

The **Music Business Educator of the Year** award celebrates a music business educator who inspires students to enter the music business. The winner will lead by example and teach across the breadth and depth of the industry to open students' awareness to the possibilities available in the music industry today. The winning candidate should expose students to the importance of connection and relationships in this industry while continuing to learn and be a part of the industry themselves.

### **Submission #1**

#### **Bernie Lawrence-Watkins**

*Adjunct Professor*

**Georgia State University College of Law**

bernie@blwapc.com

*No. Year Teaching: 3*

*Current Class List: Entertainment Law*

Professor Lawrence-Watkins is an incredible educator. She takes a practice-oriented approach to learning, teaching her students not only the law, like other professors, but also how to truly apply it in practice. No other professor I've had taught me industry-specific rates and which kinds of contracts are most helpful to different types of clients. She also uses in-class exercises to simulate real negotiations and brings in people who work in the music space to offer their unique perspectives. Overall, I have learned so much from Professor Lawrence-Watkins and would like to nominate her for this award.

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Peter Steinberg, Video Game Bar Association  
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## Submission #2

### **Erin Workman**

*EVP and Head of Music Business & Songwriting*

**Los Angeles College of Music**

Erin@lacm.edu

*No. Year Teaching: 10*

*Current Class List: Songwriting and Music Business*

Erin Workman is one of the most impactful educator-leaders I've worked with in music. As EVP and Head of Music Business & Songwriting at Los Angeles College of Music, she pairs deep industry credibility with a rare ability to build programs that prepare students for real careers, not just graduation.

Erin has pioneered new, modern curricula (including a brand new Master's program) and keeps them aligned with how the industry actually functions today within publishing, licensing, artist development, and the realities of building a sustainable creative career. Just as importantly, she's made sure students have access to the latest technology and workflows used in professional settings, so what they learn translates immediately into employable skills.

Where Erin truly stands out is outcomes. Under her leadership, LACM strengthened its bridge to industry through partnerships with international schools, and music industry/tech companies like DISCO, Ableton, Guitar Center, Dolby, Grammy U, American Idol, and others, bringing real-world access, mentorship, and opportunity into students' day-to-day experience. She's also created meaningful platforms for emerging talent, including initiatives like LACM's student-run label 370 Music Group, giving students a stage and industry exposure that most programs simply don't offer.

But Erin isn't just innovative, she's deeply human. She knows students by name, understands their goals, and pushes for what they need to succeed. I've seen her personally connect students and graduates to the right industry professionals to coach them through a pivotal opportunities and she does it with a level of care and follow-through that changes trajectories.

If “Educator of the Year” is meant to honor someone who modernizes education, expands access, and is relentless about job placement and student outcomes, Erin Workman is exactly that leader.

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Alberto Chapa, Ableton  
alberto.chapa@ableton.com | 5122938252

[https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity\\_forms/261-dc4058919867921dc2a8589d99af6ae0/2026/01/Pasadena-Based-College-of-Music-Partners-with-Londons-Contemporary-Music-Performance-Institute-for-.pdf](https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/261-dc4058919867921dc2a8589d99af6ae0/2026/01/Pasadena-Based-College-of-Music-Partners-with-Londons-Contemporary-Music-Performance-Institute-for-.pdf)

[https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity\\_forms/261-dc4058919867921dc2a8589d99af6ae0/2026/01/Los-Angeles-College-of-Music-Partners-with-DISCO-Platform-Music-Connection-Magazine.pdf](https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/261-dc4058919867921dc2a8589d99af6ae0/2026/01/Los-Angeles-College-of-Music-Partners-with-DISCO-Platform-Music-Connection-Magazine.pdf)

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Jen Oloo, DISCO  
jen@disco.ac | 3109956673

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### Submission #3

**Jasmine Young**

*Professor*

**Howard University**

jasmine.young@howard.edu

*No. Year Teaching: 4*

*Current Class List: Intro to The Music Business  
Oversees Chartmetric Training and Certification  
Music Marketing Basics  
Soft Skills vs Hard Skills In The Music Industry  
10 Lessons Learned from 90's Hip Hop*

Professor Young is more than a professor, she is a leader. She teaches all of her students at HU how to be leaders in their own lives and in any space they are put in. For examples, curating events, making sure we are employed throughout college and after, and making sure we are being our authentic selves but with good representation.

