



Illinois Journalism Education Association

Promoting and supporting excellence in scholastic journalism since 1988
<https://illinoisjea.org/>

Welcome to IJEJA 2024 at ISU

Conference sessions are in the State Farm Hall of Business, 410 S. University St.

SESSION 1: 9:15 a.m.

Room 0131: Helping Your Audience Find Your Story. **Ryan Denham** is digital content director at WGLT, the NPR station in Bloomington-Normal.

Room 0132: Deadline Writing – and More. **Brendan Denison** is a writer/reporter for The Pantagraph in Bloomington.

Room 0133: Putting the FUN in Yearbook: Creating a Positive Class Environment. **Heather Roan** is yearbook adviser at Springfield High School.

Room 0135: Illinois New Voices: What You Should Know. **All Writeoffs entrants must attend this session.** **Stan Zoller**, MJE, has spent more than 50 years in journalism, journalism education and journalism advocacy and is a past Illinois State Director for the Journalism Education Association.

Room 0145: Why You Should Consider the IJOY Contest. *For advisers and students.* **Amanda Thrun**, adviser at Edwardsville High School; **Elizabeth Levin**, former adviser at Downers Grove North High School; and **Keith Carlson**, adviser at Naperville Central High School. Moderator: **Katie Fernandez**, Illinois State Director for the Journalism Education Association.

Room 0147: From Headlines to Hardware: Winning the Pacemaker. **Leslie Fireman**, a journalism teacher with a decade of experience and a background in newspapers and advertising, leads the award-winning Wildcat Chronicle at West Chicago Community High School.

Room 0148: Sports Reporting 101. Sportswriter **Adam Duvall** started his media career in 2002 and is currently the high school sports coordinator for the Peoria Journal Star.

Tour: TV10 and WZND, student-run media outlets. Sign up for tours in advance on the lower level,

SESSION 2: 10:15 a.m.

Room 0131: Preparing for Journalism School. John Plevka, longtime adviser for ISU's student newspaper, and current student Maggee Bleyer share their advice and tips.

Room 0132: Writeoff students only

Room 0133: Investigative Reporting: Digging Deeper to Uncover the Truth. Molly Parker-Stephens is an award-winning investigative reporter for Capitol News Illinois and ProPublica Local Reporting Network.

Room 0135: Be a Good Digital Citizen. Jason Piscia directs the Public Affairs Reporting master's program at the University of Illinois Springfield and worked as an editor and reporter at The State Journal-Register in Springfield.

Room 0145: AP Seminar: Media, Journalism and Democracy. Katie Fernandez is senior program coordinator of Teach for Chicago Journalism at Medill; Michael A. Spikes, Ph.D., is project director of Teach for Chicago Journalism at Medill.

Room 0147: What Are You Doing Next Summer? Betsy Jewell from the Eastern Illinois University/Illinois Press Foundation journalism camp, Keith Zukas from the Kettle-Moraine Press Association camp at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, and Don Moseley and Carol Marin from DePaul University, which will offer a J-Day for students and an adviser day in '25.

Room 0148. Money Money Money ... Dana Donovan, adviser, Okawville Junior Senior High School, and TillieAnn Steele, adviser, Meridian High School.

Room 0150: Photojournalism: Capturing the Moment. Kankakee Daily Journal photo editor Tiffany Blanchette.

Room 353 (third floor): IJEA Board meeting, open to all.

Tours: Sign up in advance on the lower level.

WGLT NPR affiliate and The Vidette, ISY student newspaper.

Social Media Analytics Command Center.

SESSION 3: 11:15 a.m.

Room 0131: Using AI in Scholastic Journalism. Ellen Austin received JEA's Lifetime Achievement award in 2023 and was the 2012 Dow Jones News Fund National High School Journalism Teacher of the Year.

Room 0132: Marketing Your Yearbook. TillieAnn Steele is adviser for The Talon, Meridian High School's award-winning yearbook.

Room 0133: Wait – There ARE Dumb Questions. Jacob Dickey, a meteorologist and journalist at WCIA-TV.

Room 0135: Intro to Narrative Podcasting. Michael A. Spikes, a professor of practice in the Medill School at Northwestern, has also been a media producer and editor for NPR and the PBS NewsHour.

Room 0145: IHSA State Series Roundtable. Matt Troha, IHSA assistant executive director and administrator for the journalism state series for a decade.

Room 0147: Going Beyond the Numbers. Kevin Beese is an award-winning staff writer at Chronicle Media, a print and online publication covering 14 counties.

Room 0148: Design Like a Pro. Champaign News-Gazette staffers Niko Dugan, managing editor, and Joel Leizer, news editor.

Room 0150: Getting Better Yearbook Copy and Captions. Alison Bacon, Walsworth Yearbooks representative for Central Illinois.

Tours: Sign up in advance on the lower level.

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Social Media Analytics Command Center.

AT NOON:

MEET OUTSIDE STATE FARM HALL OF BUSINESS FOR THE WALK TO LUNCH AT THE MARRIOTT, 201 BROADWAY