



IMPACT REPORT

2024



Reynolds Journalism Institute
University of Missouri

Introduction

The **Reynolds Journalism Institute** is dedicated to ensuring that **community-centered journalism** has a long and bright future.

With contributions from our staff and a far-reaching network of partners and collaborators, our experts **develop and test solutions** to the most consequential challenges faced by the industry. At RJI, ideas are just the beginning—our innovations are practical, open source, and designed to **empower journalists** and **strengthen newsrooms** around the United States and worldwide.

At a time when the industry is facing challenges from public trust to financial uncertainty, RJI has continued to put its guaranteed funding to work — as it has since its launch in 2008 — to strengthen journalism in the service of democracy.

Read on to learn how the **fellowships, projects, programs, workshops** and **research** at RJI have made an impact on journalists, newsrooms and their communities in 2024.

“At RJI, ideas are just the beginning—our innovations are practical, open source, and designed to empower journalists and strengthen newsrooms around the United States and worldwide.”

Year at a Glance

8 2023-2024
RJI FELLOWS

12 INNOVATION
IN FOCUS
PROJECTS

165+ ARTICLES
PUBLISHED

5 STUDENT
INNOVATION
FELLOWS

4,000+ BURNOUT
REPORT
VIEWS

Working with journalists, news outlets and organizations dedicated to strong community journalism, RJI delivered a range of actionable resources, programs and workshops to the journalism industry in 2024.

- **The Potter Digital Ambassadors** worked with nine Missouri newsrooms in January. In the summer, five 2024 Student Innovation Fellows worked at newsrooms nationwide to help them experiment, innovate and launch impactful initiatives from community engagement events to TikToks and social strategies.

- **Innovation in Focus** partnered with 18 newsrooms on 12 experiments—ranging from collaborating with local artists on merchandise to refining calls-to-action. IIF shared the findings through articles offering newsrooms tools, methods, and projects to better serve their communities.

- On March 15, the eight 2023-2024 **RJI Fellows** launched their solutions: guides, toolkits, apps and more. These resources are designed for immediate utilization by journalists and newsrooms.”

- On April 19, RJI marked their second year of collaboration with the MU School of Law Veterans Clinic by hosting the **2024 Veterans Clinic Symposium "Searching for Truth: When Media and Military Come Together."** The event featured a keynote by Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Marcus Yam and panels on ethics, whistleblower reporting, and war crimes.

- RJI welcomed journalists from around the world for **collaborative discussions, symposiums, and workshops**. From delivering service-driven journalism on a limited budget to AI ethics and the intersections of media law and journalism, RJI engaged, taught and led the industry in important conversations and skills building programs.

- **More than 165 new articles** shared the results of groundbreaking experiments, offered expert advice, and documented the details needed for publications to replicate successes and avoid costly mistakes.

- RJI published research projects tackling issues from burnout in journalism to malicious defamation lawsuits. A report on the burnout survey, highlighted in the research section of this report, **has been viewed more than 4,000 times.**



Los Angeles Times photojournalist Marcus Yam delivers remarks at the Veterans Clinic Symposium in April.



RJI Director of Innovation Kat Duncan speaks at the LION Publishers Sustainability Awards in September.

Photo credit Fig Media

The Reynolds Journalism Institute Fellows transform their expertise into accessible, free and innovative resources for the journalism industry.

News organizations can use the tools from the 2023-2024 class of RJI Fellows to support their journalists in reporting after natural disasters, foster healthy newsroom culture to prevent burnout, raise the voices of marginalized communities and address other critical needs.

Presented in a [public webinar](#) in March, these resources have since created deep impact across the industry, being shared and utilized by journalism support organizations, and taught at conferences and workshops.



Jennifer Mizgata speaks at the “Building Work Culture” session at LION’s 2024 Independent News Sustainability Summit. To her left is 2021-2022 RJI Fellow Yukari Kane of the Prison Journalism Project.

