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Media contact:

Jillian Wilschke
Student Communications Writer
Marketing and Communications
Ball State University
jtwilschke@bsu.edu
219-671-6781

IPR claims five awards from Indiana Associated Press Broadcasters Association

MUNCIE, Ind.—The Indiana Public Radio (IPR) news team, the National Public Radio affiliate at Ball State University, won five awards on April 14 from the Indiana Associated Press Broadcasters Association.

Awards were presented for stories and newscasts broadcast in 2017.

First place awards included:

- Best Long-form Newscast, Local Radio, Stan Sollars and the IPR News Team
- Best Reporter, Local Radio, Stephanie Wiechmann
- Best Student Reporter, Radio, Tony Sandleben
- Best Community Impact, Local Radio, Unmasked: The Stigma of Meth

Sollars' first place win was his 37th best newscast award since 1995, and Wiechmann's award was her fourth Best Reporter Award in her 10 years with the station.

The Best Community Impact award came from a series from a Ball State immersive learning class taught by IPR News Director Terry Heifetz. "Unmasked: The Stigma of Meth" covered the methamphetamine crisis in Delaware County. Students produced a radio series for IPR, a documentary for WIPB-TV, a magazine and a website. The reporting was praised by local organizations and received a commendation from lawmakers in the Indiana General Assembly.

Wiechmann and Sandleben also received a second-place award in the Best Continuing Coverage category for stories they did on the state takeover of Muncie Community Schools.

This contest is judged by journalists in other states, who said IPR's stories were in-depth with a nice selection of interviews and IPR reporters and anchors were "bright, well-spoken, and professional."

For more information about Indiana Public Radio, visit <https://indianapublicradio.org/>.