University of Vermont
Center for Community News

New Report Shows Growth in University-Led Reporting on Politics and Policy

Student journalists are providing communities with more critical civic information than ever, according to CCN's 2025 Statehouse Reporting Data

Burlington, VT – A new report from the Center for Community News at UVM demonstrates the increasingly critical role that university and college-led reporting programs are playing in covering statehouses across the country. This year, CCN surveyed news-academic partnerships at U.S. colleges of every size to determine which programs are providing policy and politics coverage for their communities. The findings, which are detailed in the ***2025 Statehouse Reporting Data*** report, reveal significant growth over the past two years, and the potential for more.

"This data confirms what we've been hearing from communities across the country," said CCN Director Richard Watts. "That university-led reporting programs–in partnership with local news organizations–offer a sustainable path forward for this critical beat, and interest is growing."

Key findings include:

- There are now 35 university- or college-led statehouse reporting initiatives in 30 states across the country.

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- 11 of those programs are newly launched, or about to start, since the last time CCN documented these programs in 2023.
- New additions to the college-led statehouse reporting field are located in Texas, Vermont, Tennessee, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, New Mexico, Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois. A program in Delaware will launch in 2026, while another in Colorado launched last year and is now on hold.
- The rapid growth of student statehouse reporting programs at U.S. colleges is a product of accelerating investment and coordination among higher education and legacy news, philanthropy and the nonprofit sector.

Check out the full report here.

"Students want to cover issues of great consequence," said CCN Managing Director Meg Little Reilly. "Under the guidance of professionals, they're producing some of the best reporting out there on the battles over free speech, reproductive rights, climate policy, education and beyond."

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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.

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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).