Photo credit Fig Media

María Arce, ARENA

Tamoa Calzadilla and Factchequeado,
Guide for Journalists Covering Latino and Spanish-Speaking Communities

Stacy Feldman,
Pop-up Community Newsroom Toolkit

Kate Maxwell,
the Local News Go Bag

Jennifer Mizgata,
Building News Culture

Arjuna Soriano,
Community Sports Reporting Toolkit and Playbook

Celia Wu and Global Press,
Global Press Style Guide Google Chrome Extension

Ariel Zych and Science Friday,
Getting Started with Sensitivity Professionals

RJI FELLOWS' PROJECTS

USED BY

150+ NEWSROOMS

300+ JOURNALISTS

PRESENTED TO

1000+ PEOPLE

30+ CONFERENCES & DEMOS

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

ARENA

María Arce’s [Amateur Radio Emergency Newsroom Alliance \(ARENA\)](#) trains reporters to share critical information and alerts in the aftermath of a natural disaster by working independently and in tandem with local ham radio operators. Seven reporters across two newsrooms in Puerto Rico have already received radio equipment, obtained General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) licenses and participated in training and drills.



María Arce created the ARENA booklet as a handy reference for newsrooms.



El Vocero and Global Press reporters train with the Puerto Rico Community Communication and Amateur Radio Emergency Service teams in March 2024.

After Hurricane Maria’s impact, the communications system’s fragility became visible; this radio represents an auxiliary tool that allows me to continue my work, even in extreme cases like the one we have already experienced.

Gabriela Meléndez, associate reporter for the Global Press Journal.

Innovation in Focus

rjionline.org/series/innovation-in-focus/

PARTNER NEWSROOMS

My Ballard
SEATTLE, WA

AfroLA
LOS ANGELES, CA

Riverside Record
RIVERSIDE, CA

Flathead Beacon
KALISPELL, MONTANA

Sioux Falls Simplified
SIOUX FALLS, SD

SDPB
VERMILLION, SD

Black Iowa News
DES MOINES, IA

Fort Worth Report
FORT WORTH, TX

Vox Magazine
COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

Mississippi Today
JACKSON, MS

Canopy Atlanta
ATLANTA, GA

Buckeye Flame
CLEVELAND, OH

PublicSource
PITTSBURGH, PA

WITF
HARRISBURG, PA

York Dispatch
YORK, PA

York Daily Record
YORK, PA

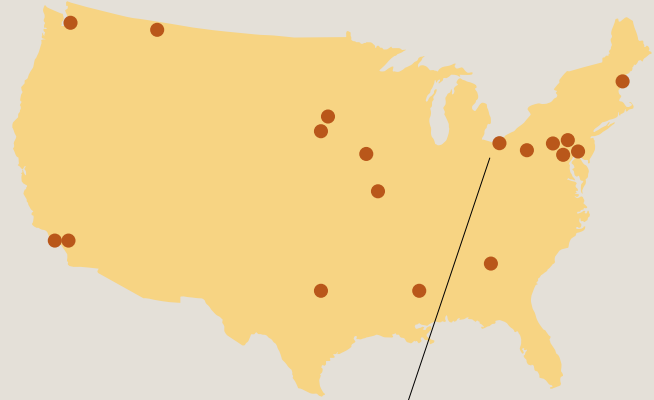
PennLive/Patriot News
MECHANICSBURG, PA

Saco Bay News
SACO, MAINE



Innovation in Focus Editor Emily Lytle helps lead a community listening session in Harrisburg, Pa., as part of an experimental candidate event ahead of the Pennsylvania primaries in March 2024.

RJI's Innovation in Focus series partners with newsrooms to explore new tech, tools and methods of storytelling for journalism. Editor Emily Lytle and Student Innovation Staffers **test ideas, interview experts and publish findings and templates** for journalists to follow. These short-term experiments can be found on RJI's website and in the monthly Innovation in Focus newsletter. In 2024, Innovation in Focus worked with **18 newsrooms** and presented at conferences, panels and webinars across the country, including a virtual panel that Lytle hosted with Rewire News Group about covering reproductive health. Projects included establishing newsroom-specific TikTok guidelines, making merchandise with local artists, designing interactive visuals for newsletters and much more.



