

Dear SCSPA Journalist of the Year Committee,

I am writing to you today to enthusiastically recommend Sophie Winnick as your SCSPA Journalist of the Year. In my twenty year career as a Jostens Yearbook Representative, I have been blessed to work with thousands of yearbook staff members and hundreds of editors, quite a few of whom have gone on to successful and promising careers as journalists, but I have never encountered a student journalist with the talent, poise, drive and heart that I see in Sophie.

Sophie's talent is unquestionable as proven by the numerous awards and recognition she has received. She is the most recognized student journalist from Wando High School ever, and her work decorates the halls and classrooms of Wando.

As leader of the yearbook staff, Sophie is amazing. She developed a vision for this year's yearbook, recruited and trained the staff members in her vision, and has been unstoppable in her drive to make that vision a reality. From time to time, Sophie and I have even butted heads over ideas or approaches to achieve her vision, but even in disagreement Sophie is kind, thoughtful and mature.

Sophie has a heart for others. There is a tendency with student journalists to be dictatorial in their leadership style and alienate their staff members. Sophie is the opposite. She clearly sets out the expectations for her team members and patiently explains any deficiencies and encourages the best from each member of her team. She is a leader.

Sophie, while still being a student, **is** a journalist. She has the talent, the maturity, and the heart of a journalist. I look forward to following her career and celebrating her future successes. It is without hesitation that I recommend Sophie as your SCSPA Journalist of the Year.

Continually impressed with Sophie,



John Bumgarner, CJE
Jostens Senior Sales Representative