CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS AND FINALISTS

Dear friends,

On behalf of the Scripps Howard Foundation and The E. W. Scripps Company, congratulations to the winners and finalists of the 68th Annual Scripps Howard Awards.

The body of work we honor this year reflects the historic events of 2020 and the determination of journalists everywhere to overcome daunting challenges to keep a nation and a world informed.

Many of this year’s winners and finalists put themselves in harm’s way to tell the important stories. They worked long hours during a pandemic, taking to the streets to capture the raw emotions of a country roiled by police killings of African Americans and the systemic racism those deaths exposed.

The journalists we honor shed light on the pandemic’s human toll, particularly among essential front-line workers who are also among the most vulnerable and marginalized populations. They also told the story of a nation divided by polarizing politics during a presidential election year like none other.

And they innovated. Data-driven journalism was used to demonstrate, concisely and vividly, how a virus can spread throughout a community, and forensic video analysis helped dissect in stunningly accurate detail fatal police shootings that sparked civil unrest.

The journalism we honor with this year’s Scripps Howard Awards broke down complicated issues and events through top-notch reporting and exceptional storytelling. The winning work provided the clarity we need as a society to understand the stories behind the stories; to take us deeper than the headlines of the day.

The Scripps Howard Awards were established to celebrate the importance of a free and independent press to American democracy. The quality of the journalism that was submitted for consideration affirms that today’s journalists and the news organizations they work for are taking their responsibility as defenders of the First Amendment very seriously. And that is good news for all of us.

Our congratulations again to this year’s extraordinary winners and finalists.

Best wishes,

Liz Carter
President and CEO
Scripps Howard Foundation
WE ARE HONORED TO CELEBRATE THE BEST OF 2020 JOURNALISM WITH THE 68TH SCRIPPS HOWARD AWARDS.

In 2020, journalists made sense of history as it unfolded, bringing empathy with objectivity as they covered a global pandemic, a racial reckoning, a divisive election and a reeling economy. While doing their jobs, they often put their personal safety at risk – facing violence and hostility.

At a time when journalism is under attack in America, it is more important than ever for us to salute journalists and the news organizations that supported and defended their courageous work. Their relentless pursuit of the truth is critical to preserving our democratic society, providing the transparency we need to make informed decisions.

The E.W. Scripps Company is proud to support the Scripps Howard Foundation in honoring some of the year’s most important and impactful journalism for the 68th time and our second virtual event. Congratulations to all the finalists and award winners of the 2020 Scripps Howard Awards. We thank you for your important work and contributions to making this world a better place.

Adam Symson
President and CEO
The E.W. Scripps Company
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The Scripps Howard Awards have the distinction of being the only journalism awards program to be nationally broadcast in its entirety. Newsy, the Scripps-owned national news network, will air the Awards show at 8 p.m. and midnight, Eastern Time, on Saturday, May 8, and Sunday, May 9. Produced by Scripps television stations WXYZ-TV, Detroit, and WCPO-TV, Cincinnati, the Awards show also will be seen on Scripps television stations in 41 markets across the U.S. during the summer 2021. The show, which also is available for streaming via Facebook and YouTube, is hosted by Carolyn Clifford, news anchor for WXYZ.

ABOUT OUR HOST
Carolyn Clifford is a 17-time Emmy Award-winning journalist who anchors the 4, 6 and 11 p.m. newscasts for 7 Action News, WXYZ-TV, Scripps’ ABC affiliate in Detroit. Her role as anchor follows 13 years as Channel 7’s health reporter, where she informed the metropolitan Detroit community about the latest developments in medical science. Clifford also was the host of the Emmy-nominated half-hour health program, “Healthy Living Sunday.”

Clifford came to WXYZ from WPGH-TV, Pittsburgh, where she anchored the 10 p.m. newscast. Before her time in Pittsburgh, she anchored the 10 p.m. news at WLFL-TV in Raleigh, North Carolina. Clifford also worked at the CBS affiliates in Orlando, Florida, and Lansing, Michigan.

In 2015, Clifford was among a handful of journalists selected from across the country, and the only news anchor from Michigan, to be invited to the White House to interview President Barack Obama about the Iran Nuclear Deal. Clifford has three Emmys for Best News Anchor. She also has been honored by the Associated Press, the Michigan Association of Broadcasters and given a special tribute by the Karmanos Cancer Institute as one of its “Heroes of Breast Cancer.”
AWARDS FOR RADIO/PODCAST AND BROADCAST COVERAGE

Jack R. Howard is credited with expanding The E.W. Scripps Company’s presence in the field of broadcasting. In 1937, he was elected president of the Scripps radio company. Jack succeeded his father, Roy W. Howard, as president of Scripps-Howard in 1953. He retired in 1976.

INNOVATION AWARD

Roy W. Howard became chairman of the board and business director of Scripps in 1921. In 1922, the name of the company was changed from Scripps-McRae to Scripps-Howard. Roy served as president of the company until he retired in 1952, when he was named chairman of the company’s executive committee.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE FIRST AMENDMENT AWARD

E.W. Scripps is largely responsible for today’s free and independent press. In 1878, E.W. started his own newspaper in Cleveland designed to reach the greatest number of people by being affordable. Most importantly, it was completely independent, which left no party, cause, business or individual above criticism.

EDWARD WILLIS SCRIPPS

Distinguished Service to The First Amendment Award

The Scripps Howard Foundation honors the legacy of Scripps leaders and journalists who forged paths for new media and exemplified excellence in storytelling.

INDIVIDUALS BEHIND THE AWARDS

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ROY W. HOWARD

Innovation Award

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EDWARD WILLIS SCRIPPS

For his work in founding The Cleveland Plain Dealer and The Cincinnati Post, Edward Willis Scripps was named the first winner of the Distinguished Service to The First Amendment Award.

ERNE PYLE

Human Interest Storytelling Award

During World War II, Ernie Pyle worked for Scripps-Howard as a journalist embedded with the troops he chronicled. Readers in America saw the war through Ernie’s eyes as he recounted in detail the dangers the soldiers experienced and the fears they felt while serving in the battlefront.

