



"This year, we've been able to expand the Champions program in number and scope," said Finn, who also helps run CCN's Vermont-based academic-news partnership. "The best way to grow these programs is to support the people behind them."

Learn more about why enterprising faculty and staff like these are so critical to engaging the next generation of journalists and civic leaders—and how universities are stepping up to forge a sustainable future for local news at <https://www.uvm.edu/ccn>.

### 2025 CCN Champions

**Aje-Ori Agbese**, Associate Professor, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

**Barbara Alfano**, Director of First-Year Forum, Faculty in Cultural Studies and Languages, Bennington College

**J.D. Allen**, Lecturer/Climate Communication Specialist, Stony Brook University

**David Blow**, Professor of Communications, Vermont State University Castleton

**Pete Booker**, General Manager, Delaware Public Media

**Michael Braga**, Professor of Practice, Texas Tech

**Rick Brewer**, News Director, WCMU Public Radio, Central Michigan University

**Asia Burnett**, Station Manager, WKMS, Murray State University

**Lisa Collins**, Professor of Practice, Loyola University New Orleans

**Thomas Conner**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Media Studies, University of Tulsa

**Emily Hughes Corio**, Associate Director, Reed School of Media & Communications, West Virginia University

**Thomas F. Corrigan**, Professor, California State University, San Bernardino





# University of Vermont

an hour Community News



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Ken J. Ward,