



Nomination Guidelines & Eligibility Criteria

The Excelencia Awards, presented by the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ), celebrate press freedom and the power of diverse voices in America's newsrooms. Honorees are selected based on merit, impact and alignment with NAHJ's mission.

Important: The number of nominations a candidate receives **does not** influence selection. Winners are chosen solely based on rubric scoring and National Board deliberation.

General Nomination Guidelines

- Self-nominations are permitted unless otherwise stated
- All required materials must be submitted by the deadline
- Incomplete or ineligible nominations will not be reviewed

Required Materials

- Completed nomination form
- Nominee bio (max 500 words)
- Statement outlining how the nominee meets the award criteria (max 500 words)
- Relevant work samples or supporting documentation
- Resume or CV (if applicable)
- High resolution headshot of nominee (if available) ****Highly recommended****

Submissions must clearly demonstrate impact and alignment with the award category.

Award Categories & Eligibility

National Latino Journalist of the Year

Eligibility:

- **Minimum ten years** of professional journalism experience
- Demonstrated excellence and measurable impact in serving Latino communities
- This award honors sustained excellence, leadership and meaningful community impact

National Student of the Year

(Open to high school and college students)

Eligibility:

- Currently enrolled student
- Active participation in journalism (student media, internships, independent work)
- Demonstrated leadership and commitment to the field

Strong candidates will show exceptional journalism work and clear promise as future industry leaders.

Ñ Legacy Award

Eligibility:

- Minimum 10 years of professional journalism experience
- Significant long-term contributions to local journalism
- Sustained impact on Latino communities

This award recognizes lasting influence and a demonstrated legacy of mentorship and leadership.

Spirit of NAHJ Award

Eligibility:

- Active NAHJ member in good standing
- Sustained and meaningful volunteer service to NAHJ

This award honors individuals whose contributions have strengthened NAHJ and advanced its mission **over several years**.

Excellence in PR & Communications

Eligibility:

- Professional in public relations or communications
- **Minimum ten years** of public relations or communications experience
- Work that has elevated understanding, coverage, or engagement around Latino communities

Impact and ethical leadership in communications must be clearly demonstrated.

National Academic of the Year

Eligibility:

- Active journalism educator
- Minimum **ten years** as a journalism educator
- Demonstrated excellence in teaching, mentorship and scholarship
- Commitment to advancing Latino representation in journalism education

Corporate Impact Award

Eligibility:

- Corporation or organization supporting journalism and NAHJ
- Demonstrated, sustained investment in newsroom innovation, sustainability, or workforce development

Selection Process

- All nominations undergo eligibility screening
- Qualified nominees are evaluated using NAHJ's official rubric
- All criteria are weighted equally
- Final honorees are selected by the NAHJ National Board