URSULA AND GILBERT FARFEL

Prize for Investigative Reporting

Ursula and Dr. Gilbert Farfel created an endowed scholarship at Ohio University, Ursula’s alma mater, to support establishment of this award. Presented in cooperation with the Scripps College of Communication at Ohio University, the prize honors excellence in investigative reporting.

the Winners
**“A SEASON OF PROTESTS”**

**Newsday** (Long Island, New York)

Newsday’s visual coverage of nearly 200 Black Lives Matter protests across Long Island and New York City during the summer of 2020 stands out for the remarkably artful composition of the images that were captured and the raw emotion they conveyed.

Through strikingly effective still and video photography, Newsday’s visual journalists helped readers understand firsthand the deep feelings that motivated the protestors. The anger, frustration, and despair felt by Black Lives Matter activists and their allies is palpable throughout the team’s coverage.

Powerful images, like police in riot gear silhouetted against a burst of fireworks or the mirror image of marchers reflected in a pool of rainwater on a Manhattan street, demand attention and give even the most casual reader pause to take it all in. The Newsday team was there, too, to capture the blood and tears when day turned into night and protests that had been peaceful turned violent.

Newsday’s coverage included the five-minute video “A Week of Protest on Long Island: Why They March,” in which demonstrators shared in intensely personal terms the sense of outrage that George Floyd’s killing in Minneapolis sparked in them.

Like many journalists covering the civil unrest across the U.S. during 2020, Newsday’s visual team worked long hours with the backdrop of COVID-19 and the threat of physical harm when violence erupted during the late summer and early fall of 2020. In total, the newspaper’s team of visual journalists compiled a compelling body of work.

**FROM THE JUDGES**

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**SEE THE WORK**
Derrick Z. Jackson writes with the aplomb of one heavily armed intellectually and the vigor of a man determined to use his voice to right wrongs. His research and sourcing provide credibility, and his eloquent writing makes his work moving and memorable. His range is wide, his knowledge is deep, and his skill translates complex topics into clear understanding.

FROM THE JUDGES

Derrick Z. Jackson was among the first voices warning that Black and Latinx populations in the United States would die due to COVID-19 at a disproportionately higher rate than white Americans.

Writing for the Union of Concerned Scientists and Grist.org, the former Boston Globe columnist and Pulitzer Prize finalist provides cogent and consistent insight into how the coronavirus crisis unmasked underlying sociological issues that put Black and brown Americans at a higher level of risk during the pandemic.

Jackson’s blog commentary drew stark attention to the dilatory effects caused by the politicization of the virus. In his pieces, he called out national leaders — many of them white — for essentially ignoring the virus’ impact on essential workers who are often, in large numbers, people of color.

The inequalities made evident by COVID-19, Jackson writes, became part of the fabric of unrest and protest triggered by the false police shootings of unarmed Black Americans. Jackson’s blog commentary has been reposted on news, environmental and environmental justice websites, and has figured prominently in Harvard University Library’s cataloguing of “Black Americans and COVID-19: Environmental Justice.”

Jackson’s insightful focus on the disparate impact of the pandemic on vulnerable communities adds to a respected body of work that has earned him accolades and professional honors from the National Association of Black Journalists, the Education Writers Association and the National Society of Newspaper Columnists.
“RISING WATERS”  
The Post and Courier (Charleston, South Carolina)

Being just a few feet above sea level, South Carolina’s Low Country has long been prone to tidal flooding. But it’s become painfully obvious to longtime residents that the flooding, which now occurs on average every five days, has become more frequent and damaging.

The Post and Courier team decided it was time to explore the problem in-depth, digging into the science, politics and economics of climate change’s detrimental impact on the Charleston area. The result was the newspaper’s yearlong, 10-part series, “Rising Waters.”

The newspaper took an innovative approach. Working in advance, the team used its investigative reporting skills to create project-length stories that could be deployed with breaking news coverage. The objective was to create hybrid, investigative-breaking news coverage that connected the science with events in a unique way and in real time.

The newspaper’s work was supported by a grant from the Pulitzer Center for Investigative Reporting and its national Connected Coastline initiative. The Post and Courier also partnered with the College of Charleston to examine how the area’s disappearing tree canopy contributed to the flooding.

Within days of the newspaper’s story about a threatened medical district, South Carolina’s governor announced plans for a $10 million drainage project to correct the problem. He also created a cabinet-level position devoted to preparing for and responding to floods and other natural disasters.

EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

The Post and Courier

This compelling reporting shakes complacency and kindles a sense of urgency about the need for preparedness and mitigation before it’s too late.

Excellent photography and graphics reveal social, economic and political issues and help readers understand that today’s local flooding and rising tides are part of a larger global trend with long-term implications. **

FROM THE JUDGES

“This compelling reporting shakes complacency and kindles a sense of urgency about the need for preparedness and mitigation before it’s too late.

Excellent photography and graphics reveal social, economic and political issues and help readers understand that today’s local flooding and rising tides are part of a larger global trend with long-term implications.”

FINALISTS

“Timber Wars” | Oregon Public Broadcasting  
“The Guatemalan Plume: Decades of Dedic” | Newsday (Long Island, New York)
Throughout the 2016 election campaign and for much of his presidency, Donald Trump refused to do what every president since Richard Nixon had done: Release his federal tax returns.

Questions about President Trump's finances and business dealings went unanswered as he went to court to block the release of his tax records, even enlisting the support of the Treasury Secretary and Justice Department to help his cause.

It looked like Trump might succeed in shielding his tax returns from public view through his reelection campaign until The New York Times did what no one else was able to do: The Times obtained and decoded nearly two decades of the president’s tax records. The most revealing finding? In 2016, the year he was elected, President Trump paid only $750 in taxes, far less than most middle class Americans pay every year.

Reporters Russ Buettner and Susanne Craig were joined by Mike McIntire and a team of New York Times staffers who painstakingly sifted through and interpreted stacks of opaque, coded tax documents. Due to the need to protect sources and confidentiality, they couldn’t source report as they normally would, instead having to educate themselves in the nuances of tax accounting and then making sense of their findings for the readers.

The result? The New York Times published its stories on President Trump’s tax returns well ahead of November, giving the public some insights into his financial dealings before going to the polls.