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Tamia Thomas, Warner Music Blavantik Center  
tamia.thomas@bison.howard.edu | 9294877276

Professor Young is an amazing professor. She works extremely hard, and always shows up for her students. She's always eager to share her wisdom and creates an environment that is welcoming and supportive. She is a leader

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Carenda, Warner Music Cohort  
Carendaspencer15@gmail.com | 3023125264

Professor Young is a dynamic and well liked educator and department head. She is thoroughly dedicated to her students and has built her program from the ground up. As a pioneer in her field she is making impact on her university, students, and industry at large.

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Larry, Elseplace  
Larry@togetherwemarch.com | 8625883833

Professor Jasmine Young is a passionate educator and mentor to many students looking grow their careers. She fosters a welcoming environment where students can work hard to create and share opportunities with like minded creatives, entertainment professionals, and more. I'm grateful for the work Professor Young is doing with the Warner Music Center for Music Business at Howard because it has helped me find opportunities to serve and learn.

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Vivienne Smith, Warner Music/Blavatnic Center at Howard University  
smithvivienne2005@gmail.com | 3174506107

Professor Young is a power house in the industry that hasn't only impacted the prosperity of past projects but is investing in the future of the music industry by pouring into college students who want to make break into the industry.

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Nilisa Fitts, Howard University  
Nilisa.Fitts@bison.howard.edu | 9299207312

Jasmine Young is someone who leads with compassion, integrity, and purpose in everything she does. She consistently shows up for others—not for recognition, but because she genuinely cares about making a difference. Her work reflects a deep commitment to excellence, community, and growth, and she has a rare ability to inspire people simply by being herself.

What truly sets Jasmine apart is her heart. She listens, she uplifts, and she moves with intention, creating spaces where people feel seen, valued, and supported. Her impact reaches far beyond her role or title—it lives in the lives she's touched, the confidence she's helped build, and the example she sets every day. Jasmine Young is more than deserving of this nomination, as she embodies the very values this recognition represents.

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Clifford White, Howard University  
Clifford.white@bison.howard.edu | 4753019217

The reason why I'm nominating Professor Young is because she continues to show up everyday to support each and every students needs. Without fail she continues to express her deep love and passion for teaching as she continues to push us to be the best version of ourselves that we can possibly be. She treats every student like family and always provides new comers with warmth and comfort. I'm yet to find another Professor who cares as much as Professor Young does. She's truly one of a kind.

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Bukola Haastrup, Howard/warner music center  
Bukolahastrup03@gmail.com | 9293725146

Professor jasmine young has been a light at Howard for many years now. She has personally helped guide my career as a professional and student.

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Hamid, Howard  
Hamid.kabia@bison.howard.edu | 5715803831

Mayor Bowser's Music Educator of The YEAR 2024  
Billboard Global Power Player 2025  
Billboard Global Power Player 2025  
New York State Proclamation & Citation  
Educator of the YEAR -Excellence in Arts Education (Mayor Bowser)  
Billboard's 2025 Top Music Business Schools (4 years running)  
Congressional Citation for Community Service (Yvette Clarke)  
Graduate Student of the Year / Howard University  
Black Wall Street Award for Excellence  
NY Mayor's Certificate of Recognition (Shawn Patterson-Howard)

Co-Founder -The West Africa Music & Arts Festival - Accra Ghana - A Global Education Conference designed to educate Global Creatives about the Music Industry and help them to monetize their creativity.

