



Wichita Professional Communicators

Affiliated with Kansas Professional Communicators and NFPW

www.wichitaprofessionalcommunicators.com

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2023 WPC MIXER

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER & NETWORKING

SILENT AUCTION • WINE & FOOD • LIVE MUSIC

6-8:30 PM THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
KMUW STUDIOS, 121 N MEAD

ADVANCED TICKETS: \$30 (\$40 AT THE DOOR)



Wichita Professional Communicators

Don't miss it!

Reserve your tickets now for the annual WPC Scholarship Fundraiser and Mixer, 6-8:30 pm, Thursday, Sept. 7 at the KMUW Studios, Suite 200, 121 N. Mead, Wichita. Convenient parking is available in the parking lot just south of the building.

This fun and casual networking event is our primary fundraiser for the WPC Scholarship Fund, benefiting communications students at area colleges and universities.

Join us for wine (or non-alcoholic drink), tasty food from Louis' Rose Hill Cafe, live music by handpan artist Daniel Baird, a gift card pull for many popular local restaurants and attractions, and wonderful silent auction items.

Tickets are just \$30 each if you [register online](#) by noon Friday, Sept. 1, or \$40 at the door.

Can't attend but still want to support future communicators? [Donate online](#) to the WPC Scholarship Fund.

TICKETS

Register now on [Eventbrite](#).

You may donate additionally via Eventbrite when you register for the meeting or donate [here](#).

Job Opportunities

Keeping an eye out for you

- KWCH is looking for a [multimedia journalist](#).
- Textron Aviation is hiring for a [communications associate](#).
- Koch Industries is hiring a [global content specialist](#).
- International Rescue Committee is looking for a [community engagement specialist](#).
- KSAS/KMTW is looking for a [chief engineer](#).
- Intrust Bank is looking for a [public relations manager](#).

From the WPC President

The importance of a free press



In this era of rapid information dissemination and digital connectivity, the need for a free press has never been more evident. Recent events, such as the unsettling raid on the Marion County Record newsroom, serve as stark reminders of the critical role that journalism plays in upholding the pillars of democracy and safeguarding our rights as citizens.

The free press serves as the fourth estate, acting as a watchdog over the government, institutions, and corporations. It acts as a check and balance on power, uncovering hidden truths, exposing corruption, and holding those in authority accountable for their actions. It keeps people honest. Journalists should be able to carry out their duty to inform the public without fear of intimidation or suppression.

The free press empowers individuals to make educated decisions by providing them with reliable information, analysis, and diverse viewpoints. This informed citizenry is the bedrock of a thriving democracy, enabling us to collectively shape policies, elect leaders, and participate meaningfully in public discourse. What does it mean when only 15% of registered voters in our community take the time to participate in our election system? We desperately need to find new ways to not only inform our friends and neighbors, but to inspire and engage them.

This back to school season, it feels especially important that our WPC Annual Mixer raises scholarship funds for local journalism and communications students who will be on the forefront of this new frontier of storytelling and civic engagement. I hate to liken it to a battlefield but the events in Marion County shine an uncomfortably bright light on the challenges that communicators face in an era marked by increasing polarization and the spread of disinformation. Reporters and even social media managers find themselves in the crosshairs of verbal attacks, threats, and even violence, simply for doing their job.

We all have a responsibility to champion the preservation of a vibrant and independent press and pass the torch to the future lightbearers. So bid high and bid often at our Annual Mixer as you mingle with your fellow communicators. Also consider donating to the [Society of Professional Journalists' Legal Defense Fund](#) to support the Marion County Record.

Naomi Shapiro

WPC & AFFILIATES CALENDAR

Sept. 7: WPC mixer and scholarship fundraiser, 6-8:30 p.m., KMWU Studios

Sept. 11: WPC board meeting, noon, via Zoom

Oct. 1: NFPW contests open

Oct. 4: WPC monthly program, 11:30 a.m., Larkspur Bistro & Bar

Oct. 9: WPC board meeting, noon, via Zoom

Nov. 1: WPC monthly program, 11:30 a.m., Larkspur Bistro & Bar



2023 WPC Scholarship Winner Allison Campbell received her \$2,000 scholarship check at a recent luncheon. She is a junior at Wichita State University who will graduate in May 2025 with a major in journalism and media production, and a minor in creative writing.

2023 WPC BOARD

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