



The 2016 Ottinger Scholarship Winners

The NETA board of directors' member services committee selected four winners for this year's Richard E. Ottinger scholarships, to attend the 2016 NETA conference, September 19 – 21 in Baltimore.

The Ottinger scholarship honors the memory of Richard Ottinger, former executive director of Georgia Public Broadcasting, who died in 1997. "Doc" to his friends, Ottinger saw GPB grow into a public broadcasting network serving millions daily with nine television and 13 radio stations during his 26 year leadership.

Beyond the enduring friendships and mentor relationships he forged, Ottinger is remembered most for GPB's decision in 1994 to broadcast "Tales of the City," a PBS mini-series that dealt with nudity, homosexuality, and illicit drug use in San Francisco during the 1970s. The Georgia legislature, responding to the public criticism, temporarily held up \$19.6 million in funding for GPB. Ottinger stood firmly behind the programming decision, and the lawmakers relented. For Ottinger, it was a matter of principle: Nobody was going to tell him how to run his network. He was protecting the rights of people who would come after him. He would have been proud to meet this year's group of winners.

- **Xavier "X" Blake**, South Carolina ETV/Columbia, South Carolina
- **Dr. Teri Hadad**, WLVT/PBS 39 Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
- **Barbara Linstrom**, WFCU/Fort Myers, Florida
- **Dr. Tim Wollenzien**, Prairie Public Broadcasting/Fargo, North Dakota

Xavier "X" Blake is a senior electronic field production specialist at South Carolina ETV where he has worked for more than 15 years in positions of increasing responsibility. X was the senior videographer for last year's production, **180 Days: Hartsville** and formed a strong connection in the community during the shoot, leading him to return at the Christmas holidays to visit and help needy families. He was an instructor in SCETV's *American Graduate* Media and Health Institute this past summer, teaching 25 kids how to operate a video camera. In nominating him, SCETV's president Linda O'Bryon wrote, "If you watched live coverage of President Obama's eulogy at the funeral of Senator Clementa Pinckney or the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the statehouse grounds, it was likely X's lens that was focused on these historic moments."

Dr. Teri Hadad is the senior vice president for education and programming at WLVT.PBS 39 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, a position she has held for the last two years. She manages a ten-

person staff, oversees freelance productions, is executive producer for PBS39's documentary work, and builds partnerships with private and public organization to develop digital media assets. Her colleague Dave Guerrero says, "I have never seen someone as driven as Teri to do everything in her power to create media that inspires, educates and engages the children of our community."

Barbara Linstrom is director of digital media/executive producer at WGCU.Fort Myers, Florida, a position she took on two years ago, in addition to being the station's executive producer. In her letter, Barbara wrote of WGCU's vision to create a Center of Civic Engagement & Media Innovation where multi-media students would learn how to develop innovative methods of storytelling and how to convene community to achieve consensus, a goal that resonates with the Ottinger legacy. Her general manager nominated Barbara saying, "She brings a wealth journalistic experience to her work and tackles new challenges with enthusiasm."

Dr. Tim Wollenzien is the education services manager at Prairie Public Broadcasting in Fargo, North Dakota. He is a relative newcomer to public broadcasting, but has many years experience as a teacher and administrator in high school and college. In nominating Tim, Prairie Public Broadcasting's general manager John Harris said he believes Tim will do some excellent work in the years ahead to elevate education in North Dakota.

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