



2025 HIGH SCHOOL CRYSTAL PILLAR WINNERS & NOMINEES

The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences created the National Student Production Award of Excellence to honor outstanding television production by high school students. It is designed to expose young enthusiasts to the substantive and ethical aspects of the television industry. CRYSTAL PILLAR winners go on to compete in the National High School Production Awards.

NEWSCAST

CRYSTAL PILLAR

- **Entry Title:** Raider Nation News **School:** Huntley High School **Student Entrants:** William Mize, Addison Stone, Jocelyn Jones, Caden Slad, Dylan Fekete

NOMINEES

- **Entry Title:** The VTV **School:** Homewood-Flossmoor High School **Student Entrants:** Sommer Owens, Laila Dyer
- **Entry Title:** GTV News **School:** Geneva High School **Student Entrants:** Liam Reiber, Julia Leiderman, Addison Windt, Layla Plummer, Dillon Wynn

HEADLINE NEWS

CRYSTAL PILLAR

- **Entry Title:** CPTV News QuickCUT - January 27, 2025 **School:** Crown Point High School **Student Entrants:** Ryan Welsh, MiRey Fernandez, Ariana Pantoja, Rana Stevens, Trent Josley

NOMINEES

- **Entry Title:** Best of BHS-TV **School:** Barrington High School **Student Entrants:** Rohan Soorya, Ellery Ragnini, Skye Lundy, Lucciana Pazdan, Aidan Kelly
- **Entry Title:** Bulldog Dispatch **School:** Harold L. Richards High School **Student Entrants:** Alexys Gonzalez, Kate Slehofer, Kylie Berg, Kamila Sanchez

HARD NEWS REPORT

CRYSTAL PILLAR

- **Entry Title:** AI at DHS **School:** Deerfield High School **Student Entrant:** Brooke Bernstein

NOMINEE

- **Entry Title:** Rise and Resist Protest **School:** Maine South High School **Student Entrant:** Nicole Scimeca

FEATURE NEWS REPORT

CRYSTAL PILLAR

- **Entry Title:** Beyond Silence **School:** Alan B. Shepard High School **Student Entrants:** Paulina Karkoszka, Malaak Hamad

NOMINEES

- **Entry Title:** Monster Mayhem **School:** Deerfield High School **Student Entrants:** Micah Wolkenberg, Brooke Bernstein, Nathan Lee
- **Entry Title:** "The Little Traveler" **School:** Geneva High School **Student Entrant:** Julia Kastenmeier
- **Entry Title:** Pilgrim Faith Food Pantry **School:** Harold L. Richards High School **Student Entrants:** Alexys Gonzalez, Ted Taylor
- **Entry Title:** Teacher Jerome Flewelling Feature **School:** Crown Point High School **Student Entrant:** Ryan Welsh
- **Entry Title:** Crafting a Memory **School:** Homewood-Flossmoor High School **Student Entrant:** Sommer Owens

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT/CULTURAL AFFAIRS

CRYSTAL PILLAR

- **Entry Title:** Art-O-Mat **School:** Maine South High School **Student Entrant:** Nicole Scimeca

NOMINEES

- **Entry Title:** The Wilmette Theatre **School:** Deerfield High School **Student Entrant:** Austin Blumberg
- **Entry Title:** Mason's Maintenance - How to Change your Cars Oil **School:** Riverside Brookfield High School **Student Entrants:** Mason Myslinski, Jacob Garcia
- **Entry Title:** A Legacy Brewed **School:** Homewood-Flossmoor High School **Student Entrants:** Oreoluwa Shodipo, Laila Dyer

MUSIC VIDEO

CRYSTAL PILLAR

- **Entry Title:** Higher Ground **School:** Maine South High School **Student Entrant:** Nicole Scimeca

NOMINEES

- **Entry Title:** Dangerous **School:** Deerfield High School **Student Entrant:** Brooke Bernstein
- **Entry Title:** Don Beez - Past Feelings **School:** Riverside Brookfield High School **Student Entrant:** Alexy Gonzalez

FICTION - SHORT FORM

CRYSTAL PILLAR

- **Entry Title:** Elixir **School:** Barrington High School **Student Entrant:** Sarah Fitzgerald

NOMINEES

- **Entry Title:** You Can't Move On From Divorce **School:** Maine South High School **Student Entrant:** Nicole Scimeca
- **Entry Title:** High School Planet **School:** Maine South High School **Student Entrants:** Dane Markos, Nicole Scimeca, Ash Lepore
- **Entry Title:** What's the Worst that Can Happen? **School:** Deerfield High School **Student Entrants:** Brooke Bernstein, Nathan Lee, Micah Wolkenberg
- **Entry Title:** EX1L3D **School:** Highland Park High School **Student Entrants:** Simon Finkel, Cameron Janitschke

