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NEWS RELEASE

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DATE: April 28, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michigan Radio Wins National and Regional News Awards

ANN ARBOR, Mich.— Michigan Radio, the public radio service of the University of Michigan, has been recognized by the National Society of Professional Journalists. The station was awarded the 2007 Sigma Delta Chi Award for Public Service in Radio Journalism for “Grading Michigan Schools”, Michigan Radio’s multi-part series of reports about education in the state. The Public Service in Radio Journalism Award recognizes a radio news organization that renders public service through extensive coverage of an issue facing the community it serves.

The Sigma Delta Chi Awards recognize the best in professional journalism in 48 categories, covering print, radio, television, newsletters, photography, online and research. This year’s winners were chosen from more than 1,000 entries from across the country. The only other public radio organizations to be recognized were Chicago Public Radio and “The World”, the national program from Public Radio International.

“Year after year, the winners of the Sigma Delta Chi awards represent the very best journalism has to offer,” said SPJ President Clint Brewer. “These awards and the journalism they recognize represent the incredibly positive contributions our profession makes to the national dialogue and to our communities. We thank the winners and all the entrants for their service and congratulate them on a job well done.”

The Sigma Delta Chi Awards date back to 1932, when the Society first honored six individuals for contributions to journalism. The current program began in 1939, when the organization awarded the first Distinguished Service Awards. These awards later became the Sigma Delta Chi Awards.

The awards, which recognize work published or broadcast in 2007, will be presented July 11 during the annual Sigma Delta Chi Awards banquet at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

In addition to the Sigma Delta Chi Award, the Michigan Radio news staff has received three regional Edward R. Murrow Awards. The Murrow Awards are presented by The Radio-Television News Directors Association and honor outstanding achievements in electronic journalism. Murrow Award recipients demonstrate the spirit of excellence that Edward R. Murrow made a standard for the broadcast news profession.

Michigan Radio competes in Region 7, which includes both commercial and public radio stations in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan. The Michigan Radio news staff received awards in these categories:

Best Continuing Coverage

- Michigan's Budget Crisis (Mich Radio news staff)

Best Feature

- Turning Around a Troubled School (Sarah Hulett)

Best News Documentary

- Ashes to Hope (Mich Radio news staff)

All three of Michigan Radio's regional winners will now move on for the chance to win a national Murrow award, which will be judged in early June.

Michigan Radio is the state's most listened-to public radio service, attracting approximately 450,000 listeners each week across the southern half of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Michigan Radio broadcasts at 91.7 FM in southeastern Michigan, 91.1 FM in Flint, and 104.1 FM in western Michigan.

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