



Students, Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

First, I want to thank everyone who welcomed me with open arms as I made the transition from industry filmmaker and producer, to become a career and technical education teacher. I have truly enjoyed my first year teaching in the C3Media Academy at Spanish Springs High School. I am excited for what the next few years has in store for all of us. In this letter I want to address the future of the program, and some exciting things that are happening over the Summer leading into our next academic year. I also want to acknowledge some of our outstanding students that have won awards from our program and the Reno FFX Film Festival.

At Spanish Springs High School we maintain a fully functional television studio that is in use five days a week by our students. I am truly excited to announce that our maintenance and custodial staff and some community partners are working to fully renovate the studio space to bring it in line with industry standards. In addition to this, we have dismantled and removed our old television news set and are working with community partners to build an affordable and safe, high quality, wrap-around television set that will serve our students, staff, and community members for years to come. Over this Summer break, we will be working to overhaul electrical and data communication systems in the studio to prepare it for next generation technologies that we are preparing to implement in the Spring of 2021.

Next year we are on track to begin streaming Cougar sporting events live. These productions will be faculty guided, but 100% student run and produced. These experiences will help give our students the experience they need to get jobs at the next level, whether they are working for a sports team or a news station. These broadcasts will also generate a small amount of revenue, with 100% of that revenue being invested into our CTE students in the form of new equipment, scholarships, and the subsidizing of student travel for conferences and events.

I would like to acknowledge our students that submitted films and were named as finalists or award winners in the 2020 Reno FFX Film Festival. Entering the Reno FFX Film Festival is a huge honor, and a true testament to the work and effort of the students. While not all of our entries were named as finalists or award winners, many of our students worked hard to produce quality content to enter. I would also like to acknowledge the effort and time invested in this film festival by AACT Video Production Instructor Mr. Bob Zorn, who volunteers his time to organize this event.

Experimental Short Film:

3rd Place: Pepsi by Liv Rogers, Clayton Posey, Josh Catalano, and Kaili Hill

Finalist: Love in October by Juliet Ojeda, Ashley Stout, Abby Foster, and Toni Sharen

News Packages:

Finalist: Parent Night by Luke Merlino, and Jeff Shoemaker

Documentary Short Film:

3rd Place: Triathlete by Jack Little, and Clayton Posey

Finalist: Cougars Football by Jonathan Lee, Nate Hutson, Trey Hummel, and Alex Dunn

Finalist: SPCA by Eric O'Shea



Animated Short Film (Supervised by Animation Instructor Mr. Pablo Valencia):

1st Place: Car Chase by Dillon Trinh

Narrative Short Film (Full Sweep by SSHS):

1st Place: October by Joie Patetta

2nd Place: SSHS 2020 by Clayton Posey, Saurabh Chawla, Miguel Padilla, Jeff Shoemaker, Aidan Swan, Josh Catalano, Kaili Hill, Spencer Dickerson, and Naomi Zamarippa Cruz

3rd Place: Xero by Clayton Posey, Jack Little, Josh Catalano, Liv Rogers, and Hunter Gorden

Category X: Movie Trailers:

1st Place: Xerophobia by Clayton Posey, Jack Little, Josh Catalano, Liv Rogers, and Hunter Gorden

Best Fiction (Overall Festival):

October by Joie Patetta

I would like to acknowledge our 2019 - 2020 CNTV 28 and C3Media Academy video production award winners. These awards cover the best video produced by students at each level, and also cover job performance by students during this past CNTV 28 live production season.

Video I Video of the Year:

October (Film) - Joie Patetta

Video II Video of the Year:

All I Want (Music Video) - Abby Foster, Juliet Ojeda, Ashley Stout, Toni Sharen

Video III Video of the Year:

Xero - Clayton Posey, Jack Little, Josh Catalano

Video AS Video of the Year:

SPCA - Eric O'Shea

2020 Quarantine Challenge:

Quarantine - Taylor Salim

Quarantine Chaos - Cole Dyson

CNTV 28 Crewmembers of the Year:

Kaili Hill - Reporting and Anchoring

Nikki Cenac - Operations and Production

Saurabh Chawla - Operations and Production

Elany Capacia - Field Production

Abby Foster - Studio Operations

Ashley Stout - Studio Operations

Aidan Swan - Control Room Operations

Mikey Reha - Control Room Operations

Jeff Shoemaker - Control Room Operations

Julianna Gallo - Perseverance Award



All of our students did a truly wonderful job this year, and I truly have to give them the credit for our successes. I am excited for our graduating Seniors as they enter the workforce or go on to pursue post-secondary educational opportunities. I am also looking forward to next year as I get to continue to educate our Video II, III, and AS students while I am introduced to our 68 new Video I Freshman and Sophomore students. I am excited to announce that I will also have the opportunity to teach a section of both Photography II and III students. I am beyond ecstatic for our next academic year!

As always, if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or jokes, feel free to reach out to me by email, at hunter.rand@washoeschools.net.

Have a great summer,

Hunter Rand

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