**“THE PRESIDENT’S TAXES”**

Russ Buettner, Susanne Craig, Mike McIntire and The New York Times Staff

EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS/FINANCIAL REPORTING

WINNER

“Where Banks Don’t Lend”

City Bureau and WBEZ-FM (Chicago)

“Pandemic Profiteers”

ProPublica

FINALISTS

Russ Buettner, Susanne Craig and The New York Times Staff

SEE THE WORK

FROM THE JUDGES

**“It was New York Times reporters who finally revealed Trump’s chronic business losses, grand-scale tax avoidance and growing financial challenges. Americans were able to learn, ahead of the election, how a very wealthy, seemingly successful icon of American business could receive a tax bill for $750.”**

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**“Where Banks Don’t Lend”**

City Bureau and WBEZ-FM (Chicago)

**“Pandemic Profiteers”**

ProPublica

"Where Banks Don’t Lend" / City Bureau and WBEZ FM (Chicago)

"Pandemic Profiteers" / ProPublica
From the moment police reporter Libor Jany began receiving texts on Memorial Day that a Black man had died at the hands of Minneapolis police officers, the Star Tribune team rode the crest of a local news story that quickly became the global epicenter for America’s long struggle with racial inequality and injustice.

Overcoming tremendous obstacles, Star Tribune journalists captured the enormity of George Floyd’s killing and its aftermath as a nation and the world recoiled in disgust and outrage to the searing video images they were seeing on social media and TV.

The Star Tribune stayed on top of the story as only a local news organization can, covering in-depth all aspects of Floyd’s death and the civil unrest that followed. They covered the story thoroughly and fairly despite being subject to violence from protestors and police, along the road they could observe COVID-19 public health protocols, working remotely and living it themselves as residents of the Minneapolis-St. Paul community.

During the spring of 2020, the Star Tribune and its dedicated team of professional journalists established a standard for how to cover a profoundly important breaking news story that impacted their community and the world.
When Trump appointee Michael Pack began systematically threatening the independence of Voice of America, NPR’s media correspondent, David Folkenflik, was moved to act.

In a series of insightful investigative reports, Folkenflik uncovered the extent to which Pack and the Trump Administration were willing to politicize an institution created to be an independent champion of free speech and a beacon of American pluralism to the rest of the world.

Folkenflik’s reporting raised awareness of the administration’s attempts to undermine VOA’s independence and professionalism, including Pack’s efforts to influence the organization’s news coverage to cast Trump in a favorable light. Among the most serious actions Folkenflik shed light on was Pack’s refusal to grant visa extensions to VOA foreign journalists working in the U.S., threatening their return home to hostile regimes.

Folkenflik’s reporting prompted outrage among VOA’s staunchest advocates, whistleblower complaints from within the administration, legislation in the U.S. Senate and protests from journalism and human rights groups. His investigative series also was cited by a federal judge who ruled that Pack’s actions were illegal and unconstitutional.

Pack was removed from office by President Joe Biden in one of his first acts on Inauguration Day, and he swiftly reversed Pack’s most damaging actions, including the immediate approval of visas for VOA’s foreign journalists.

David Folkenflik’s amazing reporting on the Trump Administration’s efforts to obliviate Voice of America falls squarely into the First Amendment aspirations of this award category.

"CIVIL WAR AT THE VOICE OF AMERICA"
David Folkenflik | NPR

"FROM THE JUDGES"

"Distinguished Service to the First Amendment"
HONORING EDWARD WILLIS SCRIPPS

SEE THE WORK
In a Human Interest category overflowing with exceptional entries, Stephanie McCrummen’s rose to the top. What sets them apart is an intimacy that comes from truly exceptional immersive journalism.

For Stephanie McCrummen, it was more than a matter of being in the right place at the right time. Well known for her work about the American South, McCrummen focused her attention on Georgia during 2020 knowing there were poignant human stories to be told about the state’s changing demographics and evolving politics.

Powerfully moving and insightful pieces published in February, August and October, McCrummen accurately foreshadowed the electoral drama that would play out in the November elections. She excelled at humanizing the contentious political discourse that gripped the state throughout the campaign.

McCrummen told Georgia’s story from the point of view of a woman who found herself deeply at odds with her own family because of her shifting convictions and political loyalties.

She told it from the perspective of a county sheriff whose reelection campaign became a referendum on white, male-dominated law enforcement and national protests over the deaths of African Americans at the hands of white police officers. And she shared the exasperation of a Congressional candidate who ran on a platform of returning civility to Washington, only to lose to someone who believes in conspiracy theories.

McCrummen’s extraordinary storytelling and reporting deepens a nation’s understanding of the complicated social dynamics at play not just in Georgia, but across the country.

Stephanie McCrummen
The Washington Post

STEPHANIE MCCRUMMEN

The Washington Post

WINNER

FROM THE JUDGES

Excellence in Human Interest Storytelling
HONORING ERNIE PYLE

SEE THE WORK

STEPHANIE MCCRUMMEN

The Washington Post

WINNER

"In a Human Interest category overflowing with exceptional entries, Stephanie McCrummen’s rose to the top. What sets them apart is an intimacy that comes from truly exceptional immersive journalism. Her stories not only tell readers what the principal characters are saying, but also the unspoken things they’re thinking. Her exceptional character development, coupled with attention to telling details, makes for storytelling that is remarkable and memorable."

"She Stalked Her Daughter’s Killers Across Mexico, One by One" The New York Times

"Witness Docs – Unfinished: Deep South" Stitcher

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"She Stalked Her Daughter’s Killers Across Mexico, One by One" The New York Times

"Witness Docs – Unfinished: Deep South" Stitcher
There’s no higher praise for a local television news team than hearing from your community that you’ve made a difference.

For Seattle’s KING-TV, public response in support of its groundbreaking, 13-week original series, “Facing Race,” affirmed the decision to forthrightly tackle the difficult topic of systemic racism in the Pacific Northwest.

The series of 30-minute-long episodes aired on Sundays from September through December. Led by news anchor Joyce Taylor, each episode focused on a specific aspect of systemic racism. Through powerful, impactful interviews with everyday people and stellar reporting from the field, the KING-TV team addressed a wide range of topics that included racial disparities in education, health, policing, environmental racism, land inequity and immigration.