NON-FICTION - SHORT FORM

CRYSTAL PILLAR

- **Entry Title:** HAE **School:** Bremen Community High School **Student Entrant:** Brody Lynch

NOMINEES

- **Entry Title:** The Secret to Joy **School:** Glenbrook North High School **Student Entrants:** Kady Serlin, Ryder Stone, Sam Rosen, Sean Miles
- **Entry Title:** For the Love of the Drive **School:** Deerfield High School **Student Entrant:** Austin Blumberg
- **Entry Title:** Transitions **School:** Maine South High School **Student Entrant:** Nicole Scimeca
- **Entry Title:** Glenbrook Off-Campus **School:** Glenbrook South High School **Student Entrants:** Freya Pederson, Ellory Moran, Owen Cummings, Kendrick Lee

SPORTS STORY

CRYSTAL PILLAR

- **Entry Title:** Midwest Fencing **School:** Glenbrook South High School **Student Entrants:** Zidan Ayoob, Colin Schuberth, Andrew Boyer, Diego Browning, Rex Christensen

NOMINEES

- **Entry Title:** Mike Taheny **School:** Harold L. Richards High School **Student Entrant:** Alexys Gonzalez
- **Entry Title:** Two Generations, One Game **School:** Glenbrook South High School **Student Entrants:** Carlin Endre, Megan McKew, Aidan Schuler, Charlie Finkel

SPORTS PROGRAM

CRYSTAL PILLAR

- **Entry Title:** Dogpound: Chalk Talk & Dirt – February 7, 2025 **School:** Crown Point High School **Student Entrants:** MiRey Fernandez, Ryan Welsh, Gabe Trevino, Trent Josleyn

NOMINEES

- **Entry Title:** The unBEARable Podcast: Super Bowl 59 Preview Special! **School:** Maine East High School **Student Entrants:** Nathan Kleiber, Jake Aimone, Katie Hill
- **Entry Title:** The Bulldog Blitz - Special Edition Interview with Jim Rose - Ep. 06 **School:** Riverside Brookfield High School **Student Entrants:** Liam Hickey, Liam Keohane

LIVE SPORTING EVENT/GAME

CRYSTAL PILLAR

- **Entry Title:** The Last Shot **School:** Lyons Township High School **Student Entrants:** Aidan Brandstedt, Emily Schuler, Fendrick Markus, Michael Walsh

NOMINEES

- **Entry Title:** Riverside Brookfield vs. Glenbard South Football **School:** Riverside Brookfield High School **Student Entrants:** Liam Keohane, Aidan Schoeff
- **Entry Title:** RBHS vs. Niles West Football **School:** Riverside Brookfield High School **Student Entrants:** Liam Keohane, Liam Hickey, Aidan Schoeff

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (PSA)

CRYSTAL PILLAR

- **Entry Title:** Body Dysmorphia **School:** Maine South High School **Student Entrant:** Nicole Scimeca

NOMINEES

- **Entry Title:** ¡Tenemos Una Voz! **School:** Highland Park High School **Student Entrant:** Rodrigo Sanchez
- **Entry Title:** The Experiment **School:** Glenbrook North High School **Student Entrants:** Kady Serlin, Alexa Hughes, Amelie Thai-Garcia, Sean Miles
- **Entry Title:** One Text **School:** Neuqua Valley High School **Student Entrant:** Saanvi Bedida
- **Entry Title:** Child Safety **School:** Homewood-Flossmoor High School **Student Entrant:** Declan Klyn

PUBLIC AFFAIRS/COMMUNITY SERVICE

CRYSTAL PILLAR

- **Entry Title:** The Man in the Green and Gold Suit – The James Williams Story **School:** Glenbrook North High School **Student Entrants:** Sean Miles, Kady Serlin, Alexa Hughes

NOMINEES

- **Entry Title:** Furever Home Dog Sanctuary **School:** Deerfield High School **Student Entrant:** Micah Wolkenberg
- **Entry Title:** The Power of Youth Organizing **School:** Julian High School **Student Entrant:** Catlyn Savado

MAGAZINE PROGRAM

CRYSTAL PILLAR

- **Entry Title:** The Mane S9 **School:** Metea Valley High School **Student Entrants:** Matthew Bigham, Madison Monroe, Isabella Nevarez

NOMINEES

- **Entry Title:** DHS TV News 11-1-24 **School:** Deerfield High School **Student Entrants:** Brooke Bernstein, Nathan Lee, Austin Blumberg, Micah Wolkenberg
- **Entry Title:** Spartan News Now – January 2025 **School:** Glenbrook North High School **Student Entrants:** Sean Miles, Kady Serlin, Alexa Hughes, Oliva Dunn, Eli Mittelman

