

Thank you for taking the time to consider my portfolio for NSPA Broadcast Journalist of the Year. I am honored to be selected by my adviser, Jim McCarthy, to represent JNN Broadcast and Joseph Gregori High School.

In everything that I've done in the past four years, I have had to work hard. I have worked for improvement, for ambition, for respect, and ultimately to be a better person than I was the day before. I don't cut corners in my reporting. I make hard decisions about the quality of stories I produce for JNN and, as the newscast producer, I work with student reporters to make their video stories better, even when the students can't initially see what needs to be improved. I try to emulate our school's namesake, Joe Gregori, who once said, "I never expect more of you than I do of myself, but I got to tell ya, I expect a lot of myself."

My broadcast journalism class has impacted me personally more than anything else during high school. Through this program, I discovered a passion for journalism, as well as the importance for reporting and sharing the news. I have learned a countless number of new skills, such as the fundamentals of reporting, camera operations, video and graphics editing, as well as proper interviewing and editing techniques. Being a part of JNN has made an impact on how I related to others on a daily basis. Through the broadcast program, I have become bolder in my interactions with other people, including students, staff members, and outside professionals.

I have always been very aware of my surroundings and of the news. Over the course of my high school career, I'd point to independence as a quality I've most developed. I am planning a double major in journalism and international relations. I am majoring in these subjects because I have a profound passion for journalism and I plan to make a career in this field. More specifically, I plan to be an international correspondent.

The video stories I submit for your consideration were stories I reported and produced, with one exception, by myself. "Solar Eclipse Dawns on Gregori" was shot and produced within a day. I used the footage and editing of this reporting as a model to assist in the training of new staff members. "Cheek to Cheek" was a story I produced with Alyssa Bartlett. This was the first and only sports feature story I reported this year. "Woman's March" was shot in a single day, and edited over the next few days in order to be ready for the Friday newscast. "Threats Made to Gregori High," was also shot and reported within a single day. Finally, "Network Shutdown" was reported and produced over a three-week period. This is the piece I am most proud of this year.

Again, I want to thank you for taking the time to consider my portfolio for Broadcast Journalist of the Year. It has been an honor to work in the field of high school broadcast journalism, and this portfolio from my senior year reflects my best work.

Sincerely,

Katherine Swartz