



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Julie Lane

Phone: (208) 426-1906

julielane@boisestate.edu

Written by Theresa

Russell-Loretz



AJHA Honors Erin Coyle with 2023 National Award for Excellence in Teaching

Erin Coyle, an associate professor of journalism in the Klein College of Media and Communication at Temple University, was selected to receive the 2023 AJHA National Award for Excellence in Teaching.

The award honors a college or university professor who excels at teaching in the areas of journalism and mass communication history, makes a positive impact on student learning, and offers an outstanding example for other educators. Coyle will receive the award at the 42nd annual AJHA national convention in Columbus, Ohio, scheduled for Sept. 28-30.

"I'm thankful my colleagues, mentors, teachers and students have provided me with many examples of how to connect with students and share our passions for journalism and history," said Coyle, who serves as director of undergraduate studies in the journalism program at Temple.

The selection committee was impressed with the various ways Coyle incorporates history and study of primary sources into her courses, where she "focused on helping students acquire skills in analyzing primary sources, communicating their findings, and reflecting on the significance of their findings." The committee especially pointed to the media law and ethics courses, in which students engaged in such activities as review of 1954 editorials and articles cited by the U.S. Supreme Court in the 1966 case *Sheppard v. Maxwell*, in which Sam Sheppard was wrongfully convicted of killing his wife.

Committee members also praised Coyle's innovative teaching during the pandemic and her commitment to connecting students with needed resources.

In her application materials, Coyle wrote, "I have treasured opportunities to teach journalism history courses."

As well, she noted in her application that she "created opportunities to teach journalism history in courses that do not have journalism history in their titles," and linked the study of history to educating future journalists.

"Historians must actively attempt to prevent personal prejudices, personal assumptions, and presentism from skewing how they analyze or present results just as journalists actively try to prevent their personal biases and assumptions from skewing how they seek, analyze, or present information," Coyle wrote.

In a letter of recommendation supporting her selection, David Mindich, Journalism Department Chair at Temple, called Coyle "brilliant, generous, effective and inspiring." He noted that she was an outstanding scholar with a growing national reputation, as well as "thorough, effective and engaging" in her teaching.

Several students Coyle mentored have presented research at national conferences and submitted work for publication, with one student's work published in *First Amendment Studies*. Additional collaborations with students have resulted in articles published in *American Journalism* and *Communication Law and Policy*.

Founded in 1981, the American Journalism Historians Association seeks to advance education and research in mass communication history. Members work to raise historical standards and ensure that all scholars and students recognize the vast importance of media history and apply this knowledge to the advancement of society. For more information on AJHA, visit <http://www.ajhaonline.org>.

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Contact email: AJHAconvention@gmail.com

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