

# ACN- The Agricultural Communicators Network

## 2024 Andy Markwart Horizon Award

**Presented by the ACN Professional Improvement Foundation through a sponsorship from Gardner & Gardner Communications**

### INTRODUCTION

The Andy Markwart Horizon Award, presented by the Agricultural Communicators Network (ACN) Professional Improvement Foundation (PIF) and John Deere, is an annual award given to an ACN member who embodies the youthful vigor, energy, passion, dedication and creativity shown by Andy in his volunteer work for ACN for many years. Andy died in 2006 from heart problems. The winner will be named each year at the Agricultural Media Summit (AMS).

### THE ENDOWMENT

John Deere, where Andy worked for many years, initially endowed the program with a total gift of \$25,000. This year, Den Gardner, Gardner & Gardner Communications sponsored the winning stipend. Each year, the winner of the award will receive a \$2,000 stipend, which can be used for attending the International Federation of Agricultural Journalists (IFAJ) annual meeting, the AMS meeting or a special class/seminar/workshop, etc. A class/seminar/workshop must be approved by John Deere and PIF.

### THE AWARD CRITERIA

The Andy Markwart Horizon Award winner must meet the following criteria and provide the following application materials:

- Open to any ACN member age 35 and younger.
- References. Two professional references (one from current employer).
- Essay: 500 words or less which describe your interest in receiving the stipend, why you believe you are deserving, your professional goals, etc.
- Resume

**The application deadline is July 8, 2024. Complete applications must be emailed to [Will Johnson, wjohnson@asginfo.net](mailto:wjohnson@asginfo.net).**

### SELECTION PROCESS

- The winner will be selected by a group of three judges. Selection of judges is left to the discretion of PIF.

### THE PRESENTATION

The person selected for the award will be recognized at the ACN awards presentation Tuesday, August 6, 2023 during the AMS in Kansas City, MO.

## 2024 Andy Markwart Horizon Award Application Form

*Please fill in the blanks on the screen, then print to mail in and to keep for your records. Please type your essay in a separate document, print and send with application. Or, submit all electronically (see below.)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (office) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date (dd/mm/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

Current employer (Company name) \_\_\_\_\_

Your job title at work \_\_\_\_\_

Current supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you hear about the Andy Markwart Horizon Award?**

**Please include the following in your application packet:**

- Application form
- Letters of recommendation from two references (one from current employer)
- Essay (500 words or less which describe your interest in receiving the stipend, the professional improvement event you will use the stipend to attend, why you believe you are deserving, your professional goals, etc.)
- Resume

**Application deadline:** Postmarked or received electronically by July 8, 2024.

Application packets may be submitted by e-mail to [wjohnson@asginfo.net](mailto:wjohnson@asginfo.net).

For more information, contact [Samantha Kilgore at skilgore@asginfo.net](mailto:skilgore@asginfo.net).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_