Many who watched shared that they had never seen television programming on systemic racism that was as raw, frank and enlightening. One viewer said the series was healing as well as illuminating. A local CEO thanked KING-TV for “opening our eyes and aiding us in creating a path toward change.” Others in the community told the station they’re using the series as an educational tool for their church groups, schools, workplaces, in anti-bias training and even to foster discussions with friends and families.

“Facing Race” achieved an uncommon level of journalistic excellence and delivered a valuable public service.
Norah O’Donnell and the CBS investigative team labored 18 months to expose the military’s systemic failures when it came to addressing sexual assault within its ranks.

The impact of their reporting was immediate. After the second report of the four-part series, the Secretary of the Army acknowledged the efficacy of the CBS News investigation and pledged that the Army would do better.

Two weeks after the series aired, the Army took unprecedented action, firing or suspending 14 commanders and leaders based on an independent review that mirrored CBS’s findings. Since taking office, President Joe Biden has ordered a commission to find solutions to sexual assault in the military.

CBS News’ work included interviews with nearly two dozen victims from all branches of military service, civilian whistleblowers hired by the military whose findings had been marginalized and families of two service members who died by suicide after their reports of sexual assault were mishandled. Dedicating significant airtime to the project, the series aired on consecutive days across multiple CBS platforms, including CBS Evening News, CBS This Morning and CBSN.

In a year when the global pandemic and divisive political climate in America dominated news cycles, CBS News was committed to investigating the disturbing increase in military sexual assault reports, a trend that had been developing despite a decade of promises from the Pentagon to address the problem.

The CBS News investigation into military sexual assault is impactful and a shining example of journalistic excellence.

NORAH O’DONNELL INVESTIGATES: MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULT

Norah O’Donnell, Kristin Steve, Megan Towey, Adam Verdugo | CBS News

WINNER

Excellence in Broadcast National/International Coverage

HONORING JACK R. HOWARD

PRIVATE SECOND CLASS NICOLE BURNHAM

DEC. 30, 1996 - JAN. 26, 2018

STAFF SERGEANT MORGAN ROBINSON

MARCH 2, 1989 - AUG. 25, 2018

FROM THE JUDGES

"Norah brought a humanity and a passion...to this topic that contributed to the story. The exposure that CBS gave to the series, the depth of the reporting, I think will make a difference."

"If you look at the best investigative reporting, the thing that is persuasive is that it just piles fact upon fact upon fact until you can no longer refute, until you have to accept it. This series did that."

"On Assignment with Richard Engel: Coronavirus Special Series"

MSNBC; NBC News

"India Burning" | VICE on Showtime

FINALISTS

"Norah O'Donnell Investigates: Military Sexual Assault"

Norah O’Donnell, Kristin Steve, Megan Towey, Adam Verdugo | CBS News

SEE THE WORK

WINNER

"On Assignment with Richard Engel: Coronavirus Special Series"

MSNBC; NBC News

"India Burning" | VICE on Showtime

FINALISTS

"Norah O’Donnell Investigates: Military Sexual Assault"

Norah O’Donnell, Kristin Steve, Megan Towey, Adam Verdugo | CBS News
"Somebody" is an innovatively produced seven-part investigative documentary podcast that searches for answers as to how 20-year-old Courtney Copeland ended up outside a Chicago police station with a fatal gunshot wound to his back.

The heart-wrenching story is told by his mother, Shapearl Wells, who distrusted the official police narrative of Copeland's death in 2016 and launched an investigation of her own. Why was Copeland, a young African American man, handcuffed? Why was there no blood in his BMW convertible, even though police say he was shot while sitting in it? Wells wasn't getting the answers she was looking for, so she turned to the team at Invisible Institute for help.

The Invisible Institute, The Intercept and Topic Studios teams made the decision to put the microphone in Wells' hands rather than tell her story for her. They shaped "Somebody" around the authenticity and emotion of Wells' narrative, supported by the investigative expertise of the two journalism organizations and the artistic sensibility of the production team.

"Somebody" was launched on iHeartRadio in March 2020 and has generated more than 1.3 million downloads. The podcast has received critical acclaim, topping The New York Times list of leading crime podcasts at the intersection of race, and making "Best Podcast of 2020" lists published by Rolling Stone and The Atlantic.

As a result of the reporting, the City of Chicago's Office of the Inspector General, which monitors city agencies and investigates misconduct, has opened an official investigation into the Courtney Copeland case.
Rarely has deadly police misconduct been so graphically revealed as in the 2020 work of The New York Times Visual Investigations team.

The Times’ team used innovative video forensic analysis, meticulous investigative techniques and stunningly effective reporting to provide a thorough understanding of the events leading up to and resulting in the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and others.

The Times used the same methods to reveal how Philadelphia police purposely breached their own protocol in the use of tear gas and pepper spray against fleeing and cornered demonstrators protesting George Floyd’s murder.

Each of the team’s investigative reports involved the use of thousands of documents, photos, videos, audio recordings and witness and police interviews. Police reports, 911 calls and police scanner transcripts, witness and bystander videos, security footage and innovative 3D reconstructions of crime scenes all were used for comprehensive reconstructions of events.

Through its investigative efforts, The Times provided new insight and context to the systemic racism underlying the misconduct they exposed. The team presented new findings and evidence that either directly contradicted official accounts of the incidents or revealed previously unknown details. The reporting prompted police reforms, has influenced court cases and enhanced the public’s understanding of the events that captured the nation’s attention in the spring and summer of 2020.

VISUAL INVESTIGATIONS: POLICE MISCONDUCT AND RACIAL INJUSTICE IN 2020


Politic misconduct and vigilant behavior that led to the deaths of unarmed African Americans and the senseless injury of peaceful, non-violent protestors scoured by their killings, were examined in methodical and powerful detail by The New York Times Visual Investigations team.

The Times’ team examined official accounts, police reports, 911 calls and scanner transcripts, stolen and live cameras, witness and bystander videos, security footage and innovative 3D reconstructions of crime scenes.

The Times team’s approach to reporting involved the use of thousands of documents, photos, videos, audio recordings and witness and police interviews. Police reports, 911 calls and police scanner transcripts, witness and bystander videos, security footage and innovative 3D reconstructions of crime scenes all were used for comprehensive reconstructions of events.

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Just a few days after the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus outbreak a global pandemic, The Washington Post published “Flatten the Curve” by graphics reporter Harry Stevens.

