

Note: On April 30, 2026, President Josh Hinkle made a motion via email to approve this action item. It was seconded by Secretary Ana Ley and Board Member Andy Lehren and received approval 12-0 on May 1, 2026.

ACTION ITEM: The IRE Board of Directors is proud to honor longtime member Maud Beelman with a service award at the 2026 IRE Conference, recognizing her dedication to the organization and the field of investigative journalism.

Over the past year, Beelman has played a key role in building IRE's partnership with Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication and its Howard Center for Investigative Journalism, helping launch a [certificate program in investigative editing](#). The program aims to strengthen diversity in newsrooms while giving editors, reporters and other journalists the tools to lead and produce strong investigative work.

As the program's curriculum creator, Beelman worked with fellow IRE members at ASU to develop online modules along with live sessions. Participants who complete the program earn a certificate they can add to their resumes and portfolios. The program continues to grow, with more IRE members joining each session.

The Board commends Beelman for her work and thanks her for her commitment to the industry.