

HEAD OF CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL NAMED ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

In early November, Rachel Simpson, Head of Convent High School, stood in front of a large audience at the National High School Journalism Convention in Chicago to receive the 2018 Administrator of the Year award for her role in actively protecting student expression. Rachel seized the opportunity to praise the mission of Sacred Heart education and its Five Goals for creating a culture where student voice matters.

"In our school's culture," Rachel said in her acceptance speech, "I see the protection of press freedom and having confidence in students saying what they need to say as an expression of Goal 5."

She went on to explain the spirit of "wise freedom" at the heart of Goal 5. "Holding the space for students to feel and express what they are feeling and thinking — and making room for a diversity of perspectives and opinions — is at the core of our work."

The Journalism Education Association, which selected Rachel out of nominees from across the country, presents the annual award to an administrator who demonstrates exceptional support of journalism education.

With Rachel's "respect for preserving authorial voice," as she calls it, Convent High School, with its award-winning student-run newspaper, *The Broadview*, won the First Amendment Press Freedom Award for the fifth time this year, more than any other private school nationwide. The prize is handed out to schools that support, teach and honor the First Amendment and allow student publication editors to make all final content decisions.

Scholastic Journalism & Media Director Tracy Sena nominated Rachel for the administrator award, while Visual Arts Department Chair Rachel McIntire and *The Broadview* editors-in-chief, seniors Cece Giarman and Josephine Rozzelle, submitted letters on her behalf.

"We must teach students to ask questions, to gather the facts, to interrogate those facts, and to make sense of multiple narratives," Rachel concluded. "Helping [students] find and use their voice to inform and inspire a better world is what I am called to do as an educator in the Sacred Heart tradition."