**An EXCITED AND PASSIONATE EFFECTIVE GLOBAL EDUCATOR!**

Jazz Young, MBA, exemplifies the spirit of innovation at Howard University through visionary leadership, cultural impact, and transformative program building. As Director of the Warner Music | Blavatnik Center for Music Business, she has reimagined what experiential education looks like at an HBCU—bridging industry, technology, global culture, and social justice in ways that have positioned Howard as a global thought leader in the music and creative industries. With over 30 years of professional industry experience, Jazz has translated real-world expertise into scalable academic programs, strategic partnerships, and life-changing opportunities for students, while elevating Howard University's national and international profile. Her work is not

only innovative in concept, but measurable in outcomes—scholarships awarded, careers launched, industries influenced, and communities empowered.

Built The Warner Music/ Blavatnik Center into an award-winning Center in three years!  
Billboard's Top Music Business School in the World.

Built a flagship academic-industry model by developing the Warner Music | Blavatnik Center for Music Business into a nationally recognized, industry-embedded program.

Created transformative student pipelines that connect Howard students directly to careers at major music, media, sports, and tech companies.

Stewarded over \$1 million in scholarships, expanding access and equity for Howard University students.

Integrated social justice into innovation, ensuring that business education is rooted in ethics, culture, and community impact. Developed a Certificate program for Howard University Students for Chartmetric -a music Industry analytics /tech platform.

Positioned Howard as a global thought leader in the Music Industry through international partnerships, particularly across Africa and the global Black diaspora.

Pioneered experiential learning models that merge classroom instruction with live events, festivals, industry labs, and real-time deal-making.

Expanded Howard's global footprint through initiatives such as international festivals, global artist partnerships, and cross-continental programming. Cofounded a Global Festival anchored in Accra, Ghana, to serve the entire Diaspora.

Bridged culture and technology, introducing forward-thinking conversations and curricula around AI, digital media, and the future of creative industries.

Mentored and launched hundreds of students, many of whom now work across music, sports, media, and entertainment at the highest levels.

Elevated Howard's brand and legacy, consistently demonstrating innovation that honors tradition while building future-facing institutional excellence.

Partnered and led other departments at Howard University: The Department of Corporate Relations, Chadwick Boseman, COAS, and The School of Communications to develop programming for students around campus.

Assisted students in getting placements at iconic Entertainment Establishments like Wasserman, UTA, Interscope, The Late Show with Steven Colbert, and more.

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[https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity\\_forms/261-dc4058919867921dc2a8589d99af6ae0/2026/01/Washington-Informer-2.JPG](https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/261-dc4058919867921dc2a8589d99af6ae0/2026/01/Washington-Informer-2.JPG)

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Jasmine Young, The Warner Music / Blavatnik Center for Music Business  
jasmineyoungmba@gmail.com | 2019262912

Professor young has changed my life since my first day as a business student. She exemplifies how creativity can be used to problem solve and I've learned so much from her.

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Jacqui Kennedy, Howard University  
jacqui.kennedy@bison.howard.edu | 6093858478

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#### **Submission #4**

**Josh Rabinowitz**

*Associate Professor*

**CUNY**

rabinowitz.josh@gmail.com

*No. Year Teaching: 18*

*Current Class List: 1) Music Supervision and Sync*

*2) Music Business for Media Scoring*

*3) Music in the Media*

*4) Music Curation and Supervision in Media*

It is with great enthusiasm that I nominate Josh Rabinowitz for Music Business Educator of the Year. Having studied with him and known him for years, I can attest firsthand to his extraordinary influence as an educator, mentor, and innovator whose work bridges artistry, commerce, and education in transformative ways.

Josh Rabinowitz is a rare figure in the world of music and media—a true global thought leader in the space where music, branding, and storytelling intersect. Over his distinguished 20+ year career, he has produced or supervised more than 10,000 tracks for brands, films, television, and record labels, shaping the sound of modern media in ways both profound and far-reaching. His ability to blend creative excellence with strategic acumen has earned him accolades from Fast Company (“New Music Mogul”), Billboard (“Branding Power Player”), and numerous other publications, including The New York Times, Rolling Stone, Forbes, Variety, and The Wall Street Journal.

