

WISCONSIN COMMUNITY MEDIA



Strong media centers. Strong communities.

WCM Hall of Fame Inductees

- 2008 Wade Britzius, Trempealeau County Community Television
- 2009 Judi Kneece, Janesville JATV
- 2010 Jon Urben, Oshkosh Community Media
- 2011 Pam Steitz, Sun Prairie Kids-4
- 2012 John Jordan, Wausau Area Access Channels
- 2013 Mary Shanahan-Spanic, West Allis Community Media Center
- 2014 Connie Darling, Fitchburg FACTV
- 2015 Mick Givens, Rice Lake Television
- 2016 Dan Kummer, Marshfield Community Television
- 2017 Bonnie Lundy, Fitchburg FACTV
- 2018 Liz Harlow, Oregon Cable Access Media
- 2019 Dawn Wills, River Falls Community Television
- 2020 Jim Walsh, River Cities Community Access (now WRCM)
- 2021 Mike Ryan, West Bend Community Television

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Executive Director

Mary Cardona
(608) 215-5594
exec@
wisconsincommunitymedia.com

May 3, 2021

Mike Ryan
4216 W. Crystal Lake Road
McHenry, IL 60050

Dear Mike,

I have the great pleasure to inform you that you have been chosen by the WCM Board of Directors to be the 2021 Inductee into the WCM Hall of Fame! Each year, WCM recognizes and inducts one community media professional who has shown great leadership and devotion to the mission of public, education, and government access television -- "empowering people to create media for human purposes." You have shown that leadership and devotion to community media in both your Wisconsin hometown and on a statewide level.

WCM has known you as a tireless advocate for community television. We were the beneficiaries of your in-depth industry knowledge acquired over a thirty-year career – a career that began at a cable company-run public access center in Illinois in the 1980s. In 2006 you became director of West Bend Community Television where, according to John Ehlke, Production Manager, "Through countless meetings, late nights and events in the rain, Mike Ryan gave everything to our community so others could be heard." You transitioned the station from VHS to digital and became so well known in West Bend that turning to WBCTV became second nature to the area's non-profit organizations. In 2010 you were elected to the WCM Board of Directors. Over a seven-year period, you served as Secretary and left your mark in particular on our public policy efforts.

Today, the media center you led for twelve years is going strong. Certainly you can take credit for successfully training your successors to make WBCTV an integral part of community life by working hard and focusing on its local mission. "We're here to help them get their message out," you would often say to staff, and West Bend Community TV continues to do just that for the city, local businesses and area non-profits.

We will be inducting you into the WCM Hall of Fame at the Best of the Midwest Media Fest Show on **Thursday, May 27 at 7 pm** during our virtual live-streamed event. We hope you will be able to participate via Zoom to accept your award. Please contact me by Friday, May 14 to let me know whether you can participate that evening. Congratulations!

Sincerely,

Mary Cardona
Executive Director