



# University of Vermont

## Center for Community News

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### Center for Community News Announces its 2025 Champions

*The 63 honorees are helping to forge a sustainable future for local news through university-led reporting programs*

BURLINGTON, Vt. — The Center for Community News at the University of Vermont today recognized 63 CCN Champions for their work growing university-led reporting programs in their region. This year’s cohort includes faculty, public media professionals and news leaders from institutions large and small.

“Student reporting has emerged as one critical solution to the crisis facing local news,” said CCN Director Richard Watts. “The people running these news-academic partnerships are leading the next generation of courageous journalists, storytellers and civic leaders. We are honored to help amplify their work.”

The CCN Champions awarded this year represent 25 different states. Thirty-three are faculty members from U.S. colleges and universities, ten represent student media programs that are filling critical gaps in local news coverage; and ten work for public media organizations.

Together, they are growing student news reporting at large flagship universities, HBCUs, community colleges, minority serving institutions and student-run news outlets.

Each CCN Champion will receive a \$1000 reward, peer support and coaching throughout the year. The program is led by CCN’s Scott Finn in collaboration with Amanda Bright, Director of the Cox Institute Journalism Innovation Lab at the University of Georgia.



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“This year, we’ve been able to expand the Champions program in number and scope,” said Finn, who also helps run CCN’s Vermont-based academic-news partnership. “The best way to grow these programs is to support the people behind them.”

Learn more about why enterprising faculty and staff like these are so critical to engaging the next generation of journalists and civic leaders—and how universities are stepping up to forge a sustainable future for local news at <https://www.uvm.edu/ccn>.

### 2025 CCN Champions

**Aje-Ori Agbese**, Associate Professor, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

**Barbara Alfano**, Director of First-Year Forum, Faculty in Cultural Studies and Languages, Bennington College

**J.D. Allen**, Lecturer/Climate Communication Specialist, Stony Brook University

**David Blow**, Professor of Communications, Vermont State University Castleton

**Pete Booker**, General Manager, Delaware Public Media

**Michael Braga**, Professor of Practice, Texas Tech

**Rick Brewer**, News Director, WCMU Public Radio, Central Michigan University

**Asia Burnett**, Station Manager, WKMS, Murray State University

**Lisa Collins**, Professor of Practice, Loyola University New Orleans

**Thomas Conner**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Media Studies, University of Tulsa

**Emily Hughes Corio**, Associate Director, Reed School of Media & Communications, West Virginia University

**Thomas F. Corrigan**, Professor, California State University, San Bernardino



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**Betty J. Cotter**, Lecturer in Journalism, University of Rhode Island

**Nathan Crabbe**, Editor, *The Invading Sea*, managed by the Florida Atlantic University Center for Environmental Studies

**Joshua Darr**, Associate Professor and Senior Researcher, Syracuse University Institute for Democracy, Journalism & Citizenship

**CD Davidson-Hiers**, Director, Florida Student News Watch

**Will Davis**, Director, Center for Community Voices, WYSO

**Arvind Diddi**, Professor, Journalism Unit Coordinator, SUNY Oswego

**Tom Dooley**, Senior Lecturer, Journalism Program Director, Reporter Magazine Faculty Advisor, Rochester Institute of Technology

**Chris Evans**, Director of Student Media, Rice University

**Kate Fink**, Associate Professor/Graduate Program Director, Dyson College of Arts and Sciences, Pace University

**Andrew Galarneau**, Journalism Instructor, University at Buffalo

**Kate Gannon**, Professor of Practice Journalism and Borderzine Director, University of Texas at El Paso

**Jodie Gil**, Journalism Professor, Southern Connecticut State University

**Teresa Goff**, Journalism Professor and Program Coordinator in the Faculty of Media, Art & Design, Durham College

**Jody Evans Hamblett**, Director, WUOT & WUTK, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

**Benjy Hamm**, Associate Professor and Director of the Institute for Rural Journalism, University of Kentucky



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**Catherine Hollingsworth**, Adjunct Professor, Bowie State University; Founder and Editor, The Bowie Sun

