

2024 ACM-NE Special Award Recipients

Chuck Sherwood Leadership Award

Michael Max Knobbe
BronxNet, Bronx, NY
Nominator: Erica Bradley



Nominator Erica Bradley writes Michael Max Knobbe's work at BronxNet has had a lasting impact on the Bronx community by providing a platform for expression, fostering local talent, and championing community media as a vital tool for empowerment and education. He is a vocal advocate for the importance of community media and has worked to ensure funding and policy support for community media centers like BronxNet. He continues to contribute to discussions on the future of public access media in the digital age, ensuring its relevance and sustainability.

This award recognizes an individual whose commitment, experience and/or accomplishments has made a significant contribution to the preservation and growth of PEG media in their community, state or beyond.

Rika Welsh Community Impact Award

“What’s Up Methuen” - Methuen Community Studios, Methuen, MA
Nominator: Tom Gradzewicz



When Methuen Community Studios was still fairly new, the Methuen Senior Center understood its potential for reaching out to seniors in the community. “What’s Up”, a monthly TV program hosted by staff and trustees of the center, trained by MCS, and created to share information on activities and programs, has been in continuous production since the late 1990’s. Its mission has not wavered from that time. In 2020, the center knew that information was precious for the vulnerable senior population. So, following safety guidelines, they figured out how to keep it going during COVID in person - not virtually. Due to the longevity of “What’s UP”, hosts and volunteer crews have passed the torch more than once. “I wish that we could name them all here, but suffice to say, “What’s Up” remains a staple of our offerings and gives seniors the chance to create their own program for other seniors,” said Karen Hayden, MCS Executive Director.

This award recognizes an individual or group, who have generated a project using PEG resources, that spoke directly to a clearer understanding of the cause being championed.

Brian Wilson Mentor Award

Mauro DePasquale
WCCA-TV, Worcester, MA
Nominator: William Safer



WCCA-TV Board President William Safer nominates Mauro for this award due to his tireless efforts to constantly better WCCA-TV's image within the community. He is a strong advocate for Community Media in and around Worcester, consistently standing up against whatever impacts the organization. He continues to inspire interest in learning all about media and its uses to benefit the community and the State we are in. The entire staff and Board feel that Mauro has been a mentor to all, and without his guidance the station would not be the success that it is today.

This award recognizes an individual who has served as an inspiration and mentor to others in PEG media.