In an easy-to-understand animated presentation, Stevens and The Post told their readers about the importance of social distancing, a phrase that became a household word.

Stevens wrote his own code to produce the visual explainer, which explored how viruses such as COVID-19 spread exponentially and how this spread can be mitigated, and even stopped, if social distancing protocols are diligently observed.

The graphic Stevens designed employed animated circles that “infected” one another each time they collided. The infection rate, and each animated graphic, differed depending on the degree to which the hypothetical population observed, or didn’t observe, social distancing protocols.

Stevens’ reporting was among the earliest and most effective rationales for how best to combat the virus. His reporting has been translated into more than a dozen languages and viewed tens of millions of times.

In March 2020, as Americans and the world struggled to grasp the seriousness of the pandemic and how to respond, former President Barack Obama directed them to Stevens’ “Flatten the Curve.” “Watch this,” President Obama tweeted. “It shows why we should all do the right thing and stay home to the fullest extent possible.”
“TARGETED”

Kathleen McGrory, Neil Bedi
Tampa Bay Times (St. Petersburg, Florida)

About a decade ago, the sheriff of Pasco County, Florida, launched a data-driven initiative that was intended to proactively combat crime. It was powered by an algorithm the department had invented that promised to predict when laws might be broken based on data compiled on county residents.

In their investigative series, “Targeted,” Tampa Bay Times reporters Kathleen McGrory and Neil Bedi exposed how the sheriff’s anti-crime program institutionalized abusive policing practices that routinely violated residents’ civil rights and invaded their privacy, even when they had done nothing wrong. Among the reporters’ findings was a secret list of schoolchildren the sheriff’s department had labeled as likely criminals based on their grades, attendance records and child welfare histories.

“Targeted” was the result of a massive amount of work that included months of complicated reporting, pressure on public agencies to release thousands of pages of records, viewing hours of body camera videos and building a massive database that synced up police activity to the abuses resulting from the sheriff’s program. In addition, McGrory and Bedi drove thousands of miles, crisscrossing Pasco County to interview residents about their interactions with sheriff’s deputies.

As a result of their work, the chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor called for a federal investigation. Civil liberties groups have pursued lawsuits. And parents and teachers in Pasco County have pressured the school district to reassess its data-sharing practices.

The depth in the reporting, personal accounts of those targeted and the use of body-camera videos took the storytelling to the next level and made it harder for skeptics to deny the abuse of power by the sheriff.”

EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL/REGIONAL INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

“Where Banks Don’t Lend”
City Bureau and WBEZ-FM (Chicago)

“Torn Apart”
USA Today

FINALISTS

Through strong reporting and storytelling, the team at the Tampa Bay Times uncovered a relentless harassment of children and their families by sheriff’s deputies in Pasco County.

“The depth in the reporting, personal accounts of those targeted and the use of body-camera videos took the storytelling to the next level and made it harder for skeptics to deny the abuse of power by the sheriff.”

TARGETED
Kathleen McGrory, Neil Bedi
Tampa Bay Times (St. Petersburg, Florida)

WINNER

FROM THE JUDGES

“Excellence in Local/Regional Investigative Reporting”

35
Neil BediKathleen McGrory

SEE THE WORK
"COVID’S HIDDEN TOLL"  
Daffodil Altan, Andrés Cediel,  
María José Calderón, FRONTLINE Team 
FRONTLINE PBS

"COVID’S HIDDEN TOLL" FRONTLINE’s award-winning film directed by Daffodil Altan and Andrés Cediel, captured how the absence of mandatory COVID-19 workplace protections put essential agricultural workers at risk as they labored uninterrupted to make food available for a locked down nation.

Altan and Cediel undertook the project knowing, based on their years of reporting in agricultural and immigrant communities, that the spread of infections among this vulnerable community would likely be rapid and underreported.

Contending with the challenge of working in a COVID-19 environment, the FRONTLINE team was committed to telling the story of the agricultural workers as it unfolded. The workers they talked to, many of them undocumented immigrants, feared for their lives and their jobs as the pressure to maintain the country’s food supplies fell squarely on their shoulders.

Among FRONTLINE’s many revelations was research that showed farmworkers were three times more likely to contract COVID-19 as other essential workers, and that in agricultural communities more people were dying of the disease.

Within days of the film’s first airing, California Governor Gavin Newsom approved measures to compel farmworkers’ employers to comply with the state’s COVID-19 workplace guidelines. The state recently became the third in the country to make the guidelines mandatory.

"COVID’S HIDDEN TOLL" brought attention once again to the glaring inequities that exist for vital workers who are responsible for protecting our food supply.

EXCELLENCE IN NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

THE URSULA AND GILBERT FARFEL PRIZE

"COVID’S HIDDEN TOLL"  
Daffodil Altan, Andrés Cediel,  
María José Calderón, FRONTLINE Team

FRONTLINE PBS

“Compelling, comprehensive investigative journalism about how some of America’s most neglected and vulnerable essential workers have been victimized during the pandemic to provide our food.

The deep access and expertise of the FRONTLINE journalists, built on years of covering abuses of farmworkers, helped create rich, emotional storytelling that rings all too true.”
Kathleen Bartzen Culver’s teaching excellence is evident across undergraduate and graduate levels of instruction, innovative course design, interactive lectures, engaging discussion leadership, public engagement and incomparable local, national and international mentoring.

As an associate professor at Wisconsin’s School of Journalism and Mass Communication, she has been instrumental for 20 years in developing classroom advances, initiating curricular change, creating communities of practice and mentoring other instructors. She also excels as the School’s James E. Burgess Chair in Journalism Ethics and is director of the Center for Journalism Ethics.

Culver’s students benefit from current, real-world industry insights and challenges. She’s credited with blending big picture ideas with a sharp focus on detail and for her work integrating journalism, advertising, public relations and other public communication. Her classes are considered professional incubators, with students engaged in real world projects that challenge them to think critically and communicate effectively.

As one student, now guiding global politics and government outreach for Facebook said, “Every day, I use the skills Katy taught me. This is a testament to how her teaching is not just preparing students for the present, but for whatever may come for the journalism profession in the future.”

Since becoming dean in 2012, Lucy Dalglish has helped transform the Philip Merrill College of Journalism. Her growing list of accomplishments has raised the profile of Maryland’s already prestigious journalism education program.

