SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS
Improving & Protecting Journalism

SPJ CLEVELAND
www.spj.org/cleveland

Cleveland SPJ's $4,000 Journalism Scholarship for 2009 Graduating High-School Seniors

To: Principals, journalism advisers and/or counselors

From: SPJ Scholarship Committee (Jae-won Lee, chair); January 31, 2009

The Cleveland Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) is pleased to announce its annual Philip W. Porter Scholarship competition for 2008 graduating high-school seniors in the six Northeast Ohio counties of Cuyahoga, Lake, Ashtabula, Lorain, Medina and Geauga.

A $4,000 scholarship will be awarded to the winner. The student will be entitled to $1,000 upon entering the college of his/her choice, and $1,000 for each of the succeeding three years as an undergraduate, provided satisfactory grades are maintained and ongoing documentation for proof of same is forwarded each semester to SPJ. Exact reporting requirements will be reviewed with the winner at the time of the award.

All high schools in the six-county area are encouraged to submit a nomination for this scholarship. We ask you to select the **single** most-qualified student and have him or her apply. If there is more than one possible applicant, you must determine, after consulting with other interested parties, i.e., principal/journalism adviser/counselor, who is the strongest candidate to represent your school. It is wise to consider the applicant's track record at school as well as potential, because both are considered during interviews.

After the Scholarship Committee has reviewed all applications, it will select and interview finalists. The committee will determine the winner within one week after personal interviews. The committee's decision is final.

Incomplete application forms or applications without complete documentation **will not be considered** for the scholarship.

An application form and additional information are enclosed. This same information and application packet is also available at the Cleveland SPJ's Web site (www.spj.org/cleveland). Please return the completed application, documentation and samples **in a single envelope** as early as possible. The **absolute deadline for receipt** of entries is **Wednesday, April 1, 2009**.

The Philip W. Porter Scholarship has been recognized as one very prestigious award and a great incentive to young people interested in journalism in our region. Your cooperation and participation helps mold a future journalist and the future of the print/broadcast media industry. We look forward to hearing from you.

Eligibility Rules

Graduating seniors of public, private and parochial high schools in Cuyahoga, Lake, Ashtabula, Lorain, Medina and Geauga counties who stand in the upper third of their class are eligible for the Society of Professional Journalists Scholarship (Philip W. Porter Scholarship).

Scholarship nomination must be made by a faculty member or administrator or committee within each school. Only one candidate may be nominated from each school each year, and should be selected on the candidate's merits, academic and other, that the nominator feels are significant and exceptional. Multiple submissions from one school shall result in disqualification for all candidates from that school.

Application and ancillary materials for consideration as a candidate must be in the hands of the SPJ Scholarship Committee by April 1, 2009.

Candidates for this scholarship must signify an intent to enter the journalism profession (newspaper, radio, television, business publication, magazine or online media) upon graduation from college. Please note our definition of journalism profession here excludes the public relations and advertising professions, even though former journalists, who retain SPJ membership in good standing, in some instances have changed career paths and remain active in the chapter.

Each scholarship shall be granted for a four-year period, contingent upon the candidate maintaining satisfactory academic progress each year. The amount of the scholarship shall be $1,000 each year, renewable each year with written academic verification, for a total of $4,000.

The winner of the Philip W. Porter Scholarship may attend any accredited college or university in the United States. A scholarship winner is not required to take either a minor or major in journalism, but must demonstrate intent to pursue a professional career in journalism.

For questions, if any, please contact the chair of the SPJ Scholarship Committee (Dr. Jae-won Lee at j.lee@csuohio.edu) or president of the SPJ Cleveland Professional Chapter (Betty Clapp at betclapp@yahoo.com).

Documentation Rules

Your application packet should contain in one envelope all of the following:

1. Completed application form.

2. Transcript of high-school credits.

3. One letter from your school principal or journalism adviser supporting your application and telling why you should win this award.

4. A short personal statement, not to exceed 200 words, on why you think you should be awarded the SPJ Scholarship. Emphasize the role you anticipate for yourself in the journalism profession, touching on your academic experience to date.

5. Four to six samples of your writing and reporting. Please do not include more than six. Please include published feature and/or news writing, not school assignments or poetry. If applicant is in broadcasting, please include scripts for shows and/or sample tapes of broadcasts. If voice skills and announcing or reading the news are part of the entry, include at least one audio (if radio) or video (if television) sample on a CD. It is important that written scripts accompany broadcast samples.

*Deadline for receipt of application is Wednesday, April 1, 2009. (We will **not** accept online submissions or e-mail attachment-file submissions.)*

Please send the application to:

SPJ Scholarship Committee
c/o Prof. Jae-won Lee
Cleveland State University
2121 Euclid Ave., MU-278
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Society of Professional Journalists
Cleveland Professional Chapter
Philip W. Porter Scholarship Application

Name: Date of Birth:

Home Address: Home Phone:

High School: Rank/Class Size:

School Address: School Phone:

Expected Graduation Date:

Your E-mail Address:

High-School Activities & Honors (include journalism activities and community volunteer involvement, if any):

Employment Experience:

Colleges Applied To (if accepted, indicate it so):

Intended College Major:

Career Goal:

Other Scholarships You Have Been Awarded (names and amounts):

(*Mail your application to: SPJ Scholarship Committee, c/o Prof. Jae-won Lee, Cleveland State University, 2121 Euclid Ave., MU-278, Cleveland, Ohio 44115)*