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Nackey S. Loeb School names First Amendment Honorees

Two to be recognized at banquet featuring Columnist George Will

Manchester, N.H. _ Two New Hampshire residents who have pushed for more openness in their community government will be recognized for their efforts at the Fifth Annual Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications First Amendment dinner next month.

Sharon Craigie of Littleton and David Scott of Dover were among more than a half-dozen nominees for the organizations First Amendment award. A panel of judges including former First Lady Kathleen Gregg, inventor Dean Kamen, former Gov. Stephen Merrill, Laconia Citizen Executive Editor John Howe, Union Leader Vice President Charles Perkins III and attorney Gregory Sullivan chose one nominee as this year's award recipient and the other as an honoree.

The recipient will be announced Nov. 15 at the school's First Amendment dinner at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester.

Craigie got involved in town politics in Littleton and joined a new group called Littleton Open Government Supporters. With her active participation, the group challenged the Board of Selectmen on topics including the time of meetings and the legality of a meeting. It also organized sign-carrying demonstrations during the contentious debate this year about where to locate the town police department.

Scott, a city councilor and former state representative, has been fighting City Hall in Dover for years. He organized a citizens' group, Dover Citizens for Sound Government, and pushed for city financial records that a judge ultimately ordered released regarding contracts with city employees. He is spearheading a tax cap drive this year.

The First Amendment Award was established to honor New Hampshire residents who protect First Amendment liberties. Past recipients have been former Attorney General Philip McLaughlin, Former Keene Sentinel Editor Thomas Kearney, state Rep. Daniel Hughes and The Citizen newspaper.

Recipients receive a bronze eagle, cast from an original sculpture by Mrs. Loeb.

Columnist and television commentator George Will is the featured guest for this year's program, which is open to the public. Ticket information is available at www.loeb.school.org or by calling the school at 627-0005.

Mrs. Loeb was president and publisher of the Union Leader Corp. She founded the non-profit school in 1999, a year before her death. More than 2,200 students of all ages have since taken part in the school's media-related classes and workshops.