

Center for Community News at AEJMC

AEJMC Conference Schedule | August 5–8

CCN Headquarters: Regents Room (4th Floor)

Open throughout the conference for meetings, refreshments, and informal conversation.

Wednesday, August 5

Time	Event	Location
8:30–9:45 a.m.	From Classroom to Community: News-Academic Partnerships Addressing Local News	W008
9:00–11:30 a.m.	Coffee, refreshments & conversation	CCN HQ
9:30–11:00 a.m.	Welcome Breakfast (Open to everyone)	CCN HQ
12:00–1:00 p.m.	Lunch for CCN Champions & Cohort Leader	CCN HQ
1:00–3:00 p.m.	Half-hour one-on-one meetings	CCN HQ
5:15 p.m.	AEJMC Keynote	
7:00 p.m.	AEJMC Reception	

Thursday, August 6

Time	Event	Location
10:00–11:30 a.m.	Coffee, refreshments & one-on-one meetings	CCN HQ
12:00–1:00 p.m.	Spanish Cohort (Tentative)	CCN HQ
1:00–4:00 p.m.	Refreshments & informal meetings	CCN HQ
1:15–2:30 p.m.	Growth and Impact of Community Reporting Programs at Colleges Across the Country	Th059

Friday, August 7

Time	Event	Location
9:45–11:00 a.m.	CCN & Knight Foundation Session: Why Student Reporting Matters	F026
10:00–11:30 a.m.	Coffee & refreshments	CCN HQ
12:00–1:00 p.m.	Lunch for CCN Champions & Cohort Leaders	CCN HQ
1:00–3:00 p.m.	Half-hour one-on-one meetings	CCN HQ
4:45–6:00 p.m.	Community Journalism Interest Group Research Session	F070
4:45–6:00 p.m.	Scholastic Journalism Division AI Research Session	F068

Saturday, August 8

Time	Event	Location
9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.	Meetings, refreshments & drop-in conversations	CCN HQ

CCN Featured Panels & Sessions

From Classroom to Community: News-Academic Partnerships Addressing Local News

Wednesday | 8:30–9:45 a.m. | W008

Explores how news-academic partnerships strengthen local journalism, connect teaching with community reporting, and build sustainable collaborations between universities and local news organizations.

Moderator: Sima Bhowmik

Panelists: Marquita Smith, Richard Watts, Benjamin Cooley

Growth and Impact of Community Reporting Programs at Colleges Across the Country

Thursday | 1:15–2:30 p.m. | Th059

Presentation of CCN's latest national research, including participation from nearly 300 programs, more than 9,000 students, and over 32,000 published stories. Includes discussion of trends and opportunities for future research.

Moderator: Richard Watts

Panelists: Sima Bhowmik, Ben Cooley

Why Student Reporting Matters

Friday | 9:45–11:00 a.m. | F026

Knight Foundation's Duc Luu and Richard Watts discuss why student reporting is essential to the future of local news, current funding opportunities, and CCN's goal of expanding the network to 500 schools by 2027.

Speakers: Richard Watts, Duc Luu

AI and Journalism Education Research Session

Friday | 4:45–6:00 p.m. | F068

Research presentations examining AI in journalism education, including ethics, newsroom practice, writing instruction, and large language models.

Includes presentation by Sima Bhowmik & Gregory Gondwe.

Community Journalism Research Session

Friday | 4:45–6:00 p.m. | F070

Research on community journalism, curriculum, AI adoption, diaspora journalism, environmental reporting, and local news innovation.

Includes presentation by Sima Bhowmik & Andrea Lorenz.