



CISCO COLLEGE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TIPA Honors Wrangler Express with Five Awards for Excellence in Student Media

This story was written by the Cisco College Wrangler Express.

Cisco, Texas - April 23, 2025 – The Wrangler Express of Cisco College won five journalism awards at the recent Texas Intercollegiate Press Association (TIPA) meeting in San Marcos.

Alyssa Balboa won first place in the Sports Action Photo contest for her photograph of a young man being tossed by a steer during Ranch Day. Balboa was editor of the student-run Wrangler Express in the Spring of 2024. Her award was in the category of Visual Reporting.

In the Sports News Story contest, Rhiley Morgan-Montoya won third place for her reporting of the Cisco College Rodeo Team’s performance at the Cook College Shootout. The category was Narrative Reporting. Montoya was editor in the Fall of 2024 and has continued as editor-in-chief of the Wrangler Express this current semester.

Another winner in the Narrative Reporting category was Eva Fernandez in the Sports Column contest. Her column was entitled “Transfer to a Tiny Town in Texas Called Cisco.” Fernandez is a native of Spain, and her column described her transition to life in a small West Texas town.

In the Production category, a team of four designers won third place in the Advertising Campaign contest for their promotion ads for Wrangler Sports. They were Madi Isanogle of Cisco, Rhiley Montoya of Colorado, Ethan Martel of France, and Addie Oman of Clyde.

Finally, in the Overall Excellence contest, in the category of Social Media, the Wrangler Express received an Honorable Mention, with credit going to the two editors who served in 2024: Alyssa Balboa in the spring and Rhiley Montoya in the fall.

Some of the contest results included judge's critiques. Balboa's first-place photograph elicited the following comments: "This is an excellent photo. The technical aspects all come together well, while the action is very exciting and captured at its peak. It's a very atypical photo and gives us something unexpected. The crowd reactions in the back aid in the storytelling."

Montoya's story on the Rodeo team elicited the following comment: "Very good sports story. Love Rodeo and the writer must also like the sport. Maybe needed a different lead with the winners named toward the top, but overall very good reporting with excellent quotes. Good job."

Later in a summary: "Rhiley Montoya's work on college rodeo competition intrigued the judges because of its rarity and excellence. Just needed shorter graphs and a new nutshell lead focusing on the winners."

In the Overall Excellence category, the judges left a long list of detailed suggestions for improving the Wrangler Express, too much to list here.

Competition in the TIPA contest is divided into four divisions, with Division One being the biggest universities in Texas; and Division Four including community and junior colleges.

The Wrangler Express is published daily on Facebook during the school year by students of the Mass Communication and Journalism courses at Cisco College. Dr. Linda Spetter is faculty adviser for the publication.

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About Cisco College

Since first admitting students in 1940, Cisco College has offered programs and activities intended to encourage lifelong learning and enhance the quality of life in the communities it serves.

As a member of the Texas state system of publicly supported institutions of higher education, Cisco College maintains an open-door admissions policy and provides an array of learning, skill development and life experiences to motivate and challenge students. Classes are offered at two primary locations, Cisco and Abilene, in addition to several other off-campus sites. The College strives to maintain a student/faculty ratio which facilitates close interaction between faculty and students.

Cisco College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award Associate level degrees.