

PENNSYLVANIA NEWSROOM INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



IMPACT REPORT
September 2025

**PENNSYLVANIA
NEWSMEDIA
ASSOCIATION
FOUNDATION**

A STATEWIDE COLLABORATION



"NABJ Philadelphia is both honored and pleased to be a part of the inaugural program that will place talented college students in newsrooms across the commonwealth. We expect it to be an ongoing relationship beyond the initial class."

-Michael Days, President, NABJ Philadelphia Chapter



Project Snapshot

The Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association Foundation, in partnership with the National Association of Black Journalists Philadelphia, the Pittsburgh Black Media Foundation and Temple University launched its collaborative internship program designed to connect the next generation of journalism talent with newsrooms across Pennsylvania.

This initiative offered college students from universities statewide the unique opportunity to gain firsthand experience through paid summer internships at participating newsrooms. With the support of grants from the Sandra Hardy/Calkins Foundation and The Lenfest Institute for Journalism, students received a competitive wage of \$20 an hour for internships lasting between 9 to 12 weeks.





THE NEED: A NEWSROOM PIPELINE

...CREATING A DIVERSE PARTNER NETWORK.

In developing this initial pilot, PNA Foundation partnered with the National Association of Black Journalists, Philadelphia chapter and the Pittsburgh Black Media Foundation to create an internship program that would reach journalism students within a wide geographic area to apply. In addition, we partnered with Temple University's Klein College of Media and Communication as a leading student pipeline provider

...CONNECTING STUDENTS TO PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS.

For PNA Foundation, this is a natural progression of our role as a facilitator, connector and network hub. We see linking student journalists to the next phase of their professional career as vital to ensuring a future for local journalism. And for many of the newsrooms in this program, this was the first opportunity in many years to have an intern on staff.

...WIDENING THE SEARCH FOR JOURNALISM TALENT.

Leveraging the association's extensive member network, the sum is greater than its parts. For instance, a student journalist attending Temple University in Philadelphia may reside in Allentown where there is demand for their skills. If those markets limit their recruitment locally, they could miss out on valuable interns and potential hires.



"It has been a win-win for the Chestnut Hill Local and our intern, Brian Nelson. Temple University Professor Denise James did a great job of providing us with such a quality young journalist who has made an impactful difference in our newsroom."

Daralyse Lyons, Publisher, Chestnut Hill Local



STUDENT FUNDING: PHILANTHROPY + NEWSROOMS

Funding Snapshot

It was critical that the program provide intern pay at a competitive wage. The student funding was split among philanthropic grants, newsroom support and in-kind support to administer the program.

Intern Cost: \$85,850*

Donated Funds: \$47,125

Newsroom Funds: \$38,725



Total Donor: \$47,125

The Lenfest Institute for Journalism: \$25,000

Calkins Foundation: \$20,000

PNA Foundation: \$2,125 + In-Kind Project Support

*Eleven interns paid weekly with hours ranging from 28-40 over a nine to 12 -week period.

One newsroom was fully funded at \$8,400.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

PNA

Outreach and coordination of participating newsrooms.

Introduction of newsrooms to candidates and mentors.

PARTNERS/MENTORS

Work with higher education professors to identify and place newsroom interns.

Assignment of newsroom mentors to meet regularly with interns.

NEWSROOMS

Administer intern pay and contribute 50% of the per hour rate.

Oversight/curriculum of the interns.

Regular check-ins and progress reports with PNA Foundation.

PNA FOUNDATION

Oversight including:

- Fundraising/support
- Monthly webinars
- Funding distribution
- Final impact report to funders



One of the most notable things that has occurred during my time at The Inquirer is the confidence I have gained through the mentorship I have received. – Jason Nieves, Student Intern

11 STUDENTS 9 NEWSROOMS



 Chestnut Hill Local

EST. 1992
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The Philadelphia Inquirer

BUCKS COUNTY
Courier Times

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette[®]

 The Philadelphia Tribune

Erie Times News

THE MORNING CALL

TRIB TOTAL MEDIA **TRIB LIVE**

WESTERN PA NEWS REPORTING

A rising senior at Point Park University, Kalliyann Winder is excited about spending her summer as an intern for Tribune-Review/TribLIVE under the tutelage of John Allison, internship coordinator. Winder commented, "It has been a perfect experience at TribLIVE as I was able to jump right in, and I already have 10 stories published and have been able to shadow some incredible journalists.

The reporters at Trib are passionate, they trust and respect each other so it has been a great environment for me to learn."

Allison noted, "We try to provide an atmosphere where there is good interaction between editors, journalists and interns, all while we are covering the breaking news of the day in the newsroom. Kalliyann has been tremendous in her assignments."



KALLIYAN WINDER STORIES

TRIB LIVE KALLIYAN WINDER



Circus coming to Vandergrift

It's not often a circus comes to town. That's why Carl Ward, owner of All Visions Media, was surprised when he came across an ad for the Zerbin Family Circus. Ward thought traveling circuses faded away decades ago. Intrigued, he became involved with the production company that is bringing Zerbin's...



Turner Dairy receives \$750,000 to expand distribution center and

...ca, Turner Dairy Farms in Penn Hills has been a Pittsburgh staple for decades and its reach has expanded. Today, it partners with 35 family-owned dairies within a 70-mile radius. With that wide range, the company was in need of

WESTERN PA NEWS REPORTING

“Ammiela brought curiosity and drive to her fellowship in Erie starting on Day One, and over 10 weeks developed her reporting and interviewing skills around those traits. We expected a quality candidate as a fellow, and we and readers got more yet than we could have hoped. She's been a valued member of the newsroom whom we'll miss.”