Dalglish has been credited with setting a high bar for learning and teaching of undergraduate and graduate students, enhancing the college’s reputation and enabling it to serve and strengthen the field of journalism.

She has been effective in leading faculty and administrators in ongoing curricular revisions, putting diversity, inclusion, and equity front and center.

The new Howard Center for Investigative Journalism, funded by a grant from the Scripps Howard Foundation, has brought the college national acclaim. The center, in existence for only three years, is recognized as a vital source for investigative journalism projects and a leader in terms of interdisciplinary, collaborative approaches to newsgathering and storytelling.

To teach cutting-edge entrepreneurial, social media, and computational, data and platform skills, Dalglish has successfully advocated for resources to hire full-time faculty and adjuncts from the region’s major news organizations.

Dalglish has been successful in improving the morale of the college by supporting and trusting the faculty, staff and students to do their best work. She’s also building connections across the university and throughout the journalism community.

As a colleague she mentored said, “Dean Dalglish… demonstrated firsthand the qualities of a strong and inspiring leader. (She) takes a solutions perspective and demonstrates that she cares.”
The Impact Award is the pinnacle honor bestowed by the annual Scripps Howard Awards. It recognizes journalism that serves the public through coverage of an issue leading to societal or public policy changes, or greater awareness of the issues and challenges confronting us. The recipient is chosen by consensus of a panel of Scripps Howard Awards judges who served as chairs of each individual award category. The winner is deemed to have had the greatest impact of all the entries submitted for consideration for the year.
“VISUAL INVESTIGATIONS: POLICE MISCONDUCT AND RACIAL INJUSTICE IN 2020”
The New York Times

The New York Times Visual Investigations team was selected as this year’s Impact Award winner for the broad impact its work had on the national consciousness and conversation about systemic racism. The team’s investigative work guided other news organizations reporting on the fatal shootings of African Americans by police and vigilantes.

It led to police reforms, influenced court cases, prompted bans on the use of tear gas and other “less lethal” munitions against protesters and enhanced public understanding of the incidents that prompted outrage and demonstrations across the U.S.
2020 SCRIPPS HOWARD AWARDS JUDGES

The Scripps Howard Foundation takes great pride in seating this distinguished panel of judges to review entries and name the winners and finalists of the 2020 Scripps Howard Awards.

John Agnone
Principal
Agnone Consulting

Julie Agnone
Journalism Consultant and Educator
Julie Agnone Consulting

Andy Alexander
Senior Visiting Professional
E.W. Scripps School of Journalism
Ohio University

Elizabeth Arrott
Multimedia Executive Producer
Voice of America

Dana Banker
Managing Editor
South Florida Sun Sentinel

Chris Bannon
Chief Content Officer
Stitcher

Roberta Baskin
Investigative Reporter
Independent

Mary Kay Blake
Senior Vice President (Retired)
Newseum

Jeff Brogan
Vice President and General Manager
WCPG-TV (Cincinnati)

Talia Burford
Content Development Director
ProPublica

Cindy Carmack
Staff Writer
Los Angeles Times

Peter Copeland
Bureau Chief (Retired)
Scripps News Washington Bureau
The E. W. Scripps Company

Bill Craven
Bureau Chief (Retired)
Scripps News Washington Bureau
The E. W. Scripps Company

Lucy Dalghish
Deputy Managing Editor
The New York Times

Len Downie
Weil Family Professor of Journalism
Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication
Arizona State University

Almea Edmondson
Professor and Director for Graduate Studies
E.W. Scripps School of Journalism
Ohio University

Elizabeth Elperin
Sr. National Affairs Correspondent
The Washington Post

Dan Evans
Professor
School of Communications and Journalism
Florida International University

Tom French
Riley Endowed Chair in Journalism
The Media School
Indiana University

Karen Frillmann
Executive Producer
Narrative Podcast Unit
WNYC Studios

Kristin Gilger
Interim Dean
Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication
Arizona State University

Tracy Grant
Managing Editor
The Washington Post

Jack Greiner
Managing Partner
Greynol Law

Doug Haddix
Former Executive Director
Investigative Reporters and Editors

Christina Hartman
Vice President of News and Programming
Newsy

Kate Howard
Managing Editor
The Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting

Tom Huang
Assistant Managing Editor
Dallas Morning News

Marcus Riley
Sr. Director, Content Strategy
The E.W. Scripps Company

Ray Rivera
Managing Editor
The Seattle Times

Adrienne Samuel-Gibbs
Features Editor
ZORA @ Medium

Mike Stengel
Co-Director, The Reporter's Lab
Duke University

Akilli Rameesa
Executive Director
National Press Photographers Association

Sean McLaughlin
Vice President of News
The E.W. Scripps Company

Dick Meyer
Managing Editor
The E. W. Scripps Company

Carolyn Michiel
Senior Vice President
Corporate Communications and Investor Relations
The E.W. Scripps Company

Mike Phillips
Managing Editor
The E. W. Scripps Company

Al Tompkins
Senior Faculty
The Poynter Institute

Ellen Weiss
Vice President
and Washington Bureau Chief
Scripps News Washington Bureau
The E.W. Scripps Company

B. DeWayne Wickham
Dean
School of Global Journalism and Communication
Morgan State University

Alfa Stewart III
Managing Editor
The E.W. Scripps Company
Our nationally recognized journalism programs bridge the classroom and the newsroom, grounding students and mid-career journalists in time-honored values and skills, while providing them with the intellectual tools and inspiration to tell compelling stories and reach audiences in innovative ways.

Through our undergraduate internships, graduate study programs, postgraduate fellowships and university partnerships, our work supports and develops journalists as they advance from high school, through college and into their careers.

Our objective is to develop a pipeline of talented professionals who reflect the diversity of the communities they serve and who are equipped to thrive and lead in an ever-changing news media environment.

At the Scripps Howard Foundation, we’ve been giving light and changing lives since 1962.

Through the generous support of The E. W. Scripps Company, its employees and the Scripps and Howard families, the Scripps Howard Foundation has long been a leader in supporting journalism education and fellowships. First Amendment causes and programs that advance childhood literacy.

The Scripps Howard Foundation’s philanthropy also extends to a wide range of worthy causes that strengthen the growing number of communities that are home to Scripps and its nearly 6,000 employees.

