

2022 Portfolio of the Year

Broadcast Journalist of the Year
Sarah Conner-Maize Career Academy
OneMaize Media

Story #1-West Wichita Farmer's Market

<https://vimeo.com/612703738>

Our team visited the West Wichita Farmer's Market, located at 21st and Ridge, to uncover the hidden stories behind dedicated vendors at the Saturday event. Overall, this story won KSPA Monthly Contest along with several other local awards and gave residents a reason to shop local.

Story #2-Is Age Just a Number?

<https://vimeo.com/681571849>

For a broadcast commentary (opinion) piece for our February episode, I set out to explain how age gaps in relationships are becoming more popular and accepted in our society. This piece brought variety through a fresh teen perspective on dating and breaking the norm of same-aged relationships.

Story #3-266 changes punishments for vaping

<https://vimeo.com/674589831>

For our KSPA regional contest for Video News, we covered a controversial change in our school's community on how administration would be handling vaping violations for the remainder of the school year. Although our team received backlash due to conflicting opinions between students and our team, we believed this was a story that was worth telling.

Story #4- "Woman on the Street" Christmas edition

<https://vimeo.com/691968751>

For our Christmas episode of The OneMaize Show, I shot/produced a light-hearted entertainment piece involving elementary students from school in the Maize community. In this video, I set out to find the true meaning of Christmas and quizzed K-5 students on Christmas trivia.

Story #5-Sophomore singers star on stage

<https://vimeo.com/703741243>

For our 1st Place award-winning KSPA Video News feature, we covered Jovi Garcia and Dashall Meyer, two sophomores known for rocking the stage together since middle school. This story gave choir kids a platform and the recognition they deserve for hard work not just inside the school, but performances and practice on their own time as well.

Story #6-Anchoring from Episode 6

<https://vimeo.com/694911639>

This episode was submitted for a NSPA Broadcast Pacemaker for 2022. In this episode, I introduced a variety of contest pieces for KSPA state that also ran for our monthly show. Through my dozens of opportunities for on-camera performances, this was by far my strongest and most confident anchoring performance on The OneMaize Show.

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Broadcasting was never something I had imagined myself doing in high school, let alone considering it as a career. I first took broadcasting as an elective class to fill my schedule. Upon my mother's first suggestion to take it, I told her I couldn't see myself enjoying it and that it was more than likely a waste of my time. Through lots of bribing and convincing, I finally agreed to take the class. Well, three years and 5 semesters later, it has grown to be my favorite class, and my understanding of and appreciation for broadcasting, digital media, and journalism as a whole has grown tremendously. Now, as a Senior in high school, I can safely say I have found a drive to tell the stories of my community and a passion that can carry me through college and onto a career I will enjoy for the rest of my life.

With the help of my fellow peers and adviser Spencer O'Daniel, I've been able to bring positive change and creativity to our program, developing a nationally accredited journalism class and broadcasting network. Through my anchoring, on-camera performances, and videography, I was selected for the Best On-Camera/DJ Personality at the 2022 Kansas Broadcasting Association convention for exceptional on-camera anchor performances. Winning this award was a huge accomplishment for me, and one of my goals for my junior year of high school. In May of 2022, I was named a two-time state champion at the Kansas Scholastic Press Association state event, and the first in our program to take state in two categories. Not only did I win first place in Video news, but I also won first place in Student life photography - my first time submitting to a photography category in any contest. These are just a few of my many accomplishments in this program. If it weren't for my advisers' confidence in me and my creative abilities, I would not be where I am today: an acknowledged videographer and photographer across Kansas in the high school division. I even experienced other students at conventions and contests coming up to see me that had watched some of my work on our [OneMaize Media Vimeo](#), which was incredible to experience!

Creative freedom has been one of the many things I have enjoyed about our broadcasting program. Creativity is definitely not a category I struggle in, but being able to turn my ideas into a single video or photo is worth more than a thousand creative thoughts. I have been able to bring broadcast commentary into our program, something I've always dreamed of, giving a voice to students and their opinions on complicated and serious topics commonly untouched by high school journalism programs. From teen drinking to age gap relationships to smoking and the use of electronic vaping devices among high school students, I've covered it all. I have faced quite a bit of backlash for these stories, from a snide comment on a video to friends telling me I shouldn't have covered a story to a teacher reprimanding me by saying I have no right to be speaking out about such "disgusting" topics and suggesting that no one will listen to a seventeen-year-old. No matter the instance, I feel it is necessary to tell these stories that are commonly unprovoked. Giving a voice to students, faculty, and the community of Maize, Kansas, has been the most rewarding part of my journey in broadcasting/journalism, and no hateful comment could ever keep me from doing so. With my dedication to telling the stories no one else wants to tell or my on-camera performance abilities, I hope to inspire future broadcasters coming into our program and give them the confidence to step out of their comfort zone to grow as I have these past three years.

Broadcasting has not only helped me to learn more about the community and city around me, but it has also helped me to discover myself as a person. I have always been an outgoing person, but have never considered myself a one to enjoy being in the spotlight or the blind eye of the people. Broadcasting and anchoring has helped me discover my love for being in front of the camera, no matter how vulnerable it may make me. This program has not only helped me to become a better videographer, but a better person as a whole. This past year, my adviser told me he has noticed not only my videography skills but also my leadership abilities, both in and out of the classroom. He mentioned that my skills and the type of person I am is what he looks for in an editor for our program and he was confident that I could bring positive change to the program and its students. This was a moment of pure bliss for me. I took this class as a random elective considering the fact that I may or may not enjoy it, and now I am an editor, my teacher's right-hand woman, the person students can go to for questions, help, or even a boost of confidence. This "promotion" has helped me to discover that I love helping those around me become successful and that watching them grow with my help is more rewarding than any award I could ever win.

Looking forward to my senior year, I hope to become an even stronger leader and to produce twice the amount of content, all in the hopes that it reaches the right person and might just inspire that future broadcaster watching our show to put themselves out there, find something they love, and persist. And who knows....maybe they could be an even BETTER future leader for OneMaize Media.