



## University of Nebraska

# Experience Lab

College of Journalism and Mass Communications

Lincoln, NE

## Partnership

The statehouse bureau has operated since 2011 and has since been merged with a newer program called the “Experience Lab” for different communications majors. The class meets for 1 hour and 45 minutes every Tuesday. Professionals, many of whom are either retired or working in the industry hoping to hire students post-grad, offer mentoring and guidance such as line editing.

### Lead faculty

Jill Martin - [jmartin42@unl.edu](mailto:jmartin42@unl.edu)

## Impacts

Just around 100 outlets, some radio and TV but mostly newspapers, use their stories. At their height, they may have had 120 outlets. The number of stories produced depends on the semester. In the spring, they produce a lot more because it's during the session.

## Students

20,100 at the University of Nebraska

25-35 in the partnership, per semester

## Student work

Sometimes the bureau will solicit ideas from newspapers, although the suggested stories from newspapers can be hit or miss. Some part-time professional help is offered to Experience Lab students, which aids in editing.

## Faculty/staff

Jill Martin is the news service director and co-teaches the capstone with another journalism professor. Mary Kay Quinlan and others offer part-time professional help during the “Experience Lab.”

## Funding sources

They got a grant in the early years to hire a staff person to create a distribution system and promote their program to newspapers. That was a two or three-year grant. Other than that, the university foundation has a Nebraska News Service fund that anyone can donate to, and Nebraska alums do donate. That fund helps pay for travel expenses when needed. At one point, they also got grant funds to pay one or two students each summer to work full-time for a month or so when the session passed the spring semester.