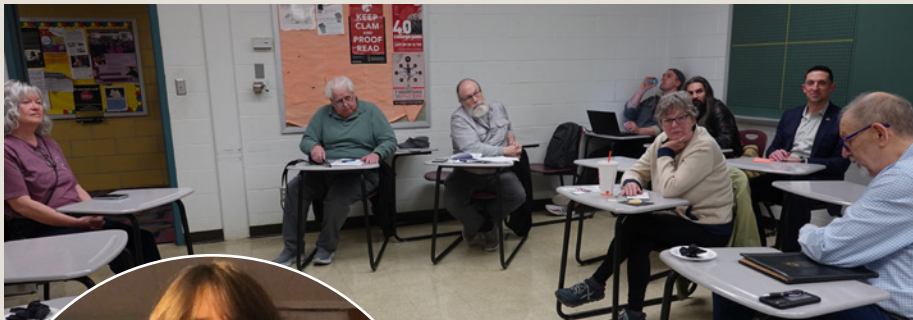
PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The Buckeye Flame

Student Innovation Staffer Olivia Dolan worked with The Buckeye Flame, a nonprofit LGBTQ+ news organization in Ohio, to make their annual Pride Guide more readable and audience friendly. The result was an **interactive map** that shows where and when pride events are happening around the state and allows the public to suggest events to add.

This experience helped us think through a specific project, but also take a step back and think how we can more effectively present information. Although we are enormously appreciative of the new mapping tool, the perspective piece was also invaluable.

Ken Schneck, editor of The Buckeye Flame.



A candidate forum that started with small listening sessions in Pennsylvania.



Liz Gotthelf, publisher of Saco Bay News, tries on a shirt she created with a local artist.



Alicia Ramirez, founder and publisher of The Riverside Record, folds zines about school bond elections in Riverside County.

Tools, Resources and Playbooks

innovationrji.github.io/projects/

In 2024, newsrooms gained access to new resources addressing important needs as part of an expansive ecosystem of partnership projects.

Care & Collaboration Toolkit

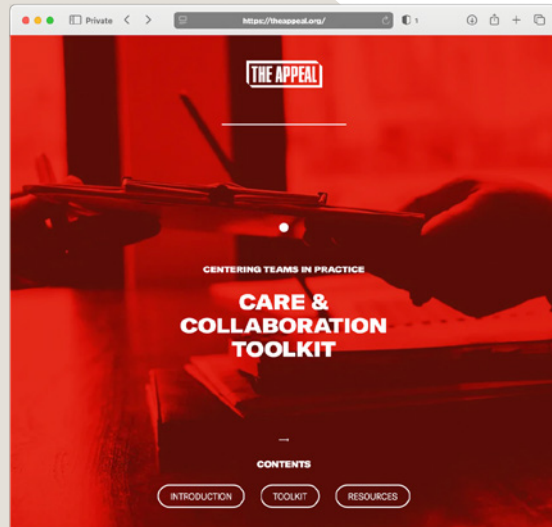
With worker-led news outlet, **The Appeal**, RJI launched the Care & Collaboration Toolkit. The guide highlights a path to a supportive and sustainable newsroom culture through centering staff and care in every facet of your organization or team. From **building a board** that actually works, to **addressing burnout** and incorporating **democratic decision making** – these resources will help you build a stronger, healthier newsroom.

Defender Handbook

In collaboration with The Kansas City Defender, a Black nonprofit media organization serving Kansas City and the Midwest, RJI built and launched The Defender Handbook. The handbook is a multifaceted guide for creating a **community-centric, digital-first** media organization, complete with guidance on reporting about policing and public safety, building community through events, social first strategies, templates and more.

OTHER 2024 PROJECTS

- **VERDAD** translates Spanish-language radio broadcasts into English, enabling journalists to identify and investigate misinformation and disinformation trends.
- The **Currency of Impact Model**, built in collaboration with URL Media, helps BIPOC newsrooms better measure the deep impact of their community relationships and disrupt the usual advertising expectations to bring in more funding for their work.
- Digital preservation service **Portico** teamed with RJI and community news organizations in Missouri to pilot a news preservation service. The program will continue to expand in 2025.
- **The Bay City News Service election scraper** streamlines the process of monitoring election results at all scales, from county races and ballot propositions to national contests.



The Care & Collaboration Toolkit lays out sustainable approaches to nurturing a healthy, happy newsroom.

TOOLS IN ACTION

Newsrooms continued to make use of the many free RJI resources from past collaborations and fellowships.

Source Diversity Toolkit

Launched in 2022 in collaboration with nonprofit education news outlet Chalkbeat, the Source Diversity Tracking Tool provides everything a newsroom needs to audit their source diversity. It includes customizable templates and a pre-built survey based on extensive research into best practices for responses and language terms. This tool has been adopted globally by a diverse range of newsrooms—from radio and TV to digital platforms and newspapers—and used at organizations from the BBC to the MIT Technology Review.