**Patrick Howe**, Professor, Journalism Department, California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo

**Corey Hutchins**, Journalism Institute Manager, Colorado College

**Stanley Jefferson**, TV Production Studio Manager, Central State University

**Ian Jones**, Professor of English and Journalism, Chaffey College

**Kevin Kato**, Professor of English, Arizona Western College

**Gyuri Kepes**, Associate Professor of Communication, Landmark College

**Matt Kiefer**, Assistant Professor, Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, Northwestern University

**Nicole Kraft**, Associate Professor of Practice, School of Communication, The Ohio State University

**Karen Lankisch**, Department Chair/Professor, University of Cincinnati Clermont

**Susan Lazenby**, Interim Station Manager, WUTC, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

**Aaron Leff**, English Faculty/Lead Journalism Faculty, Front Range Community College

**Ellie Markovitch**, Lecturer, Department of Communication and Journalism, University of Maine

**Rosemary Martinelli**, Assistant Teaching Professor of Marketing and Communications/Campus Internship Coordinator, Pennsylvania State University, Greater Allegheny Campus

**Amy Mayer**, News Director, KAZU



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**Corey Ohlenkamp**, Unified Media Director, Ball State University

**Erin Siegal McIntyre**, Assistant Professor, UNC Chapel Hill

**Emily Reddy**, News Director, WPSU, Penn State University

**Jamie Remillard**, Associate Professor of English, Worcester State University

**Julian Rubinstein**, Filmmaker and Journalist-in-Residence, Western Colorado University

**Eddie Rubinowitz**, Professor, Faculty Advisor to the student newspaper, Internship Supervisor, Northeastern Illinois University

**Chris Rudisill**, Adjunct Instructor and Director of the Charlotte Journalism Collaborative, Knight School of Communication at Queens University of Charlotte

**Joao Ozawa**, Assistant Professor, Journalism Department, University of North Dakota

**Elaine Salisbury**, Lecturer, Department of Communications, University at Albany

**Clint Schaff**, General Manager, KUAF Public Radio, University of Arkansas

**Jared Stanley**, Associate Director of Digital Media at SUNY Polytechnic Institute

**Neil Swidey**, Director of the Journalism Program and Professor of the Practice, Brandeis University

**Angeline Taylor**, Instructor and Neighborhood News Bureau Director, University of South Florida St. Petersburg

**Barbara Nevins Taylor**, Journalism Program Director, The City College of New York

**Joseph B. Treaster**, Tenured Professor, Coordinator of the Journalism Department's writing program, School of Communication, University of Miami

**Veronica Volk**, Senior Editor and Producer, WXXI Public Broadcasting

**Peter Waack**, CEO and President, Rocky Mountain Student Media, Colorado State University



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## Center for Community News

**Ken J. Ward**, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Communication, Pittsburg State University

**Travis Washington**, Media Educator and Field Producer, CCTV: Center for Media and Democracy/Town Meeting TV

**Leigh Landini Wright**, Student Media Adviser and Associate Professor of Journalism, Murray State University

**Kim Young**, Lecturer in Journalism, SUNY Brockport

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### About CCN

The [Center for Community News](#) at UVM is a nonpartisan nonprofit that is working to grow and strengthen university-led reporting programs around the country, to create a more sustainable future for local news outlets and the communities they serve.

### About the University of Vermont

Since 1791, the [University of Vermont](#) has worked to move humankind forward. UVM's strengths align with the most pressing needs of our time: the health of our societies and the health of our environment. Our size—large enough to offer a breadth of ideas, resources, and opportunities, yet intimate enough to enable close faculty-student mentorship across all levels of study—allows us to pursue these interconnected issues through cross-disciplinary research and collaboration. Providing an unparalleled educational experience for our students, and ensuring their success, are at the core of what we do. As one of the nation's first land grant universities, UVM advances Vermont and the broader society through the discovery and application of new knowledge. UVM is derived from the Latin Universitas Viridis Montis (in English, University of the Green Mountains).