

To the WNA Collegiate Journalist of the Year judges:

As an institution, student journalism aims to complete a number of missions: informing campus communities, teaching young journalists the skills to enter the workforce, building resumes, creating connections and acting as a watchdog of universities and university leaders.

Liam Beran, campus news editor for The Daily Cardinal, is an exemplary embodiment of these missions.

Liam Beran joined The Daily Cardinal after transferring to the University of Wisconsin-Madison in January 2023, and he became campus news editor in May 2023. He previously worked for The Spectator at UW-Eau Claire and The Advance-Titan at UW-Oshkosh.

Liam has relentlessly pursued the truth and held those in power accountable. Most notably, he has held the UW System accountable through open records requests, interviews and exclusive investigations.

Over the course of 2023, the UW System and Wisconsin Legislature were engaged in a battle over funding and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) positions as members of the Republican-controlled Legislature withheld funding in an effort to [remove DEI](#) positions from the UW System. At the same time, the UW System was facing unprecedented budget shortfalls and campus closures.

Through open records requests and exclusive interviews, Liam informed the public of behind-the-scenes negotiations between the UW System and Republican lawmakers. And crucially, Liam made sure to consistently include the [voices and concerns](#) of students and employees most affected by these discussions.

In his most notable article, Liam discovered through an open records request that UW System President Jay Rothman [suggested](#) that UW chancellors cut liberal arts programs, among other ideas, to deal with budget shortfalls. This information was not previously known to the public, and the story gained statewide coverage in professional news outlets.

However, it is criminal to speak of Liam's accomplishments without mentioning his empathy and understanding. Throughout his coverage, Liam considers the human impact of his stories first and foremost. Liam centers people first in his coverage, highlighting their questions, concerns, struggles, joys, celebrations and victories.

His empathetic understanding extends to his leadership as well. As an editor, Liam has guided our journalists through some of the most contentious topics in recent years. He has helped others navigate difficult topics and tense situations, and he has done so with unwavering confidence and commitment to core ethical principles.

Liam's pursuit of transparency, accountability and leadership are marquee qualities of an exemplary student journalist and uphold the values and spirit of the First Amendment. For these reasons, we nominate Liam Beran for Collegiate Journalist of the Year.

Sincerely,

Drake White-Bergey
Editor-in-Chief, *The Daily Cardinal*

Tyler Katzenberger
Managing Editor, *The Daily Cardinal*

Clips:

- <https://www.dailycardinal.com/article/2023/11/exclusive-facing-budget-shortfalls-uw-system-president-privately-suggested-chancellors-shift-away-from-liberal-arts-programs-at-low-income-campuses>
- <https://www.dailycardinal.com/article/2023/12/who-was-at-the-table-uw-leaders-criticized-for-lacking-transparency-inclusion-as-regents-set-to-reconsider-funding-deal>
- <https://www.dailycardinal.com/article/2023/04/the-story-of-our-country-111-year-old-italian-womens-club-seeks-national-historical-certification>
- <https://www.dailycardinal.com/article/2023/10/athletics-research-survey-sent-to-uw-madison-students-asks-if-trans-women-are-real-women>
- <https://www.dailycardinal.com/article/2023/07/state-street-and-capitol-square-starbucks-employees-join-nationwide-pride-strike>
- <https://www.dailycardinal.com/article/2023/09/vos-uw-system-will-not-get-another-nickel-until-doi-programming-defunded>
- <https://www.dailycardinal.com/article/2023/03/a-slice-of-the-vote-ians-pizzas-special-place-in-madison-elections>