“Before we had this tool, we had no way of knowing if we were always talking with people who came from the same race, ethnicity, geographic area or gender. As a result, we’re now able to make more informed decisions about what changes to make to better represent the breadth of perspectives and viewpoints on emerging technology.”

Amy Nordrum, executive editor of operations at MIT Technology Review

YESEO, a Slack plugin that helps newsrooms optimize their SEO by offering suggestions for headlines, highlighting keywords and providing other time-saving features, was a finalist for ONA’s Excellence in AI Innovation Online Journalism Award and has over 1,000 unique users.

Trust.txt, designed to verify the authenticity of news websites, has been expanded to support the verification of social media accounts.

Rising Innovators

Working with students at the Missouri School of Journalism

RJI's approach to strengthening community news not only engages partners and the industry, but also young innovators who gain valuable, first-hand experiences working within the news ecosystem.

Student Innovation Fellows

In the summer of 2024, five Student Innovation Fellows worked at newsrooms across the United States developing and expanding new projects and initiatives, and sharing how other newsrooms can replicate their efforts through articles for Innovation in Focus.

Student Scout Hudson helped nonprofit education news outlet **The Hechinger Report** redesign its **Tuition Tracker**—a resource that compares the so-called “sticker price” of colleges with the actual expected cost of attending—to serve Spanish communities.

“We decided to completely rethink our Spanish-language outreach for the entire organization as a result of the RJI fellow’s work on Tuition Tracker,” said Nichole Dobo, director of audience development at The Hechinger Report. The Hechinger Report now employs a full-time languages editor after seeing the potential in expanding the scope of its tools to reach more Spanish speakers.

18 STUDENTS PARTNERED WITH
23 NEWSROOMS ON PROJECTS

Student Staffers

As part of the Innovation in Focus series, four innovation Student Innovation Staffers worked with nine newsrooms to gain hands-on industry experience while building innovative resources and projects—like a statewide election map—and interviewing experts in cutting-edge spaces in journalism.



Ambassador Shannon Worley visits Autumn Ridge Residences in Herculaneum, Missouri, to talk to people about their relationship with Leader Publications. From left: Marie Stelling of Autumn Ridge, Katelyn Mary Skaggs of Leader Publications and Shannon Worley.

Student Innovation Competition

RJI invites college students from around the country to participate in the premier journalism innovation competition. Footprint.ai, a team from Northwestern University, won the \$10,000 first prize with their

60 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE STUDENT INNOVATION COMPETITION

software designed to measure the long-term impact of large-scale stories.



RJI Executive Director Randy Picht congratulates students from Northwestern University for winning the Student Innovation Competition.

Silicon Valley has a saying: ‘fail fast, fail quickly’—but in this competition, teams need to ‘succeed quickly.’ In just a few months’ time, Team Footprint.ai went from a cool idea to something to test and some results to share with newsrooms. That’s what this competition is all about.

Randy Picht, executive director of RJI.

Potter Digital Ambassadors

The Potter Digital Ambassadors program sent nine University of Missouri students to community news outlets across Missouri for one week in January, where they helped them expand their digital capabilities in the realms of social media, workflow solutions, search engine optimization and more.

Student Shannon Worley helped **Leader Publications** in Jefferson County infuse its **fundraising drive** with social media savvy.

“I wish I had an open position to hire Shannon Worley,” said Katelyn Mary Skaggs, digital marketing manager at Leader Publications. “Shannon helped create, produce and plan our reader donation drive in March 2024. With her ideas and work, we were able to **quadruple our fundraising** goal for the year.”

Trainings and Programs



Attendees at the 2023 Community-Centered Symposium work together during a session.

RJI hosts trainings and workshops over the course of the year, engaging journalism professionals in hands-on programs that produce tangible benefits.

Community-Centered Symposium

The 2023 Community-Centered Symposium brought 28 journalists from across the country to learn from each other and plan practical projects that they launched in their newsrooms in 2024.

28
ATTENDEES

“This was a great opportunity to try something new and outside my comfort zone,” said Claudia Boyd-Barrett, a senior reporter and assistant editor at California Health Report. Boyd-Barrett created an online survey for **parents and caregivers** to provide **feedback** on stories they would like to see.

