



NATIONAL  
ACADEMY  
OF TELEVISION  
ARTS & SCIENCES

SUNCOAST  
CHAPTER

## PRESS RELEASE

---

### The Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Kicks Off the 2024 Scholarship Awards

**Pembroke Pines, FL (January 17, 2024)** - The NATAS Suncoast Chapter announced the 2024 Student Scholarship Awards application period is now open. Scholarship applications for the 2024-2025 school year opened on January 17, 2024 and will close on March 1, 2024.

The Suncoast Chapter offers scholarships annually to graduating high school seniors and to college and university students who reside within the Suncoast Region, which includes the State of Florida, the State of Louisiana, the Mobile-Pensacola Market area, and Puerto Rico. In order to be eligible, students must plan to attend or currently attend a four-year college or university in the Suncoast Region and must have a declared major in Communications/Broadcasting with a concentration in television.

“Every year the NATAS Suncoast Chapter aims to contribute to furthering the education of innovative, high-achieving deserving students,” said Claudia Keppinger, Suncoast Scholarship Awards Chair and Board of Governor. “It is a privilege and an honor to be part of such an important process to make an impact in the students’ lives and the future of the industry.”

Former Suncoast Chapter Executive Director, Bob Behrens, was dedicated to fostering excellence in journalism through philanthropic efforts. His vision, prior to his passing, was to contribute to the education of innovative, high-achieving students pursuing a career in communications and broadcasting.

“Part of the mission of our Suncoast Chapter is to provide resources and support for the next generation of professionals in our industry,” said Barbara Alfonso, NATAS Suncoast Chapter President. “Our Chapter is so pleased to be able to honor Bob and carry on his legacy.”

Since 2012, our chapter has awarded over \$685,875 dollars in scholarship funds. In 2023, the Suncoast Chapter awarded scholarship funds to 18 students totaling \$67,300. In addition, Derryl Barnes, Jr. received the \$10,000 Bob Behrens Scholarship, a special award given to a student who embodies enterprising journalism and innovation in the industry.

Eligibility requirements can be found on the [NATAS Suncoast Chapter](#) website. High School students are encouraged to apply [here](#) and College students can find the application [here](#).

---

#### About the Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences

The Suncoast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences is a nonprofit Florida corporation dedicated to excellence in television. We offer annual EMMY® Awards called The Suncoast Regional EMMY® Awards to television markets in the entire State of Florida, Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles and New Orleans, Louisiana, Mobile, Alabama, Thomasville, Georgia and Puerto Rico. The Chapter is composed of professional people who work in television or students who are studying television in colleges or universities and aspire to become professionals. We support future television industry professionals by recognizing the talent and efforts of college and high school students in our region with Student Production Awards. We provide financial support for college and high school seniors by granting scholarships annually. If you would like to become a member, please visit our [Membership](#) page. If you are interested in the Suncoast Regional EMMY® Awards, please visit our [Awards](#) page.

---

954.322.3171 | [emmysuncoast@gmail.com](mailto:emmysuncoast@gmail.com) | PO Box 840738 | Pembroke Pines, FL 33084

[suncoastchapter.org](http://suncoastchapter.org)