



## OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO GROWING NEWS-ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS:

**New study from the Center for Community News Surveyed Faculty Leaders**

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A new study from the Center for Community News at UVM surveyed faculty who are actively running or starting university-led student reporting programs in the first six months of 2024. The findings reveal optimism and institutional obstacles to growing the field of news-academic partnerships.

### KEY FINDINGS:

- Most respondents (92%) believe their program can expand.
- Internal university changes (47 mentions) topped the list of needs for future growth. This includes things like changing the credit-transfer model, consolidating courses, redesigning the curriculum, and providing more multimedia classes.

### ABOUT THE RESPONDENTS:

- Total respondents: 107
- Average years of Media Experience: 17.4
- Respondents worked at 241 different media outlets
- Most respondents faculty (74) or lecturers (21) with a few representing student media also (6)

### SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

- Q: Opportunity to expand program?
- A: Yes 92% (98)  
No 8% (8)

(N=106)

- Q: Is there administrative support?
- A: 72% Supportive, financially and otherwise  
16% Lacking administrative support  
13% Mixed: Somewhat supportive, but could use more financial support or understanding of the value and the programs' needs

N=95

- Q: How did the program get started?
- A: Faculty initiative 61% (51)  
University leadership 5% (4)  
News outlet reached out to university 1% (1)  
Pre-existing/unknown 33% (28)

N=84

- Q: What would it take to grow the program, increase student reporting? (Number of mentions)
- A: Internal university changes (47) (Change credit-transfer model, consolidate courses and redesign curriculum, time for Planning and logistics, more multimedia classes, more student training, increased student enrollment, space/newsroom)  
More Staff and faculty (28)  
More Internal University Collaboration (18) )With different university departments, reducing major restrictions, mentors from different disciplines, partnering with student paper)  
External support collaborations (7) Stronger connections with news partners, more opportunities for students to do local reporting, state govt support, partnership with advocacy organizations

- Q: How would you use more funding? (Number of mentions)
- A: Hire an editor/newsroom staff (30), increase news production, grow news partnerships  
Pay Students/ Scholarships (35), travel stipends for students, newsroom field trips  
Newsroom equipment/ build newsroom space (10)  
Hire more faculty (10)  
Hire a social media/pr/development person (9), seek more grants, endow the program/positions

## METHODOLOGY:

Survey data collected Based on responses from faculty actively running or starting news/academic partnerships between January and July, 2024. Survey sent multiple times to

faculty program leaders and to the 3,500 names on CCN's mailing list. Results categorized into broad themes.