“Even though this survey turned out to be relatively simple to create, I don’t think it would have occurred to me to try this without the inspiration and goal setting from the training I attended at RJI,” she added.

Other events

- Monthly conversations with innovation experts
- The Vertical Video Workshop—led by BBC Mundo’s Laura Garcia and RJI Director of Innovation Kat Duncan—trained over 150 journalists to connect with audiences through vertical storytelling.
- The “How to cover trans issues well in an election year” workshop with the Trans Journalist Association taught journalists the basics of ethical coverage, data sources, and the contextual framing to help their communities better understand trans issues.
- RJI partnered with the MU School of Law for the 2024 Veterans Clinic Symposium ‘Searching for Truth: When Media and Military Come Together.’ The event featured Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Marcus Yam and panels on ethics, whistleblower reporting, and war crimes.



Leah Millis of Reuters snuggles a rescue puppy from Unchained Melodies Dog Rescue during a puppy break at the 2024 Women in Journalism Workshop.

Women in Journalism

The 2024 Women in Journalism Workshop helped journalists explore how to build safer, more diverse, and

65
ATTENDEES

innovative newsrooms and teams. Participants engaged in sessions covering **HEFAT** (Hostile Environment and Emergency First Aid Training), **Data Security, Vertical Video, Change**

Management

and more. These sessions were led by journalism professionals and innovators from organizations such as The Washington Post, BBC Mundo, and Reuters,

Each participant walked away from the symposium with new-to-them projects they tackled with the support of RJI and their cohort. They rose to the challenge in a big way.

Kat Duncan, Director of Innovation.

alongside leaders from the Institute for Nonprofit News and the American Press Institute.

“This conference is truly transformative for journalists, providing invaluable insights and skills for working in challenging environments,” said Vanessa Charlot, a photographer, filmmaker, and educator. “Kat [Duncan] does an amazing job organizing the sessions and selecting session leaders who offer diverse perspectives and expertise in the field of journalism.”

600+ PEOPLE REGISTERED FOR 15 INNOVATION TEAM COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS THROUGH THE YEAR

A key component of RJI’s mission is to bridge the gap between academic research and newsrooms. By leveraging insights from top researchers at the Missouri School of Journalism and elsewhere, RJI ensures that cutting-edge studies directly inform and enhance journalistic practices.

The Burnout Crisis in Journalism: Solutions for Today’s Newsroom

RJI, in partnership with research firm SmithGeiger, conducted one of the largest surveys on burnout in the journalism industry, gathering responses from 1,140 active and former journalists. The data, now available to researchers nationwide, offers a detailed look into the realities of working in journalism today.

Building on the findings, RJI and SmithGeiger are collaborating with newsrooms across the country in 2025 through workshops, seminars, and partnerships aimed at addressing burnout and promoting sustainable solutions.

“In a media landscape marked by uncertainty, Smith-Geiger researchers wanted to explore viable journalism burnout solutions that balance professional and personal success,” said Andrew Finlayson, executive vice president of digital media strategies at SmithGeiger. “Journalism cannot thrive unless journalists can keep the passion for their important work.”

The report has garnered over 4,000 views on rjionline.org and was highlighted at the Independent Television Group’s annual meeting in May, underscoring its relevance within the industry.

Anti-SLAPP research

MU Associate Professor Jared Schroeder and his team submitted updates to a legal guide hosted by the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press to help ensure that news organizations have access to reliable, up-to-date tools to defend themselves. The guide provides state-by-state information on resources and legal support available to news organizations facing SLAPP lawsuits—strategic lawsuits against public participation. These malicious defamation suits are intended to silence critical reporting by burdening news outlets with costly and time-consuming legal battles.

Each entry includes cases that have happened in that state, and if there’s no anti-SLAPP law, we’re looking at what people in that state have tried to do to protect themselves.

Jared Schroeder.
Associate Professor.



Damon Kiesow and Hannah Artman discuss their research.

Local news research

MU Professor Damon Kiesow, Postdoctoral Research Fellow Hannah Artman, and Assistant Professor Joy Jenkins are working on a project to understand how local communities perceive the value and quality of information, what gaps residents perceive and how they fill those gaps. The trio is part of a collaborative, nationwide research effort known as the Local News Impact Consortium (LNIC), focused on applying consistent standards and methodologies to the study of local news ecosystems.

