Anti-terrorism documentary filmed at IUPUI wins Emmy

Indianapolis—A documentary produced by WFYI Public Television about a 2009 anti-terrorism exercise has won an Emmy Award in the category of Public/Current/Community Affairs. The exercise was hosted by the Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis and the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis. The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences presented the award in regional ceremonies in Cleveland, Ohio in June.

The program, “Tough Decisions: Defending the Homeland,” focuses on Law and SPEA students playing the roles of government officials and civilians responding to a terrorist attack. Students received information via news reports and “top secret” documents as events unfolded, and the documentary captures their conversations, strategy sessions and mock public statements as they played their roles. Experts weigh in on the students’ responses, and why such practice is valuable as students transition into the workplace.

The exercise scenario and story, plus the exercise plan and conduct, were developed by Shawn Boyne, PhD, Associate Professor in the law school; James R. White, Clinical Lecturer on Public Safety Management in SPEA; and William A. Foley, Jr., PhD, Lecturer in National Security, Homeland Security and Public Safety at SPEA. The documentary was made by Todd Gould and Aric Hartvig, producers for WFYI Public Television in Indianapolis, who accepted the Emmy.

“The producers did an excellent job of capturing the learning that goes on during such simulations, when students are placed in a stressful situation,” said Foley. “This documentary will be a valuable teaching tool for future students.”

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