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**PRSA Northeast Wisconsin Bestows PRemier Awards to Local Professionals**

*The chapter's Communicator of the Year, two Young Professionals of the Year also recognized.*

GREEN BAY, Wis. (Nov. 26, 2019) – Exceptional local public relations practitioners and communicators were honored this month during the 10<sup>th</sup> annual PRemier Awards. Sponsored by the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Northeast Wisconsin Chapter, the event was held on Nov. 14, 2019, at Hotel Northland in Green Bay.

Entries for the PRemier Awards were judged by members of the PRSA Southern Arizona Chapter. Points were awarded in the areas of research, planning, implementation and evaluation – the four-step strategy set forth by Accreditation in Public Relations (APR). Members and non-members were invited to submit entries for work completed between Jan. 1, 2018, and Aug. 31, 2019. The professional must live or work in Northeast Wisconsin or work on behalf of a company, organization, or individual located in Northeast Wisconsin.

- **PRemier Award of Merit** was presented to Melissa Wollering, Fincantieri Marine Group's Senior Manager of Communications and Employee Engagement, for "Driving Change: Fincantieri's First Employee Survey." The campaign successfully fostered trust and dialogue with employees spread across multiple locations for Fincantieri Marine Group, which has local offices in Green Bay, Marinette and Sturgeon Bay.
- **PRemier Award of Excellence** was presented to Jim Streed, APR, founder and principal of J Streed Communications for "Achieve Brown County Mentor Initiative News Conference." The press conference successfully raised awareness of the organization's new initiative to help students at risk of dropping out as well as the need for mentors.
- **PRemier Award of Excellence** was presented to Angela Deja, Public Relations Coordinator, and Dana Jermstad, Senior Manager of Public Relations & Communications, of Prevea Health & HSHS-Eastern Wisconsin Division. Their entry was for the "Join the Fight Press Conference" announcing the \$10 million campaign to upgrade St. Vincent Children's Hospital of Green Bay.
- **PRemier Grand Award of Excellence** was presented to Angela Deja, Public Relations Coordinator, and Dana Jermstad, Senior Manager of Public Relations & Communications, of Prevea Health & HSHS-Eastern Wisconsin Division for the "Join the Fight Press Conference." The Grand Award is bestowed to the entry receiving the most points from the judges.

Selection of the Communicator of the Year and Young Professional of the Year is based on written nominations. Judges consider how the person has demonstrated communications excellence in the areas of public relations, marketing, media relations or general communications. This year's recipients are:

- **Communicator of the Year:** Corey Wilson, Wilson Photography, LLC. A self-taught photographer, Wilson tells stories through emotionally evocative images wherever he goes – classrooms, college campuses and Green Bay Packers sidelines. “Corey expertly guides his communications colleagues by articulating complex ideas visually. He collaborates to understand, illuminate and distill complex ideas for diverse audiences,” wrote Brian Nicol, Director of Communications for the Howard-Suamico School District, in his nomination of Wilson for the award.
- **Young Professional of the Year:** This award was bestowed to two outstanding communicators – Montie Chavez and Kimberly Uelmen.
  - Montie Chavez, Communications Manager at St. Norbert Abbey in De Pere, helped shepherd an important media announcement for his employer.
  - Kimberly Uelmen’s ability to connect with and understand her audience as the Communications Specialist for the Howard-Suamico School District resulted in a 125% open-rate increase of the staff newsletter.

**About PRSA Northeast Wisconsin:** As an extension of the [Public Relations Society of America](#), the PRSA Northeast Wisconsin Chapter unifies, strengthens and advances the profession of public relations across Northeast and Central Wisconsin. To learn more, visit [prsaneWis.org](http://prsaneWis.org).

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