



February 18, 2013

Mike Hiestand
Mary Beth Tinker
c/o The Tinker Tour
Seattle, WA

Dear Mike and Mary Beth,

The Society of Professional Journalists is proud to endorse the Tinker Tour, a national effort to educate students and teachers about the civic value of free speech and an independent press.

We support the efforts of Mary Beth Tinker, attorney Mike Hiestand and others involved in the Tour to take their message to schools throughout the country.

We are especially pleased to see that Ms. Tinker, one of the plaintiffs in the 1969 landmark Supreme Court case that favored First Amendment rights for high school students, has agreed to share her story and tell students that they can make a difference, that their voices deserve to be heard.

And we are also proud that Mike Hiestand, a longtime advocate for student First Amendment rights and 2012 winner of SPJ's First Amendment Award, is assisting this worthwhile project.

SPJ has a long record of supporting student speech rights and fighting for the press rights of student media.

To that end, the Society recommends the Tinker Tour to all who value civics education and our country's First Amendment protections.

Sincerely,

Sonny Albarado
President, SPJ 2012=13