



University
of Vermont

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY NEWS

Annual Impact Report 2024

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY NEWS * ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT * 2024

WHO WE ARE

The Center for Community News at UVM is a nonpartisan organization working to grow and strengthen university-led reporting across the U.S.

In communities across the country, student journalists now provide millions of people with trustworthy, professional news coverage. Our mission is to grow and support partnerships between college reporting programs and local news outlets, while providing valuable applied experience to UVM students and serving Vermonters.



Richard Watts, *Director*



Meg Little Reilly, *Managing Director*

HOW WE WORK

The Center for Community News is powered by a 5-year \$5 million grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; grants from the MacArthur Foundation and the Lumina Foundation; generous UVM donors; and significant investments from the UVM College of Arts and Sciences.

We build university-led news partnerships by producing original research and resources, advising colleges, seeding new ideas, and fostering an interconnected network of leaders in the field.

www.uvm.edu/ccn

CCN reports to UVM's Office of the Provost.
Learn more about our staff, faculty and advisory boards at:
<https://www.uvm.edu/ccn/about-us>



2024 HIGHLIGHTS

130

CURRENT NEWS-ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

20+

COLLEGE SITE VISITS CONDUCTED ACROSS U.S.

60+

NEW RESEARCH, CASE STUDIES AND RESOURCE MATERIALS PRODUCED

52

FACULTY CHAMPIONS HONORED

50+

LIVE EVENTS, ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS AND EXPERT PANELS HOSTED

90+

STUDENT REPORTERS AND RESEARCHERS ENGAGED AT UVM AND OTHER VT COLLEGES

\$7M

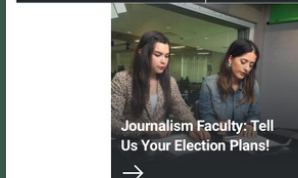
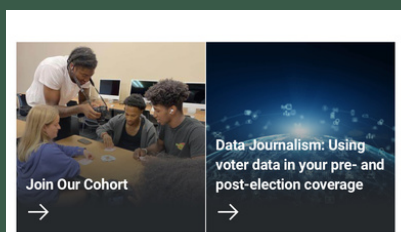
RAISED THROUGH FOUNDATIONS AND PRIVATE DONORS



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BIG SUCCESSES OF 2024: ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

In fall 2024, CCN launched a nationwide effort to empower the faculty who lead student reporting programs and want to cover elections. By drawing on the wisdom of university-led reporting programs that have been successfully covering democracy and elections for years, CCN created a suite of classroom resources, facilitated regular collaborative sessions, and hosted expert events on topics including visual reporting, data journalism and legal issues.



Assignments and Resources

CCN Guide on Student-Led Political Reporting (doc)



Assignment 1: Profiling first-time and/or young voter attitudes on campus (doc)



Assignment 2: Profiling voter attitudes in underserved communities off-campus (doc)



Assignment 3: How do I cast my vote to guide for first-time voters in the election (doc)



National Community News Wire

Reporting from across the U.S. from the next generation of great journalists

=

Election Hub

These stories were collected through the CCN Elections & Democracy Reporting Initiative, which brings together news-academic partnerships at colleges across the country to facilitate reliable and impactful reporting during the 2024 election cycle and beyond.

140 faculty
participated
from colleges
across the U.S.

CCN created
an Election
Hub to
aggregate live
coverage

It was the **first
national effort**
to coordinate
university-led
Election Day
coverage

www.uvm.edu/ccn

Check out all of our Elections and Democracy Initiative resources at:
<https://www.uvm.edu/ccn/elections-and-democracy-reporting-initiative>