But it is in the classroom that Josh’s impact truly shines. Since 2008, as an Adjunct Professor at The New School, he has inspired countless students to think critically and creatively about the evolving relationship between music, technology, and commerce. His teaching extends beyond theory; it empowers students to navigate the real-world complexities of the music business with both integrity and vision. His classes are dynamic forums where innovation meets mentorship—where students are challenged to develop their artistic voices while understanding the mechanics of the industry.

Josh's contributions to global thought leadership further underscore his stature as an educator of international significance. As the inaugural President of the Cannes Lions Music Jury in 2016, he was hailed as "a musical genius," and his keynote presentations at major festivals and conferences—from SXSW and ADE to Music Matters Singapore and El Dorado Colombia—continue to shape discourse around creativity and commerce worldwide.

Beyond his impressive résumé, what makes Josh truly deserving of this honor is his generosity of spirit and his unwavering commitment to fostering new talent. He teaches with empathy, rigor, and authenticity—drawing on his Brooklyn roots as a bandleader and trombonist to remind students that music is, above all, about connection. His mentorship has been life-changing for many of us who have had the privilege to learn from him.

For his visionary leadership, his global impact on music and branding, and his profound dedication to students and the future of the music industry, I am proud to nominate Josh Rabinowitz for Music Business Educator of the Year.

Frederic (Ted) Gannon

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Frederic Gannon, SuperExploder  
yetiinstitute@yahoo.com | 3473510465

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this recommendation for Professor Josh Rabinowitz for the Music Business Educator of the Year Award. I had the distinct honor of studying under Professor Rabinowitz at the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema at Brooklyn College, where I took two of his courses. The first was Music in Advertising during the Fall 2022 semester.

From the very first class, I was impressed by Professor Rabinowitz's vast knowledge of the music business, his passion for the craft, and his intricate understanding of music's role in advertising and media. Every lecture was engaging, insightful, and filled with practical wisdom. He encouraged analytical thinking, creativity, and professional discipline, all while fostering an environment of respect and collaboration.

Under his guidance, we refined our presentation skills, developed our creative instincts, analyzed music selections, and sharpened our editing and compositional techniques. Week after week, Professor Rabinowitz challenged us to understand the nuances of music placement in film, particularly short-form advertising. His discussions often extended beyond technical skills, emphasizing professional integrity, reputation management, and the critical importance of proper music rights and clearances. These lessons remain with me today.

Professor Rabinowitz's long and impressive career, as both a music executive and a trained musician, offered us a wealth of real-world insight. He was candid about the challenges within the industry, especially the complex approval processes between artists, brands, and agencies.

His transparency gave us an insider's view that no textbook could provide. His teaching not only informed us but equipped us with the tools, confidence, and mindset necessary to thrive in a competitive field.

I was so inspired by his expertise and experience that I asked him to serve as my Capstone Advisor during my final semester in the Spring of 2023. My thesis involved developing a business concept I had been refining for several years, and I knew his guidance would be invaluable. Professor Rabinowitz was incredibly generous with his time and feedback -- challenging my ideas, sharpening my creative approach, and helping me elevate my business strategy with clarity and focus. His advisory inspired the name of my company, Ethos Sync, which also served as the focus of my thesis project. His mentorship helped me organize my philosophies and framework, laying the groundwork for what has since become a functioning entity.

Professor Rabinowitz embodies the highest qualities of an educator which include expertise, mentorship, integrity, and a genuine passion for helping his students succeed. He doesn't just teach about the music business -- he prepares his students to thrive within it. I can think of no one more deserving of recognition as Music Business Educator of the Year.

