2021 Spirit of Maine Achievement Award: Ernest Scheyder, 2006

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Ernest Scheyder

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The Spirit of Maine Achievement Award winner is Ernest Scheyder ‘06, a journalist at Reuters. Scheyder’s work focuses on transportation and the energy industry. He has also covered national stories, including the 2020 Presidential campaign, Dakota Access Pipeline, Sandy Hook massacre, and Penn State abuse scandal. He began his career with the Maine Campus and the Bangor Daily News before earning a master’s at Columbia Journalism School and working for the Associated Press.
bangor daily news writer who could be all three he would come strolling into the newsroom and he'd sit down and he just get started working he was so eager to learn and to grow as a journalist ernie's covered challenging stories the penn state abuse scandal sandy hook the 2020 presidential campaign plus energy issues in north dakota you know i didn't know him before i ran for the senate in 2012 and all of a sudden we started getting calls from reuters of all places and it wasn't uh in houston it wasn't uh you know in exotic places it was in williston north dakota so many journalists that i've worked with they have the headline written they have the lead written and they just
want you to confirm it
that wasn't his his mo i never worried about quoting any number in his news reports
because i knew they would be right ernie scheider's immersive work impresses those he covers and his colleagues
he captures the essence of a story beyond just the facts and a recent example is when he was in arizona reporting on the the battle between an indigenous group and a mining company and then over land rights he will read books about the topic that he's going to write about and this at a wire surface is remarkable because we operate at a fast pace and we get stories out quickly and it's a testament to the kind of journalist that he is when he's not
running down a story ernie
is often running at the alzheimer's drug
discovery foundation

we consider ernie kind of the mayor of
our marathon team
ernie became involved with the
alzheimer's drug discovery foundation
after he found out his grandfather had
alzheimer's
so he decided the way he was going to raise money he was going to run
marathons
and to date he's raised over 20 thousand dollars
to fund science looking for preventions
treatments and cures of alzheimer's
those who know him trace his character back to his home
state
it's the spirit of maine it's excellence the passion
the optimism the get to it-ness kind
you're empathetic you're incredibly intelligent and something that we desperately need somebody who just is so careful about reporting the facts ernie scheider a reporter a journalist a storyteller and our spirit of maine achievement award winner i want to thank the university of maine alumni association and the broader university of maine community for this year's spirit of maine alumni achievement award i wouldn't be where i am today without my time at orono where i learned the value of hard work dedication to cause purpose and inquiry and it's that last bit that's helped me a lot is my time as a journalist
inquiry i learned the value of the question why while i was at orono especially my time at the main campus where i really enjoyed getting to report on all facets of university life i've taken the skill sets that i've learned there all across my career to graduate school to the associated press and now to reuters where i've got to cover some of the biggest news events in the united states and really the world in the past 10 to 12 years all of that links back to my time at orono where i really discovered myself and discovered who i was and discovered the value of being a black bear the value of why we say it's the college of our hearts always i was a proud english major at umaine
and at orono and taking classes with harvey kale and so many others really helped hone my writing really enjoyed taking a diverse group of classes across the college of liberal arts and sciences and had immense and really meaningful extracurricular activities whether at beta theta pi or residents on campus or other student organizations across campus i'm really proud to call myself a black bear anywhere i go in the world and when i speak to young people in high schools i encourage them to consider the university of maine as the great place for them to go for their college education i as i said wouldn't be where i am today without my time in oreno so thank you very much to the alumni association i'm a proud black bear
The University of Maine in Orono is the flagship campus of the University of Maine System, where efforts toward racial equity are ongoing, as is the commitment to facing a complicated and not always just institutional history. The University recognizes that it is located on Marsh Island in the homeland of the Penobscot nation, where issues of water and its territorial rights, and encroachment upon sacred sites, are ongoing. Penobscot homeland is connected to the other Wabanaki Tribal Nations — the Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Micmac — through kinship, alliances, and diplomacy. The university also recognizes that the Penobscot Nation and the other Wabanaki Tribal Nations are distinct, sovereign, legal and political entities with their own powers of self-governance and self-determination.