

## Journalist of the Year Award Committee Members

Dear Selection Committee:

Alice Scott has burned with a passion for journalism since middle school — committed to learning all she can, grow her journalistic skills in broadcast and newspaper and blossom as a leader.

But more than grow her skills, she's glowed as a journalism superstar.

I first met Alice in a summer workshop just before her freshman year, and, wow, was I impressed.

Even though she was surrounded by high school newspaper and yearbook students, she never hesitated to jump into discussions about writing, to ask questions and to offer ways to improve pieces those students wrote during the workshop. She was eager to learn and share her insights.

And for a whole year after that workshop, I had the privilege to work with Alice every two weeks as part of a zoom workshop group. I saw her grow as a journalist – grow her research skills, her interview skills, writing skills, her leadership skills. Then again, before her sophomore year, Alice was in my summer workshop. And she so impressed me with how much she'd grown as a writer and a leader.

Alice's willingness to spend hours thoroughly researching and interviewing for the pieces she creates, her willingness to write and rewrite until every sentence is just right, and perhaps most impressive, her ability to tell a story, to grab the reader and to make the connections that drive the point of her story home – all are proof of her exceptional talents as a reporter and writer. She cares about journalism, strives to get better and better, and is determined to make a difference in her school and community.

And I've watched Alice grow into the leader of her staff — a leader who makes her school's newspaper, *The Shield*, better by helping fellow staff members grow. A great example — how she introduced broadcast packages to The Shield Online and then went on to train fellow staffers how to create them on their own. Alice pushes her fellow staffers to find and tell important stories and pushes them to make their work exceptional.

Alice and her staff continue to rack up awards — again, because of her leadership. Alice has won more than 80 individual writing awards from state and national organizations She's won 20 design awards and 50 broadcast awards. She's just shy of 10 *Tops in Texas*. And under her leadership, the broadcast, print and online news staffs she's contributed to have earned *ILPC Stars*, *CSPA Crowns* and *NSPA Pacemakers*.

Alice is an exceptional journalist — a journalist whose gifts as a writer, an editor and a leader make her the obvious choice as the Journalist of the Year.

Without reservation, I strongly recommend you select Alice Scott for this award. I can imagine no student who better exemplifies the qualities the Journalist of the Year Award is designed to promote. Alice and her work will be an inspiration to student journalists across the country.

Sincerely,



David Knight

Journalism Instructor