

WISCONSIN COMMUNITY



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April 26, 2018

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Mary Cardona
(608) 215-5594
exec@
wisconsincommunitymedia.com

Dear Al,

It is my pleasure to inform you that the Wisconsin Community Media Board of Directors has chosen you to receive the 2018 WCM Friend of Access Award in recognition of your longtime dedication to Algoma's community access television station, Algoma Community Television. Mary Ann Wold of Valley Media Works in Eau Claire and James Wyngaard of WSTO Stoughton are also being honored this year.

The award reads, "In recognition of your work to preserve the true democratic voice of the community – Public, Education, and Government Access Television."

In nominating you for this award Amber Shallow wrote, "I have never met someone with as big a heart and passion for his work as Al. I honestly believe that the only reason our little station keeps going is because of the work Al does." According to Amber, the stipend you receive as director of Algoma Community Television does not begin to cover the hours you put in.

Your involvement with Algoma Community Television began when you were appointed to the City Cable Committee in 1993. As the owner of Reinhart Radio, TV & VCR since 1966, you had some television and technical repair experience to offer the group. While on the committee, the City started the community television station.

ACT had a modest beginning. A single DVD player with a new DVD playing each day provided the programming for the channel. You helped get additional equipment so multiple DVDs could run at set times. Through the years the station has benefited from your technical expertise. You have kept the station's equipment maintained and repaired and continually monitor the signal, coaxing aging equipment to respond and contacting Charter when it needs to take action. These days you are working with the city to develop an RFP to upgrade the station's production equipment.

Together with JT Pelt (owner of the now closed newspaper "The County Times") you developed a news program for the Algoma area. Over the last

couple of years this program has evolved and is now called “Your City, Your County.” You produce every program, developing the content and lining up the guests.

Amber wrote, “He is always thinking about how we can get information out to the community and how we can help others who live and work in Algoma through our community programming.”

WCM is extremely pleased to present you with this very well-deserved Friend of Access Award and give you state-wide recognition for your dedication to community television. We invite you and a guest to the Best of the Midwest Media Fest Banquet and Show on Thursday, May 10 at the Oshkosh Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center. The exhibitors reception begins at 5:30 pm, the banquet at 6:30 pm and the awards presentation and show follows.

Please contact me to let me know who is coming by emailing or calling me by Friday, May 6.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Cardona".

Mary Cardona
Executive Director

cc: WCM members