Sincerely,

Additional Materials:

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[https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity\\_forms/261-dc4058919867921dc2a8589d99af6ae0/2025/10/Why-Licensing-Pop-Songs-for-Ads-Is-No-Longer-Selling-Out- -TIME.com .pdf](https://musicbiz.org/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/261-dc4058919867921dc2a8589d99af6ae0/2025/10/Why-Licensing-Pop-Songs-for-Ads-Is-No-Longer-Selling-Out- -TIME.com .pdf)

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Imani Garner, Ethos Sync  
imani@ethosync.com | (917) 628-7820

I met Josh initially at an advertising panel at my college, Berklee College of music. I asked a question challenging the panel to justify certain decisions in the advertising realm, inquiring regarding where they draw their individual lines in terms of balancing money and morals. Out of 6 people, Josh was one of the two who actually tried to answer my question.

On taking his class this fall, I've been lucky enough to work with him and speak to him in a more educational capacity, and the amount of experience and information he is privy to is extraordinary. Any student hoping to work in music, whether in relation to marketing or otherwise, is lucky to learn from Josh. Not only is he extremely knowledgeable, but he is empathetic and willing to communicate and help- something that is a phenomenal trait in an educator. If he were not so eager to impart his knowledge and help his students, I would be

unwilling to recommend him. I've known a number of teachers who are extremely knowledgeable or educated, but have more interest in flaunting that than actually helping their students take in the information they possess. This is antithetical of Josh's approach to educating- at every possible point he is checking how engaged everyone is, looking for personal takes or questions, and trying to bring his students into the fold. This style, combined with his knowledge, have made him one of the best professors that I've been lucky enough to learn from.

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Hugo Vazquez, Berklee College of Music  
hvazquez@berklee.edu | 845-901-1924

Joshua Rabinowitz is the professor any student would like to have, someone who has industry experience and brings that knowledge into the classroom. Working with more than 10,000 tracks across branded content to film & TV, Rabinowitz knows how to make story impactful with the power of music. His caliber of work extends all the way to the Super Bowl, having placed over 50 tracks. For a student like me, whose passion is working in music supervision, I want to learn how to use music to drive a scene or some type of visual content. I believe Professor Joshua Rabinowitz serves as an excellent mentor to anyone who is eager to work in the industry, because he brings that professional attitude towards his teaching, while still creating a comfortable environment for learning.

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Mariela Luis Gronau, Berklee College of Music  
mluisgronau@berklee.edu | 7872419697

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#### **Submission #5**

**Michele Rhoades**

*Practitioner In Residence*

**University of New Haven**

MIRhoades@newhaven.edu

*No. Year Teaching: 10*

*Current Class List: Internship in the Music Industry  
Internship in Music & Sound Recording*

[VIDEO: https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/mmhaz39880ywpcnjm3kws/Michele-Rhoades-Nomination.mov?rlkey=j03hy0loxuvdy24k4zdzi1khz&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/mmhaz39880ywpcnjm3kws/Michele-Rhoades-Nomination.mov?rlkey=j03hy0loxuvdy24k4zdzi1khz&dl=0)

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Michele Rhoades, Mark Tavern  
mtavern@newhaven.edu | 9178583984

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### **Submission #6**

#### **Steve Fishell**

*Adjunct Lecturer*

**University of New Haven**

sfishell@mac.com

*No. Year Teaching: 10*

*Current Class List: Music Production*

#### VIDEO:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/rdee2pvzhcgo366lz12zi/Steve-Fishell-Nomination.mov?rlkey=b0c70t60uazh2fib97x5paik5&dl=0>

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Mark Tavern, University of New Haven  
mtavern@newhaven.edu | 9178583984

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### **Submission #7**

#### **Tonya Butler**

*Professor & Chair of the Music Business/Management Department*

**Berklee College of Music**

tbutler@berklee.edu

*No. Year Teaching: 20*

*Current Class List: MB-211 - Legal Aspects of the Music Industry*

*MB-433 - Trends and Special Topics*

*MILI-401 - Designing Your Path*

VIDEO:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1axOIWT21gmQcyFXZ3HrV5rSE7ItBHQKz/view?usp=sharing>

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Matthew Walsh, Berklee College of Music  
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