During 2020, we turned our attention to helping our communities overcome the serious economic and social effects of the global pandemic. Last year, we gave $9 million in charitable gifts with a focus on advancing COVID-19 relief and related food insecurity programs. We also supported Scripps employees across the U.S. who experienced financial hardships caused by the public health crisis.

Even amid the pandemic, we made it a priority to increase support of our primary mission of creating a better-informed world.

In support of journalism education, we added graduate fellowships for investigative journalists and a diversity-focused, high school outreach program to students interested in entering the profession. We also continued to build on our successes promoting the long-term benefits of childhood literacy.

At the Scripps Howard Foundation, our vision is for an informed and fully literate world where all people have access to information that’s relevant to their lives, communities and society.
The Scripps Howard Foundation is investing $7.5 million to establish graduate-level educational programs and post-graduate fellowships in honor of legendary newsman Roy W. Howard. Our purpose is advancing the cause of innovative and enterprising investigative journalism.

The Howard Centers for Investigative Journalism at Arizona State University and the University of Maryland were established in 2018 with a $6 million, three-year commitment.

Making an impact from the start, the Howard Centers provide graduate-level study programs in collaboration with high-profile news organizations across the country. Howard Center students have made their mark, producing award-winning investigative journalism on issues of national and international importance.

Furthering our investment in investigative journalism, the Scripps Howard Foundation in 2020 pledged up to $15 million to establish the Roy W. Howard Fellowship program, which will be open exclusively to journalists who have completed studies at the Howard Centers.

The fellows are being made available beginning this year to a maximum of 10 journalists over a three-year period. Each will be assigned to work for 12 months at nonprofit news organizations selected by the Howard Centers, which are administered by ASU’s Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication and UMD’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism.

In keeping with our commitment to support equity, diversity and inclusion within the journalism profession, the Scripps Howard Foundation committed $600,000 during 2020 to enhance or create university-level programs that will inspire high school students to embark on careers in journalism.

Elon University in Elon, North Carolina, and the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas, each will receive $300,000 to develop three-year outreach programs to introduce high school students of diverse socio-economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds to journalism through interactive programming and reporting experiences.

Our objectives in funding this initiative are to legitimize and amplify student voices by providing a platform to share their stories; create relationships and open educational pathways that potentially lead to careers in journalism; and provide ongoing access to mentors and professional support in the field of journalism.

The initiative is intended to bring together a community of organizations and individuals – including universities, news outlets and high schools – to support the development of program participants.

The universities, which were selected following a competitive application process, are expected to launch their programs during the 2021-22 academic year.

American journalism will, I believe, prove to be in the future what it has been in the past – the people’s refuge and champion in times of stress and readjustment.”

— Roy W. Howard
TED SCRIPPS ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM FELLOWSHIP

The Ted Scripps Environmental Journalism Fellowships empower journalists to report on one of the most important stories of our time. Five journalists are chosen each year to receive coveted spots in the fellowship program at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Fellows receive a stipend and spend nine months studying and working on special projects at the university’s Center for Environmental Journalism. Participants also engage in independent study expected to lead to a significant journalistic work which helps illustrate how a better understanding of our earth today provides our best window into its uncertain future.

Founded in 1997 by Cindy Scripps, the fellowships honor the legacy of Edward “Ted” Scripps II, who was deeply involved in the family business as a reporter, corporate officer and trustee. More than 100 mid-career journalists have participated in the program since its inception. For many, it’s a pivotal moment in their careers. Former fellows have gone on to produce award-winning work, author best-selling books and lead news organizations.

“Each year when we gather to honor these outstanding journalists, I’m reminded how important a free press is. It’s as true today as it was when E.W. published his first newspaper more than 140 years ago. At the Scripps Howard Foundation, we do our part by providing educational opportunities to emerging and mid-career journalists through fellowships, internships and, new this year, our outreach program to high school students who are interested in entering the profession. It’s all part of our mission to ensure that the newsrooms of the future are diverse, informed and managed by professionals who believe passionately in a free press.”

RAY GRANADO
Scripps Howard Foundation Trustee and Direct Descendant of E.W. Scripps
The Scripps Howard Internship Program makes it possible for promising journalism students from diverse backgrounds to accept valuable summer internships at news organizations across the U.S. One of its legacy initiatives, the Scripps Howard Foundation awards $3,000 stipends to selected students to help them pay for basic living and travel expenses related to their internship.

Scripps Howard internships make vital hands-on experience and career-building networks possible regardless of financial ability, helping to build a more diverse pool of young journalists.

Students receiving stipends are recommended by partner colleges and universities. Upon successful completion of an internship, students also qualify for a $500 scholarship from the Scripps Howard Foundation to help them with their studies.

Proceeds from this year’s Scripps Howard Awards sponsorships will fund journalism internships for 40 students of diverse backgrounds.

The Scripps Howard Fellowships were established in 2018 to develop a network of young journalists who aspire to be leaders in the news industry.

Each year, four fellows are selected to work at either ProPublica or the Scripps/Newsy bureau in Washington D.C. Fellows develop and use their expertise in a specialty, such as data reporting or visual journalism, while being exposed to other components of the newsroom and working on investigative stories.

In addition to gaining practical experience, Scripps Howard Fellows participate in a series of workshops on leadership, project management, innovation and the business of journalism.

Workshops are led by industry professionals in partnership with such organizations as Investigative Reporters and Editors. Fellows also are given the opportunity to visit and experience news operations of some of the industry’s most-renowned companies, including NBC Universal, CBS News and The New York Times.

Our congratulations to our 2021-22 Fellows: Brooke Johnson, ProPublica, newsletter engagement track; Charmaine Runes, News/Scripps Washington Bureau data track; Karina Young, Newsy/Scripps Washington Bureau investigative track; and Laila Milevski, ProPublica visual track.
UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS
LIGHTING THE WAY FOR TOMORROW’S JOURNALISM LEADERS THROUGH UNIVERSITY COLLABORATIONS

The Scripps Howard Program In Religion, Journalism and the Spiritual Life
Columbia University, New York

The Scripps Howard Program in Religion, Journalism and the Spiritual Life at Columbia University prepares students to write credibly about religion and matters of faith. The class travels each year to different countries for a weeklong study trip to examine how religion is practiced and influences the global community. Graduates from the program now work as journalists at the Religious News Service, CNN, The Chicago Tribune and as documentary filmmakers.