COMMERCIAL

CRYSTAL PILLARS

- **Entry Title:** Bluesky **School:** Harold L. Richards High School **Student Entrant:** Helen Huang
- **Entry Title:** Domino's **School:** Maine South High School **Student Entrants:** Jackson Prouty, Soren Lenzini, Nicole Scimeca

NOMINEES

- **Entry Title:** Kickstart **School:** Homewood-Flossmoor High School **Student Entrants:** Sommer Owens, Anthony Reynoso
- **Entry Title:** Eggo: Worth the Wait **School:** Maine West High School **Student Entrant:** Kathryn Huk
- **Entry Title:** Coca-Cola **School:** Harold L. Richards High School **Student Entrants:** Kamila Sanchez, Alondra German
- **Entry Title:** QuickChews **School:** Harold L. Richards High School **Student Entrants:** Alexys Gonzalez, Helen Huang

DIRECTOR

CRYSTAL PILLAR

- **Entry Title:** Petals, Pictures and Paintings **School:** Lake Forest High School **Student Entrant:** Gonzalo Zarazaga

NOMINEES

- **Entry Title:** 2025 Variety Show - Momentum **School:** Glenbrook North High School **Student Entrants:** Kady Serlin, Sean Miles, Eileen Rachelson, Audrey Yen, Sam Rosen
- **Entry Title:** Light Em Up **School:** Barrington High School **Student Entrants:** Andy Zhai, Rohan Soorya, Sarah Fitzgerald
- **Entry Title:** Elixir **School:** Barrington High School **Student Entrant:** Sarah Fitzgerald

EDITOR

CRYSTAL PILLAR

- **Entry Title:** Editing Reel 2024-2025 **School:** Maine South High School **Student Entrant:** Nicole Scimeca

NOMINEES

- **Entry Title:** Light Em Up **School:** Barrington High School **Student Entrants:** Andy Zhai, Rohan Soorya, Sarah Fitzgerald
- **Entry Title:** Editing Composite **School:** Glenbrook South High School **Student Entrants:** Demetri Kouriabalis, Kate Haravon
- **Entry Title:** Kings of the City **School:** Curie Metropolitan High School **Student Entrant:** Daimian Perez

PHOTOGRAPHER

CRYSTAL PILLAR

- **Entry Title:** Photography Reel 2024-2025 **School:** Maine South High School **Student Entrant:** Nicole Scimeca

NOMINEES

- **Entry Title:** Private Eyes – Ethan Meuer Photography **School:** Lyons Township High School **Student Entrant:** Ethan Meuer
- **Entry Title:** Cinematography Reel **School:** Glenbrook North High School **Student Entrant:** Kady Serlin

- **Entry Title:** Light Em Up **School:** Barrington High School **Student Entrants:** Andy Zhai, Rohan Soorya, Sarah Fitzgerald

TALENT

CRYSTAL PILLARS

- **Entry Title:** Talent Reel **School:** Crown Point High School **Student Entrant:** Ryan Welsh
- **Entry Title:** Talent Reel 2024-2025 **School:** Maine South High School **Student Entrant:** Nicole Scimeca

NOMINEE

- **Entry Title:** Sports Talent Reel **School:** Riverside Brookfield High School **Student Entrants:** Liam Hickey, Liam Keohane

WRITER

CRYSTAL PILLARS

- **Entry Title:** Petals, Pictures and Paintings **School:** Lake Forest High School **Student Entrants:** Jillian Duer, Gonzalo Zarazaga
- **Entry Title:** You Can't Move On From Divorce **School:** Maine South High School **Student Entrant:** Nicole Scimeca

NOMINEE

- **Entry Title:** The Secret to Joy **School:** Glenbrook North High School **Student Entrant:** Kady Serlin

High School Faculty: Jodi Pelini, Alan B. Shepard High School; Jeff Doles, Barrington High School; Michael Lynch, Bremen Community High School; Brent Barber, Chris Gloff, Crown Point High School; Elio Rodriguez, Curie Metropolitan High School; Brett Schwartz, Deerfield High School; Beni Enas, Geneva High School; Todd Rubin, Glenbrook North High School; Julie Benca, Helen Neppl, Glenbrook South High School; Aaron Vermedal, Harold L. Richards High School; Mark Ciesielski, Homewood-Flossmoor High School; Lauren Teeter, Huntley High School; Kimberly Saunders, Julian High School; Steve Douglass, Lake Forest High School; Bill Allan, David Karaffa, Lyons Township High School; Phillip Ash, Maine East High School; Mason Strom, Maine South High School; Rebecca Orr, Maine West High School; Molly Quinn, Metea Valley High School; John Gelsomino, Will Schaub, Lisa Traut, Neuqua Valley High School; Matthew Holdren, Riverside Brookfield High School.
