

The Adam Ward Public Information Excellence Award Virginia Emergency Management Association

Background:

Adam Ward embodied the term, excellence in his position as Photojournalist for WDBJ 7. Through his personality and professionalism Adam was WDBJ 7. His smile brightened any room and put at ease the individuals he would record. Adam's love for football took him to serve his High School alma Mata each Friday evening in filming their games and covering the "Friday Football Extra" the station present each week. His desire to help others made him the perfect combination to report and empathize with his communities he served.

Adam and his fellow employee were gunned down August 26, 2015 while on live television reporting upcoming events in the Smith Mountain Lake area of Moneta, Virginia. Adam and co-worker Mellisa Gaona were the recipients of the "Media Excellence award" in 2014. The VEMA board agree to rename the award after Adam prior to the 2015 Symposium.

Purpose:

The Adam Ward Public Information Excellence Award is presented to an individual or organization in recognition of their outstanding efforts to educate and inform the public about life-saving actions before, during, or after a disaster. This award recognizes the importance of creating clear and actionable information that helps the public make informed decisions and the importance of public information in emergency management.