Edward “Ted” Scripps II Dinner and Lecture
University of Nevada, Reno

The annual dinner and lecture are held in partnership with the Reynolds School of Journalism at the University of Nevada. Now in its 56th year, the event is held in honor of Edward “Ted” W. Scripps II, who graduated from the journalism school at Nevada in 1952. The tradition is supported by his family in partnership with the Scripps Howard Foundation. Scholarships and internships are awarded to deserving Nevada journalism students during the event.

Scripps Schools
Journalism schools at two universities bear the Scripps name and share a strong bond with the Scripps Howard Foundation and The E.W. Scripps Company. The Scripps College of Communications at The E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University, and the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications at Hampton University in Virginia are the direct beneficiaries of significant gifts from the Scripps Howard Foundation.

SUPPORTING THE EDUCATION OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF JOURNALISTS IS CORE TO WHAT WE DO AT THE SCRIPPS HOWARD FOUNDATION.”

ROY PERKINS
Scripps Howard Foundation Trustee
and great grandson of Roy W. Howard

“Of course, by “press,” I mean all the different forms and electronic iterations that make up our news media today. Roy was no stranger to changing technologies. He was among the earliest journalists to cable news dispatches across the Atlantic, and he and his son, my uncle Jack, literally pioneered broadcasting.

Roy and Jack were consummate journalists and news executives who have had an enduring influence on the profession and the industry. Their commitment to journalistic excellence lives on at the Scripps Howard Foundation.

Our family is especially gratified by the outstanding work being done at the Foundation’s Howard Centers for Investigative Journalism at the University of Maryland and Arizona State University.

We’re firm believers in the power of the press. You can’t be related to the legendary Roy Howard and have it be otherwise.”
In support of our mission to create a better-informed world through journalism education and childhood literacy, the Scripps Howard Foundation conducts an annual campaign to buy new books for children in need across the United States.

Scripps local and national media brands partner with low-income schools and local nonprofit groups that work directly with children in need to distribute books each January on National Reading Day and at multiple touchpoints throughout the school year.

Since its inception in 2016, the “If You Give a Child a Book...” campaign has distributed more than 500,000 new books to children in need thanks to the generous support of Scripps employees, Scripps audiences, the Kroger Company Foundation and members of the Scripps family who matched contributions.

During 2020, the campaign raised more than $825,000 for the purchase of new books.
Through the Bob Scripps Community Fund, the Scripps Howard Foundation supports programs that drive change in communities served by The E.W. Scripps Company.

As the global pandemic spread in 2020, the Foundation shifted the Community Fund’s focus to address the dire economic impact the public health crisis was having in the more than 40 communities where the company does business.

Bob Scripps, the late grandson of E.W. Scripps and first donor to the Scripps Howard Foundation, was moved by a desire to give back to the communities whose support and loyalty brought success to his family’s company. Bob established the community fund in 1998 with a generous gift.

The Foundation, in collaboration with local Scripps television stations and their audiences, the Scripps Family Impact Fund, and Scripps company leaders and employees, provided $2.5 million in financial support to 80 nonprofit organizations to deliver direct relief for families struggling as a result of the economic impact of the pandemic.

Over the years, the Bob Scripps Community Fund has improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

The Scripps Howard Foundation is interested in the causes that interest Scripps employees. Through the Bob Scripps Community Fund, we empower Scripps employees to maximize their service to nonprofit organizations through our volunteer gifts and their financial contributions to nonprofits through our matching gift program.

Whether they work in Baltimore, Tampa, Milwaukee, Bakersfield or any town in between, one common thread unites Scripps employees: They do well by doing good. This certainly holds true in their work life and the work they do in communities.
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND MEDIA PARTNERS.

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In uncertain times, one thing is certain. You need someone dedicated to you. With the resources, solutions and vision to see you through.
Our commitment to the community

We are proud to support the 68th Scripps Howard Awards, honoring the best of American journalism in all print, broadcast and digital media.

At Thompson Hine, we believe innovation = ideas + sustained action. We are committed to innovation within our firm and to moving forward the profession as a whole. We have published a report detailing the results of our second innovation survey, The Innovation Gap Persists. Visit thompsonhine.com/innovation/innovation-survey to learn more.

69% of In-House Counsel Say Law Firms Have Not Increased Innovation

At Thompson Hine, we believe innovation = ideas + sustained action. We are committed to innovation within our firm and to moving forward the profession as a whole. We have published a report detailing the results of our second innovation survey, The Innovation Gap Persists. Visit thompsonhine.com/innovation/innovation-survey to learn more.

Thompson Hine’s focus on innovation positions us very well to deliver efficiency, predictability and transparency to our clients when they need it most.

Solved for Uncertain Times.

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Protecting freedom of the press for more than 40 years

If you figured it out, congratulations. Moving the orange toothpick from first to last creates the word WIN again—if you turn the page upside down. Solving the puzzle requires considering it from a different angle.

This illustrates our approach to providing legal advice to clients in the media industry. At Brooks Pierce, we look beyond routine answers to find innovative, rewarding solutions for companies in broadcasting and publishing. Our congratulations to this year’s honorees.
Google cares deeply about journalism. We believe deeply in spreading knowledge to make life better for everyone. It’s at the heart of Google’s mission. It’s the missions of publishers and journalists. Put simply, our futures are tied.

SUNDAR PICHAI, Google CEO

g.co/newsinitiative
THE SCRIPPS HOWARD FOUNDATION
An advocate, ally and champion of journalists

THE E.W. SCRIPPS COMPANY
A diverse media company committed
to creating a better-informed world

WXYZ DETROIT AND WCPO 9 NEWS
Outstanding newsrooms focused on essential journalism, authentic connections and meaningful storytelling

SPECIAL THANKS TO NEWSY
America’s fastest-growing national news network, delivering non-partisan, independent and solutions-focused journalism to viewers across traditional and over-the-top platforms

Please plan to join us in April 2022
for the 69th Annual Scripps Howard Awards

Entry period
Dec. 1, 2021 - Feb. 4, 2022