The RJI team is partnering with the MU Institute for Data Science and Informatics to test machine learning methods for data collection. These methods aim to make the research process more accurate and cost-effective.

“This research will connect audience perspectives with an accounting of local news provision in order to better identify strengths and weaknesses in what outlets could—and should—be providing their consumers,” said Artman.

Pictures of the Year

poj.org/

Pictures of the Year (POY), the oldest photojournalism competition in the world, held its 81st contest this year. More than 1,000 photographers from about 100 different countries submitted more than 32,000 of their best images and stories covering breaking news, portraiture, sports, war photography, local news and more.



Photo by Stephanie Keith. Won First Place in Portraits.

The premier Photographer of the Year award—one of 35 award categories—went to Erin Clark, a staff photographer for the Boston Globe. Clark's portfolio included sports, daily news coverage and innovative images evoked the fallout of the 1989 murder of Carol Stuart, whose killer falsely accused a Black man of the crime, setting off violent unrest and confrontations between police and residents of Boston's Mission Hill neighborhood.

In parallel, work continues on the **POY Archive**, which now houses 40,000 images spanning the contest's 82-year history. The archive features natively digital photographs and museum-quality scans of print submissions. Lynden Steele, RJ's director of photojournalism and news archiving, is working alongside Grace Dickson and students to digitize thousands of winning photographs.

2024 welcomed Marie D. De Jesús as the **new director** of both POY and College Photographer of the Year (CPOY), officially bringing the latter program under RJ's leadership.



Photo by Federico Borella. Won the Environmental Vision Award.



Photo by Katie Orlinsky. Won First Place in Science and Natural History (singles).

MORE THAN
1,000
PHOTOGRAPHERS
FROM ABOUT

100 DIFFERENT
COUNTRIES SUBMITTED

MORE THAN
32,000
IMAGES AND
STORIES

31 JUDGES



Photo by Patrick Smith. Won Sports Photographer of the Year.

Articles and Columnists

More than 165 articles were published on rjionline.org in 2024, authored by staff and a diverse network of industry contributors.

Many articles shared “news you can use,” such as the release of RJI’s Burnout Crisis report. Other articles—like the piece from Nora Hertel, founder of solutions journalism outlet Project Optimist—shared reflections on critical issues facing journalism.

Hertel reflected on the importance of building a stronger support network for news media, writing, “The **need for systemic change** in the field of journalism is perhaps more daunting than updating the business model. The foundations of media are shifting and so is the world: Journalism must become more equitable, less sensationalized, more nuanced.”

RJI’s most shared articles published in 2024

How to authentically ask for audience participation in newsletters

<https://rjionline.org/news/how-to-authentically-ask-for-audience-participation-in-newsletters/>

What makes local journalism local?

<https://rjionline.org/news/what-makes-local-journalism-local/>

Need a radio license quickly? GMRS will help

<https://rjionline.org/news/need-a-radio-license-quickly-gmrs-will-help/>

How to work with a local artist to design merch for your newsroom

<https://rjionline.org/news/how-to-work-with-a-local-artist-to-design-merch-for-your-newsroom/>

How to deepen the impact of newsletter calls to action

<https://rjionline.org/news/how-to-deepen-the-impact-of-newsletter-call-to-actions/>

Where do you start in launching a freelance career?

<https://rjionline.org/news/where-do-you-start-in-launching-a-freelance-career/>

Starting on TikTok? How to create newsroom-specific guidelines

<https://rjionline.org/news/starting-on-tiktok-how-to-create-newsroom-specific-guidelines/>

Six ways to help prevent journalist burnout

<https://rjionline.org/news/six-ways-to-help-prevent-journalist-burnout/>

AiDocMaker, Gamma and PopAI.Pro

<https://rjionline.org/news/aidocmaker-gamma-and-popai-pro/>

Emotional safety for sources, participants and audiences

<https://rjionline.org/news/emotional-safety-for-sources-participants-and-audiences/>

165+
ARTICLES

220,000+
PAGE VIEWS

25+
AUTHORS



Engaging the Industry

In 2024, RJI connected with the journalism industry in numerous ways, sharing the resources developed by our staff, partners and Fellows across social media, newsletters, and conference engagements.

