



City of New Bedford  
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor



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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### **New Bedford Cable Network Receives National, Regional Awards**

**New Bedford, Massachusetts** –New Bedford Cable Network has received national and regional recognition for its coverage of city events and government activities in 2014.

“New Bedford Cable Network has established a reputation in New Bedford and beyond for providing high-quality, original programming that is both engaging and informative. NBCN’s coverage of government activities and community events is an important medium that many residents rely on to stay connected with their community. I applaud the dedicated NBCN staff for their commitment to producing top notch television,” said Mayor Jon Mitchell.

For the second time in three years, the National Chapter of the Alliance for Community Media (ACM) has selected New Bedford Cable Network (NBCN) to receive an award, this time for its coverage of the 2014 New Bedford Half Marathon. Hundreds of entries were submitted nationally in 35 categories, and NBCN was one of the few to earn recognition. Chief Videographer Sue Richard, Public Access Director Tom Sexton, along with videographers Kevin Vidinha and Ethan Lopez videotaped and produced the program with commentary provided by WBSM talent Pete Braley, Taylor Cormier, the late Captain Jack Peterson and longtime educator and distance runner Larry Finnerty. Two years ago, “Homework Helpers,” which airs on Educational Channel 9, was recognized nationally by the ACM in the “Live Show” category.

In addition, the Northeast Chapter of the Alliance for Community Media recognized three NBCN shows with regional awards. Sue Richard won first place in the category of “Local Attractions” for her production of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual New Bedford Seafood Chowder Festival. “Homework Helpers, a program aimed at helping New Bedford school children with their homework, took top prize in the category of “Live Event or Programming”. Finally, Mayor Jon Mitchell along with videographers Dana DeBarros and Kevin Vidinha won third place in the category of “Municipal/Government Programming” with an episode of “City Jobs with Mayor Jon Mitchell.” Entries were submitted from community access centers all across New England and New York, including the five boroughs of New York City.

NBCN received the national honor during ACM’s annual conference in Pasadena, California. The regional awards will be presented during ceremonies in Hartford, Connecticut in November.

Station Manager Jim Marshall said, “I’m so proud of my colleagues for their efforts over the past year. To be recognized by your peers is very gratifying, especially since it’s so difficult to win with the hundreds of entries under consideration. The staff at NBCN is committed to providing quality programming to city residents as well as neighboring communities, and these awards recognize the talent and professionalism each member displays every day.”

#### **About New Bedford Cable Network**

The New Bedford Cable Network (NBCN) operates the City of New Bedford’s Public, Educational and Government Access television channels. For New Bedford residents, Government Access is Channel 18, Educational Access is Channel 9, and Public Access is Channel 95. Professional staff have been filming and producing original programming at NBCN for twenty years. The network has received national awards for several of its productions.

#### **About the Hometown Media Awards**

Each year, the Hometown Media Awards honors and promotes community media, and local cable programs that are distributed on Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) access cable television channels. Awards are presented to creative programs that address community needs, develop diverse community involvement, challenge conventional commercial television formats and move viewers to experience television in a different way. The mission of the Alliance for Community Media is to promote civic engagement through community media.

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