BIG SUCCESSES OF 2024: EXPANDED RESEARCH AND MAPPING

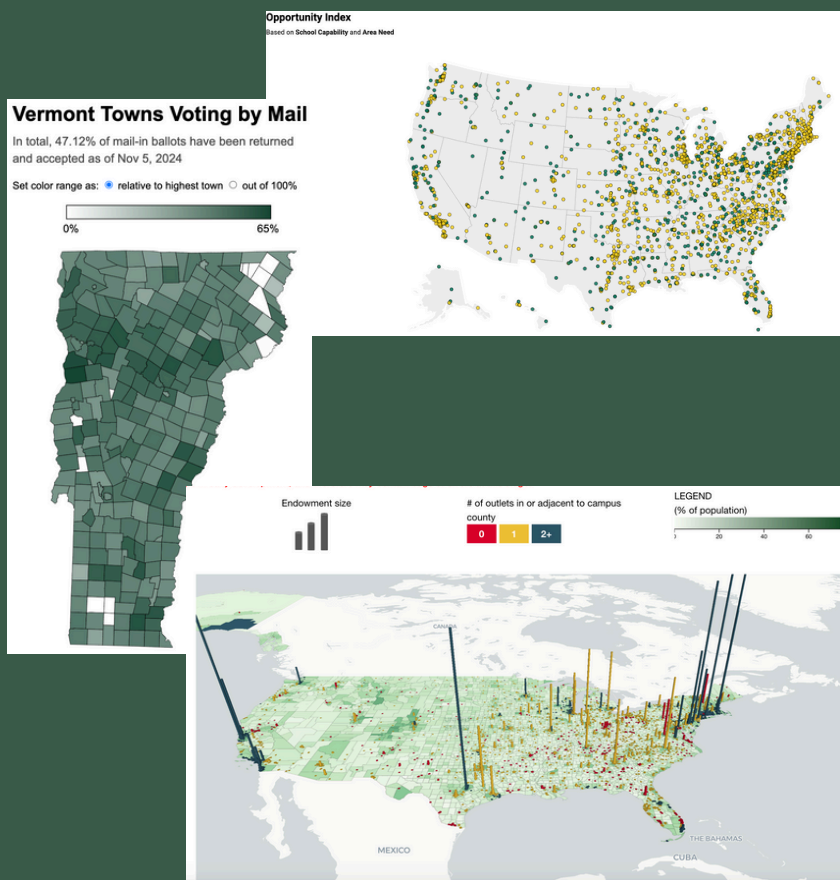
With new resources, CCN has ramped up its efforts to produce original research on the impact and potential for university-led reporting to fill news gaps and address the growing threat of news deserts across the country.

New Study from the Center for Community News

Student-Reported Stories Were Published Nearly 12,000 Times Last Year, Reaching Potentially 25 Million Readers

Key Findings

- **2,874** students participated in the **73** surveyed news-academic reporting programs between June 1, 2023 and May 31, 2024.
- Students produced more than **17,228** pieces of journalism during this time that appeared in more than **1,311** professional outlets.
- Student stories were published more than **11,808** times.
- Student work garnered at least **13,654,700** page views and had a potential reach of **23,519,124** readers.



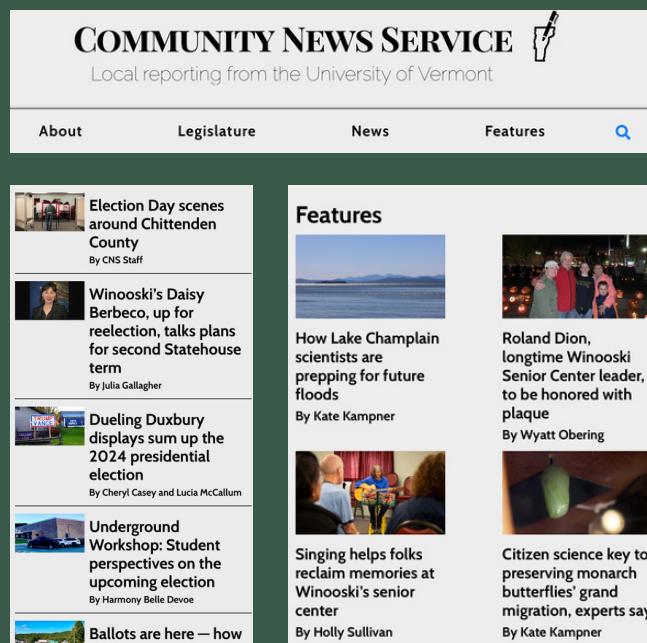


GROWING OUR LOCAL LABORATORY: THE COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

In 2019, UVM launched the Community News Service, a student-powered partnership between the University and community newspapers across the state. CNS faculty and professional editors guide students as they create original, professional-grade reporting for trusted newsrooms in Vermont.

The fast growth and success of CNS was the inspiration for the Center for Community News; it illuminated a demand in the field of news-academic partnerships for some central organization that could facilitate collaboration, document impact and advocate for student reporting. Since then, CNS has been both a Vermont newsroom and a national laboratory for experimentation in creative ways to address the challenges facing local news.

in 2024,
more than 75 CNS
students
contributed to
hundreds of print,
digital, broadcast,
and visual news
stories across
Vermont





PRIORITIES FOR 2025

- **Build on the momentum of our *Elections & Democracy Initiative* with an ongoing *Statehouse & Democracy reporting cohort***
- **Expand the Faculty Champions award program to a year-long guided course in building university-led news partnerships.**
- **Explore the potential for other cohorts, including Spanish-language, sports reporting, environmental reporting, and new platforms**
- **Grow partnerships with other leading organizations including Student Press Law Center, The Marshall Project, PBS Student Reporting Labs, Associated Press Elections, College Media Association, AEJMC, and Press Forward chapters across the country.**
- **Continue to grow public media partnerships by providing expanded resources and guidance to public radio and tv professionals**
- **Expand research and mapping to advance our understanding of the news landscape and identify opportunities for growth in student reporting.**