



## 2012 DPA Communicator of Achievement

### Christopher M. Carl

Chris Carl, WDEL's director of news and programming, also is managing editor of [WDEL.com](http://WDEL.com), which won the Radio-Television News Directors Association national Edward R. Murrow Award in 2007 for Best Radio News Website. And in September 2011, under his direction, WDEL received one of the highest honors in broadcasting: the Marconi Radio Award for Medium Market Radio Station of the Year from the National Association of Broadcasters.

Chris also has been honored individually by the AP, the Maryland-Delaware-DC Broadcasters Association and the SPJ Philadelphia Chapter – as well as by DPA and NFPW – for his reporting. His experience includes covering three Democratic National Conventions, hosting live coverage of gubernatorial inaugurations and State-of-the-State addresses, orchestrating WDEL's Town Hall Meeting with U.S. Senator Chris Coons and moderating political debates. He also has reported on bar-bench matters, was WDEL's Legislative Hall correspondent for four years and has broadcast high school and college football and basketball games.

A natural leader with fine organizational skills, Chris serves as the regional director representing Maryland-Virginia-Delaware-DC on the RTDNA national board of directors, he is a two-time president of the Chesapeake AP Broadcasters Association, the immediate past-president and now secretary of the Delaware Coalition for Open Government, two-time chairman of the Bar-Bench-Media Conference of Delaware and the DPA vice president in charge of programs.

In the last year, Chris was executive producer and directly involved with WDEL's successful "Help Our Kids Radiothon," which raised more than \$102,000 for the A. I. duPont Hospital for Children, and with the "Feed a Friend Food Drive," which raised more than \$12,000 for five New Castle County soup kitchens. Chris also played a role in WDEL's efforts with the State of Delaware to raise thousands of dollars for earthquake/tsunami relief for Miyagi, Delaware's sister state in Japan.

When accepting the COA award, Chris said: "My fate may have been sealed at the age of three, when my father had me cut legal IDs [the required top-of-the-hour mention of station call letters and city of license] for WMSP, the all-volunteer radio station where he worked in Harrisburg, Pa. He built a small radio station in my bedroom – complete with a turntable and cassette player: WCMC (my initials) – broadcasting live to our kitchen over a closed-circuit intercom. When I was 10, if Dad could wake me when leaving the house at 11 p.m. for his midnight to 6 a.m. shift at WSBA in York, Pa, he often took me along. I'd spend an hour or so in the newsroom, ripping sports copy off the wire and typing my own sportscast . . . eventually crawling under a desk at 1 a.m. or so and falling asleep.

"Years later, I have the honor of leading Delaware's most listened-to station for news, traffic and weather – a station where I'll have been working for 20 years next December and have *never* dreaded going to work – thanks in large part to the people I work with, who make things fun and rewarding.

"It has been a wild ride, to say the least, watching broadcast journalism change over the last 20 years. Gone are the razor blades for cutting audio tape (except maybe on days when the ratings come out). Gone is the day when you needed a transmitter or printing press for people to be able to hear and see you. Now you have radio and newspapers producing video. Now radio and TV reporters have to worry about spelling because people can *read* their stories (that was a *huge* change for us). Now you have cell phones that give us the weather, give us the score and let us post status updates and send tweets. And now anyone can podcast what is basically a talk radio show.

"It's truly an amazing time, and the smart ones in our industry have embraced it. They realize that content is what is important, not the manner in which the content is delivered.

"I am grateful that I work for a company that lives the motto: 'Content is King.' And so I share this award with the talented and hard-working people of WDEL. I value their journalism. And I value their commitment to Delaware.

"My thanks to them . . . and my thanks to Delaware Press Association. I cannot fully express how honored I am."