



Kent State University

Collaborative NewsLab

School of Mass Media and Journalism

Kent, OH

Partnership

Students partner with four local news sites to provide local content, in a mix of paid and credit experiences managed by 2 J-School faculty.

Lead faculty

Susan Zake, Professor and Faculty Newsroom Advisor for the School of Media and Journalism, szake@kent.edu

Jaqueline Marino, Professor in the School of Media and Journalism, jmarino7@kent.edu

Websites

[Collaborative NewsLab](#)

Collaborators

[Ideastream Public Media's WKSU](#), [The Portager](#), [The Land](#), [Your Voice Ohio](#), [Cleveland Documenter's Project](#), [Ohio News Connection](#)

The Portager editor Ben Wolford promotes student media stories in his newsletter. In turn, KSU continues to recommend students for Wolford to work alongside. Additionally, the other outlets already have high viewership. This allows student work to automatically be seen by the viewers of the particular news outlets.

Impacts

Students write about three stories per semester that are published with the partner organizations, reaching a viewership of more than one million readers.

Students

20,694 at Kent State University

3-5 in the partnership, per semester, and 7-11 in the summer

Student work

Recently, the NewsLab has hired a part-time editor named Rosalie Murphy to help with student work. Additionally, Ben Wolford, a former student editor of Professor Zake, aids in editing stories for The Portager. Finally, Zake and Marino are large parts of the program, as they help to edit and revise student work.

Most students receive around \$1500 per semester for their involvement in the program, some students also elect to receive credit instead.

Faculty/staff

The faculty and staff involved in the program are responsible for managing the NewsLab and the partnerships. Additionally, they assist in the editing of the stories to varying degrees depending on the needs and resources of the partners.

Funding sources

\$10,000 Greater Cleveland Environmental Justice Local Journalism Collaboratives Grant

\$5,000 Society of Environmental Journalists Fund for Environmental Journalism Grant

The Scripps Howard Foundation Journalism Grant

Kent State's School of Media and Journalism, the College of Communication and Information

Scripps Howard Internship Program