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## **National Association of Government Communicators announces winners of Blue Pencil and Gold Screen Awards**

Professional group honors peers for excellence in government communications

RANCHO MIRAGE, CA (May 12, 2026) — The National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC) presented 102 Blue Pencil and Gold Screen awards across 31 categories, plus Best in Show, during a ceremony May 12 at the Omni Rancho Las Palmas in Greater Palm Springs, California.

Peer judges reviewed 322 projects from all levels of government, including federal, state, county, local, military and tribal agencies.

“The National Association of Government Communicators congratulates the recipients of this year’s highly competitive Blue Pencil and Gold Screen Awards,” NAGC President Leslie Gervasio said. “These honorees represent the very best in public service communication, demonstrating exceptional creativity, clarity and impact in the way they inform and engage the public. Their outstanding work highlights the essential role effective communication plays in promoting transparency, strengthening public trust and connecting communities with important information.”

The Blue Pencil and Gold Screen international awards program recognizes superior government communication products and those who produce them. A full list of 2026 award recipients is available at [nagc.com](https://nagc.com).

The City of Westminster, Colorado, earned Best in Show for the video “‘Beneath the Surface’ - Ice Rescue Training at Standley Lake.”

“[‘Beneath the Surface’](#),” created in response to a tragic winter fatality at a neighboring reservoir, gives a behind-the-scenes look at Westminster Fire Department’s annual ice rescue training. Filmed with specialized equipment during two rare windows of safe ice conditions, the video features dramatic underwater shots and extreme weather challenges. The high-impact, in-house production reinforces public trust in fire department preparedness and showcases the precision and urgency of life-saving techniques.

A judge who reviewed the video commented: “Wow, wow! What excellent cinematography and editing. And ‘high-impact’ storytelling. What an excellent product.” Another judge wrote: “This was a beautifully done video. Not only was it educational, but some of the b-roll shots were quite stunning. This video looked like it was professionally done, especially with the underwater shots.”

### **About the National Association of Government Communicators**

The National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC) is a nonprofit professional association dedicated to advancing the practice of government communications. Established in 1976, NAGC provides government communicators at all levels—federal, state, county, local, military, and tribal—with the resources, tools and networks they need to excel in their careers. NAGC offers professional development through programs like its annual Communications School, facilitates networking opportunities, and recognizes excellence in the field through the Blue Pencil and Gold Screen Awards, Communicator of the Year Award and Rising Star Award.

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