



University of Vermont

Center for Community News

CCN National Conference

October 2-4, 2025

Burlington, Vermont

AGENDA

Thursday, October 2

5:30-7:30 **Welcome Reception**

[ECHO, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain](#), 1 College Street, Burlington

Local and seasonal hors d'oeuvres, cash bar

Friday, October 3

8:00-9:00 **Breakfast**

[UVM Alumni House](#), Silver Pavilion, 61 Summit Street

Hot breakfast bar, coffee and tea, etc.

9:00-9:15 **Welcome Remarks**

Linda Schadler, Provost, University of Vermont

Kathleen McElroy, Chair, CCN Board of Advisors

Richard Watts, CCN Director

9:15-9:45 **Introductions Around the Room**

10:00-11:00 **The State of News-Academic Partnerships, Present and Future**

CCN's Meg Little Reilly, Ben Cooley, Richard Watts, and Sima Bhowmik

An overview of the 250 existing university led student reporting programs and CCN's plan to double that number of the next two years.

11:00- 11:50: **The View from Leadership**

William Falls, Dean of the UVM College of Arts and Sciences

David Boardman, Interim Provost, Temple University; Dean and Professor,

Klein College of Media and Communication

Moderated by Meg Little Reilly

Student reporting programs aren't just good for students and our communities; they help make our colleges stronger and more competitive. In this discussion, academic leaders will discuss the benefits these programs offer, and strategies for advocating within our institutions for more resources.



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11:50–12:00 **Group Photo**

12:00–12:30 **Lunch**

12:30–1:00 **U.S. Senator Peter Welch**

Press freedom, academic freedom, and federal policy efforts to strengthen democratic practices in the U.S.

1:00–1:15 **Origins of the News-Academic Movement with Eric Newton**

1:15–2:00 **Sustaining Your News-Academic Partnership**

Duc Luu, Director of Sustainability Initiatives/Journalism, Knight Foundation

Dale Anglin, Director, Press Forward

Danielle Altenburg, Director of Principal Gifts, UVM Foundation

Moderated by CCN's Scott Finn

We will discuss how leaders are finding resources to build and maintain news-academic partnerships, as well as the national outlook for funding of these partnerships. Our conversation will start with a look at the role of philanthropy.

2:00–3:00 **Innovations and Collaborations**

Amanda Bright, Clinical Associate Professor; Director, Cox Institute

Journalism Innovation Lab, Journalism at University of Georgia, CCN

Contributor

Journalistic mediums, methods and business models are changing rapidly. In this session, we will present realistic ways to adapt time-tested approaches to teaching news reporting to the evolving digital age.

3:00–3:15 **Break**

3:15–3:45 **Collaborations and Ideas**

Brief remarks from attendees on ideas for collaborations across programs and overview of Saturday sessions.

3:45– **Done for the day**

We will provide recommendations for great dining spots around Burlington!



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Saturday, October 4

8:00–9:00 **Breakfast**

9:00-10:00 **Common Goal Group Sessions**

- Geographic groupings, including New York, Pennsylvania
- Spanish Language Reporting
- Statehouse collaborations
- Innovations in teaching
- Newsletters and other university leadership
- Other cohorts; Arts & Life, Sports
- Other

10:00-11:00 **Common Goal Group Sessions (Round 2)**

11:15-11:30 **Break**

11:30 -12:00 **Closing Remarks**