



## **\$500 award for best media coverage of suicide prevention and mental health**

Entries are now being accepted for the 2013-14 Washington Mental Health Reporting Award for outstanding coverage of suicide prevention and mental health. The award is sponsored by Forefront: Innovations in Suicide Prevention and the University of Washington Department of Communication Journalism program to honor Washington State journalism that improves the public's understanding of suicide prevention, behavioral illnesses, treatment, recovery, public policy and related topics. Submissions will be accepted through July 1, 2014.

The award-winning journalist will receive \$500 and be honored at the Sept. 30 anniversary celebration of Forefront, a UW-based multi-disciplinary collaboration for big-picture changes in suicide prevention.

Entries may include columns, investigative articles, editorials, broadcast segments, news, features, series, blogs and videos. Journalists can submit their own work or be nominated by a colleague or member of the community. The submission must have been published (online or in print) or broadcast between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014. Judging criteria will include how well the entry:

- Clarifies public understanding of issues experienced by people living with any or all of the following: mental health challenges; substance abuse; thoughts, attempts or completion of suicide;
- Conveys hope, recovery, and resiliency in the lives of people who are living with mental illnesses, recovering from substance abuse or suicide ideation;
- Sheds light on the importance of mental health treatment and suicide prevention in the community;
- Follows the [AP Stylebook entry on mental illness](#), [National Recommendations for Reporting on Suicide](#) and [Forefront's Tips for Mental Health Reporting](#), and avoids terms and descriptions that contribute to stigma or suicide contagion, including in the headline and other graphic elements.

Entries should be submitted by email to [ffront@uw.edu](mailto:ffront@uw.edu) no later than 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 1. Please include a link to the entry, the headline, name, address and contact information for the journalist(s) involved, the name of the news organization or independent news portal and the date the piece first appeared. If a publicly accessible link is not available, send the entry via e-mail attachment (ideally, showing original presentation). There is no entry fee, and multiple entries may be submitted.

Judging will be by a panel of experts drawn from mental health professionals, UW Department of Communication journalism faculty, and individuals whose lives have been affected by mental illness, substance abuse or a death by suicide.

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