

PRESS RELEASE

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Gannon's WERG Awarded Best College Station in the Nation

Erie, Pa.— Gannon University's student-operated radio station, 90.5 WERG participated in the annual Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS) Conference and won several awards, including the **Abraham and Borst Award for Best College Station in the Nation**.

Chet LaPrice, Operations Manager for WERG, took nine students on AMTRAK's "Lakeshore Limited" to New York City for the 74th IBS Conference, which is a national, annual gathering of media professionals, advisers and students at the Hotel Pennsylvania in Midtown Manhattan.

LaPrice and alumna Deb Carlson, '09, '13M, presented on several panels for the conference, including "Station Underwriting" and "Programming Your College Radio Station." LaPrice also moderated a session entitled "Management Bootcamp," along with Len Mailloux, IBS Chairperson, Simmons College; and Jason Samuel, WGCS, Goshen College.

The WERG student staff was presented with several awards including:

- IBS Golden Microphone Award for Excellence in Station Programming and Operation: Platinum Status
- Most Creative Promotional Event
 - (Awarded to Becca Dambach, Abby Coppock and Deb Carlson for "Triple Treat Halloween.")
- Best College Station: University under 10,000 Students
- Abraham & Borst Award, Best College Station in the Nation

WERG was also one of the top five finalists for Best Newscast, produced by Cristen Manion on the *Sonic Sunrise* morning show; Best Use of Social Media, awarded to Nick Tabar; Best Use of Underwriting, awarded to Deb Carlson.

"The alumni from our department have always considered this to be a special place, and we believe in the unique abilities and talents of our students. To have verification of that from a neutral third party on a national stage, and to receive an award for excellence telling us that our students and our station are the best in the country? I'm not going to downplay it—it feels *great!*" LaPrice said.

The award-winning Gannon group celebrated with a fine dining experience at Uncle Jack's Steakhouse, caught performances of "The Lion King" at Minskoff Theatre and "Wicked" at Gershwin Theatre, toured Central Park and Times Square, viewed the skyline from the roof of the Empire State Building, ate cheesecake from Junior's, and even found time for shopping on Fifth Avenue and at Midtown Comics.

The Intercollegiate Broadcasting System represents over one thousand college radio stations across the country.