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National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter (NATAS- NCCB) and Press Forward Announce Ally Partnership

— Organizations Mutually Advocate for Real Change in the Media Workplace —

Washington, D.C. — June 28, 2018 – The National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS-NCCB), a non-profit professional organization serving the Greater Washington D.C. television community, and Press Forward, a new initiative to stop sexual harassment and assault in newsrooms, have aligned to create safe and healthy workplaces in the television industry. The alliance was unanimously agreed upon by the NATAS-NCCB Board of Governors, a group of elected professionals and NATAS-NCCB members representing a diverse cross-section of the broadcasting community throughout the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia area.

NATAS-NCCB, as Press Forward’s newest ally, will share Press Forward resources, newsroom best practices, research and other news with their television community membership. The professional organization will also incorporate Press Forward representatives and information into educational events and programs for their members, including the annual professional development event for high school and college students, Face Time with the Pros.

NATAS-NCCB Chapter President Les Heintz announced the collaboration with Press Forward at the 60th Annual Capital Emmy® Awards event on Saturday, June 23, to an audience of almost 800 television professionals and their guests; the news was overwhelmingly well-received. Press Forward Co-Founder Shannon Van Sant, a journalist at NPR, represented the organization at the NATAS-NCCB Emmy® Award event.

“As a founding Chapter of the premier organization in television arts, we are also the first NATAS Chapter to attempt something this extensive on the issue of sexual harassment,” said Heintz. “We want to affect real change in our industry, aligning ourselves with an organization that focuses on support for victims and best practices for employers. We will make Press Forward’s resources, best practices and research findings available to all of our members, and look forward to the meaningful work ahead.”

“We are looking forward to our partnership with NATAS, working together to create solutions and best practices in newsrooms throughout the greater Washington DC community,” said Van Sant. “Press Forward believes there needs to be equality in the newsroom fostering an environment where all employees can do their best work, and only then will real change occur.”

Press Forward’s initiatives to create a safe work environment and elevate the stature of women in the workplace beginning in the newsroom include the following:

- **Innovative Sexual Harassment and Assault Trainings:** Press Forward is partnering with the Poynter Institute and working with newsrooms across the country to raise awareness with in-person training and original content.
- **Culture Assessments:** Press Forward is working with newsroom leaders to help assess workplace environments, especially for women.
- **Industry Blueprint:** Press Forward will conduct a six-month study with newsrooms across the country to understand workplace cultures for the state of the industry and make concrete recommendations for change.
- **Legal Defense Fund:** In collaboration with TIME’S UP™, contributing towards the Legal Defense Fund to support those vulnerable in the media industry facing discrimination and harassment.
- **Thought Leadership on Solutions:** Press Forward offers panel discussions to foster dialogue about the way forward for media after #MeToo. Press Forward also aims to develop best practices, policy guidelines and standards, supported by original editorials on outlining solutions that are specific to the news industry

The full 60th Annual Capital Emmy® Awards program was live-streamed and can be viewed at www.capitalemmys.tv/emmys. The telecast of the entire program will also be broadcast on Maryland Public Television/MPT2 on Friday, June 29 at 8 pm ET/PT. Heintz’s speech announcing the partnership can be viewed at <https://youtube.com/CapitalEmmysTV-NCCB>.

About NATAS-NCCB

The National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter is a founding Chapter of The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. NATAS-NCCB is a non-profit, professional organization serving the Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC broadcast and video production community. The Academy’s Emmy® Award is the industry’s benchmark for the recognition of broadcast excellence. More information is available at www.capitalemmys.tv or follow [@CapitalEmmys](https://twitter.com/CapitalEmmys) on Twitter.

About Press Forward

Press Forward is a new initiative formed by current and former journalists to stop sexual harassment and assault in newsrooms, create safe and healthy workplaces for women and men and ensure the integrity of the American press. Now is the time to change the culture in the media and we hope to find concrete solutions to the problems journalists face. By working together, we can Press Forward. Press Forward partners include: International Women’s Media Foundation, Times’ Up, Poynter Institute, Newseum, The Purple Campaign, Modern Alliance, News Deeply, Trident DMG, and Zukin Leadership. More information is available at www.thepressforward.org, or follow [@ThePressForward](https://twitter.com/ThePressForward) on Twitter and [Facebook](https://facebook.com/pressforward). Donate to Press Forward [here](#).