmy* magazine senior editor Stephan Horbelt moderating.
- **Calling the Shots: The Art of Leading a Television Show** featuring a roundtable discussion with leaders from some of today's top shows including Eva Anderson (*Margo's Got Money Troubles*), Jason Keller (*Stick*), Lauren Neustadter (*Lucky*; *The Last Thing He Told Me*; *The Morning Show*) and David Rosen (*Maximum Pleasure Guaranteed*).
- **Emerging Technology & Storytelling** with Jim Geduldick, VFX & Virtual Production Supervisor and Co-Founder Creators Coalition on AI, and Christina Lee Storm, head of AI Narrative Studio at Secret Level.
- **The Rise of Vertical Production** with director Danny Farber (*Swipe to Forever*); screenwriter Shamikah Martinez; and showrunner/executive producer, co-founder Fumero Films Adriana Santos.
- **"The Power of TV: Creating with Care"** with Karin Slaughter, author, creator and showrunner of the upcoming Peacock series *The Good Daughter*; Steph Green, director and executive producer of the *The Good Daughter*; Jennifer Simmons Kaleba, vice president of communications at RAINN; and Renee Davidson, vice president of communications at Brady: United Against Gun Violence.

- **Masterclass in Episodic Directing** with director Rachel Raimist (*Elsbeth*, *Bel Air*; *The Spiderwick Chronicles*; *Queen Sugar*).
- An exclusive look at the new **Get in the Game** class curriculum at California State University, Los Angeles, with former *Jeopardy!* and *Wheel of Fortune* executive producer Harry Friedman; Sean Loughlin, executive vice president of unscripted development at Endemol Shine; Kristiina Hackel, director of academic innovation and strategic partnerships for the College of Arts & Letters, California State University, Los Angeles; Mily Cunningham, television and digital media producer (*Date on a Plate*); and moderator Bob Boden, executive producer, *Funny You Should Ask*.
- **From Classroom to Festival: A Legal Framework for Student Filmmakers** with producer/business affairs executive Steve Fisch and senior entertainment attorney at NBCUniversal Sharon Glancz.
- **Building Momentum: Launching a Career in Entertainment** with Emily Dillard, producer/senior project coordinator, Walt Disney Imagineering; Nicola Rinciari, director/Previs lead, Warner Bros. Animation; Karen Zipor, director/producer; and Madison Anglin, visual media composer.
- ***The Interviews*: Unlock the Ultimate Curriculum Tool** with Jenni Matz, director of ***The Interviews*** online archive. This website houses the Foundation's curated and searchable archive of over 3,000 hours of uncensored interviews with icons from television's earliest days to current stars and visionaries. Learn how educators, authors, historians and producers across the country are using the television archive to enhance curriculum, support research and develop new projects.

"This conference offers educators a rare opportunity to connect directly with some of the most accomplished professionals working in television and entertainment media today," said Tina Perry, chair of the Television Academy Foundation. "Educators gain firsthand access to the people shaping the industry, providing valuable insights, real-world perspectives and professional connections they can bring back to their classrooms. We're proud to honor the 2026 Alex Trebek Fellows for their dedication to education and the lasting impact they're making on future media professionals."

Sponsors for the 2026 Media Educators Conference include the Harry & Judy Friedman Family Foundation, *Los Angeles Times*, NBCUniversal, Sony Pictures Entertainment and *The Wrap*.

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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