



**Humanities Council Presents Mountain State Pulitzer Prize Winners
at Marshall and WVU**

*For Immediate Release
March 13, 2018*

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Charleston, WV — The West Virginia Humanities Council is presenting three West Virginia Pulitzer Prize winners in two free and open to the public programs titled “Path to the Pulitzer: Journalism and the Informed Citizen” on April 2 and 4. The three award-winning journalists are: 2017 Pulitzer winner Eric Eyre of the *Charleston Gazette-Mail*; Huntington native, Marshall University alumni, and 2016 Pulitzer winner John Hackworth of *Sun Newspapers* in Port Charlotte, Florida; and Eric Newhouse of Charleston who received a 2000 Pulitzer while with the *Great Falls (Montana) Tribune*.

Eyre and Hackworth will participate in a public forum at Brad D. Smith Foundation Hall at Marshall University in Huntington at 7:00 p.m. on April 2 to discuss their Pulitzer-winning works, the importance of pursuing complex stories, and the role journalism plays in fostering an informed citizenry

April 4, Eyre will team with Newhouse at 7:00 p.m. in WVU’s Ming Hsieh Hall (on University Avenue across from the Mountainlair) in Morgantown to discuss their Pulitzer experiences and thoughts on the primary topics presented at Marshall. Both programs are free and open to the public and will include question and answer sessions with the audience. Refreshments will be served following the programs where audience members may meet the speakers.

Eric Eyre received a Pulitzer in 2017 for Investigative Reporting for his *Charleston Gazette-Mail* series “Painkiller Profiteers” that was noted by the Pulitzer committee for “courageous reporting, performed in

the face of powerful opposition, to expose the flood of opioids flowing into depressed West Virginia counties with the highest overdose death rates in the country.”

John Hackworth worked at the *Huntington Herald-Dispatch* and the *Ashland (KY) Daily Independent* before joining *Sun Newspapers* in Port Charlotte, Florida in 1994. He received a Pulitzer for Editorial Writing in 2016 for a series of editorials described by the Pulitzer committee as “fierce, indignant editorials that demanded truth and change after the deadly assault of an inmate by corrections officers.”

Eric Newhouse served as the Associated Press bureau chief in Charleston during the mid-1980s before going to the *Great Falls Tribune* in Great Falls, Montana. In 2000 he received a Pulitzer for his series “Alcohol: Cradle to the Grave” that the Pulitzer committee called a “vivid examination of alcohol abuse and the problems it creates in the community.”

“It’s exciting for us to be able to showcase journalism of this caliber. Nowadays, with the very basis of objective reporting being challenged, we need more than ever to listen to people like these West Virginians who have won the top prize in the field,” said Humanities Council Executive Director Ken Sullivan.

These programs are presented by the West Virginia Humanities Council in collaboration with the Marshall University School of Journalism and Mass Communications and the West Virginia University Reed College of Media. They are part of the “Democracy and the Informed Citizen” initiative administered by the Federation of State Humanities Councils. The initiative seeks to deepen the public’s knowledge and appreciation of the vital connections between democracy, the humanities, journalism, and an informed citizenry. The Humanities Council thanks the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for their generous support of this initiative and the Pulitzer Prizes for their partnership.

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