- **Newsletters**, including weekly RJI highlights and Innovation in Focus, now count more than 1,600 subscribers.
- Social first **engagement** continued to grow, with LinkedIn, X, Facebook, Bluesky and Instagram sharing to RJI's more than 19,000 followers across those platforms.
- **RJI Insight**, a biannual print magazine that launched in 2022, offers handy tips and ideas for news professionals drawn from the research and experimentation performed by RJI and its partners. Its sixth issue published in January 2025.
- A **series of interviews** with industry experts (sharing the RJI Insight moniker) was shared on RJI's YouTube channel, which also archives an array of webinars and other events that were filmed throughout the year.



Joe Amditis, assistant director of operations at the Center for Cooperative Media, thanks RJI for its support at the Collaborative Journalism Summit.



Emily Lytle speaks at the Radically Rural Summit.



Randy Picht speaks with Fran Wills, CEO of the Local Media Consortium for a video on RJI's YouTube channel.

Conferences

Staff participated in industry conferences by speaking on panels, teaching workshops and leading tracks. Conferences included:

- Access Fest
- Association of Alternative Newsmedia Conference
- Collaborative Journalism Summit
- Independent Television Group
- Knight Media Forum
- LION Sustainability Summit
- Local Media Association
- Access Fest
- National Association of Broadcasters
- News Product Alliance Summit
- Online News Association Conference
- Radically Rural

1,600+
NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS

19,000+
SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS

10+
CONFERENCES

Nate Brown

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Marie D. De Jesús

DIRECTOR OF POY AND CPOY

Grace Saenz Dickson

PHOTO ARCHIVIST

Kat Duncan

DIRECTOR OF INNOVATION

Kara Edgeron

MISSOURI NEWS NETWORK
DIGITAL DIRECTOR

Austin Fitzgerald

SENIOR WRITER AND EDITOR

Lamar Henderson

DIGITAL DESIGNER AND
WEB ADMIN

Emily Lytle

INNOVATION IN FOCUS EDITOR

Matt MacVey

IMPACT PRODUCER

Travis McMillen

SENIOR MEDIA PRODUCER

Robin Nichols

EVENT COORDINATOR

Randy Picht

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sriya Reddy

INNOVATION TEAM PROJECT
MANAGER

Lynden Steele

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOJOURNALISM
AND NEWS ARCHIVING

Reuben Stern

DIRECTOR OF NEW YORK CITY
PARTNERSHIPS

Joanie Straub

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
AND COMMUNICATION

Katie Swon

SENIOR FISCAL OFFICER

Tom Warhover

EDITOR-AT-LARGE

2024 Innovation Student Staffers

Sophia Anderson
Olivia Dolan
Chioma Obianinwa
Kendall Williams

About RJI

The Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute (RJI) works with the news industry, professors, students and others to make sure journalism has a long and bright future. As a “think-and-do” tank that opened its doors in 2008, RJI uses its guaranteed funding to work exclusively to strengthen journalism in the service of democracy. It’s part of the Missouri School of Journalism.

What's Next

2025 promises to be another year packed with creative and practical support for community news. Here is a glimpse of what's ahead.

RJI and the Local Media Consortium have received a \$2.5 million grant from Knight Foundation to build the **Digital on Demand Services (DODS) learning center**. This platform will support sustainable digital growth in local newsrooms by making development resources, training and do-it-yourself guides from across the industry available—all in one place. RJI will lead the buildout and content curation for the platform.

The newest cohort of Potter Digital Ambassadors will work with their **Missouri newsroom partners** in mid-January. Keep an eye out for updates on their progress and let us know if you want your newsroom to take part next year.

The **2024-25 class of RJI Fellows** are finishing their projects and will present them to the industry in March. Applications for the next Fellows cohort are open now, with the deadline set for February 7, 2025.

The **Women in Journalism Workshop** is currently accepting applications. It will be held April 11-13 at RJI. Students and professionals alike are welcome to apply.

For the first time, **Pictures of the Year (POY)** and **College Photographer of the Year (CPOY)** will be united under the RJI banner. POY will hold its 82nd competition, with judging beginning February 3. The 80th CPOY will take place in the fall.

Learn more

RJI Fellowships <https://rjionline.org/about-rji-fellowships/>

Innovation in Focus <https://rjionline.org/series/innovation-in-focus/>

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