- Executive Editor Matt Martin, Erie Times-News



Brian Carroll of the Erie Humane Society on animal safety in the summer heat



Erie's Walking in Black History program leaders discuss importance of annual trip South

Gary Horton and Asia Horton Dickerson are excited for the future of the Walking in Black History trip as Dickerson sets to shift into her new role.

Ammiela Agayev
June 24, 2025, 5:14 a.m. ET

More Videos



UPMC Health Plan opens new neighborhood center in Erie PA

Dorell Showers, program manager for the UPMC Health Plan Neighborhood Center, discusses some of the services the Erie facility will provide.

June 25, 2025

Community gathers in prayer at scene of Marchello's death

Community, with the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, discusses a "Take Back the Site" rally for Marchello D. Woodard on July 30, 2025.

July 2, 2025

Erie County PA Department of Health now testing for measles

Erie County Department of Health director, discusses how wastewater treatment plants can help in the event of another measles outbreak.

July 2, 2025



WESTERN PA NEWS REPORTING

Under the guidance of Jerry Micco, internship coordinator at PPG, interns Katie Hovan from the University of Pittsburgh and Darin Martin from Susquehanna University are benefiting from this hands-on experience.

"The atmosphere has been so welcoming for me, and I have had the opportunity to work a lot of different beats. I love being able to talk with different journalists to get their perspectives especially the new journalists in their 20s that I can really relate to," said Hovan. Martin added, "I have been able to cover the pro soccer team, Riverhounds, along with covering charity events like the Batch Foundation. I have been pleasantly surprised by the level of trust from Jerry and the editors I have received as an intern to write about these games and events for the Post-Gazette."

Micco said it is the organization's goal to give every PPG intern a great opportunity by exposing them to different beats, journalists and events so they are successful and better prepared to join the real world when they graduate.



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Rolling on the river: American Melody steamboat will sail into Pittsburgh on July 4

By Katie Hovan
Get a news tip? 412-263-9601
localnews@post-gazette.com

JUL 2, 2023 10:14 PM

Just in time for the Fourth of July, the **American Melody steamboat** will roll into Pittsburgh Thursday as the last stop on its Grand Ohio Cruise tour.

The four-deck steamboat with a 180-passenger capacity left St. Louis on June 21 for a nine-day trip on the Ohio River. It arrives in Pittsburgh around 8 a.m. and will depart the next day for a nine-day trip to Louisville, Ky.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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Riverhounds draw against Loudoun United after late equalizer

By Darin Martin
Get a news tip? 412-263-9601
localnews@post-gazette.com

JUL 18, 2023 8:54 PM

The Riverhounds played to a 2-2 draw as a late equalizer from Loudoun United denied Pittsburgh a crucial three points in its quest to climb the table.

An early goal by Loudoun's Riley Bidois gave the visitors the lead, before

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EASTERN PA NEWS REPORTING

"...I am so happy to see that my new article covering the Temple job fair is on the front page of the Sunday paper

It was a pleasure meeting Michael Robinson, M.S. and discussing what the annual neighborhood job fair has planned for the future."

-Ashley Green, Student Intern, LinkedIn Post



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VOICE OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Champion



Coco Gauff of the U.S. kisses the trophy after winning the final match of the French Open against Aryna Sabalenka at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris on Saturday.

Coco Gauff handles bad memories and top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka to earn her first French Open title.

PARIS — Depending on the painful memory of her defeat three years ago in the French Open final great Coco Gauff just the motivation she needed even before stepping onto Court Philippe-Chatrier.

The 23-year-old American defeated top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka 7-5(6), 6-4 on Saturday to win her first Grand Slam title, two years after winning the U.S. Open.

"I think (the U.S. Open victory) is a great consolation but this one was harder," said Gauff, who managed to handle the pressure and the momentum swings better than Sabalenka.

"I knew it was going to be about will power and mental strength."

The victory put to rest the bad memories of her 2022 French Open final loss to Iga Swiatek when, as an 18-year-old, Gauff fell overwhelmed even before stepping onto Court Philippe-Chatrier.

"It was tough time, I was doubting myself," Gauff recalled. "I was crying before the match, and so nervous, literally couldn't breathe and stuff."

Gauff said that the hospital has rocked her confidence to such an extent that she was left "in a dark place" and found she was not cut out for winning major titles.

Labor market shows gains

Employers add 139K jobs as unemployment remains near long-time lows.

WASHINGTON — The U.S. labor market showed signs of resilience in May, with employers adding 139,000 jobs and economic uncertainty that has caused some employers to pause hiring.

The unemployment rate held steady at 4.2%, remaining near long-time lows, according to a jobs report released Friday by the Labor Department.

The May labor market data beat economists' expectations of 125,000 job gains and was relatively similar to April's revised figure. The report offered a mixed snapshot of an economy facing headwinds, as consumer spending has slowed.

But the previous two months showed weaker growth than previously thought, with a combined 95,000 in downward job revisions.

Temple hits attendance high at annual Neighborhood Job Fair

Ashley Green
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

The 18th annual Neighborhood Job Fair, considered to be Philadelphia's largest, returned to Temple University on Friday, hitting an attendance record.

According to Michael Robinson, the university's director of community outreach and hiring, there was a record of 621 pre-registered candidates. He also counted 104 employers and community research agencies that participated.

Robinson said since he joined the event's production board in 2011, he's seen an increase in attendance and interest from companies and job seekers.

"It took us about three months in the making for

New 10,000-square-foot STEM center to open in Germantown

O.L. Spivy
TRIBUNE CORRESPONDENT

Local scientist Tyrone Ragsdale, who is known to most as Grand Hank, is embarking on a large-scale project with the goal of increasing science, technology, engineering and math learning for Black and Latino youth in Philadelphia.

The former Johnson & Johnson chemist is renovating and reviving an abandoned two-story building at 501 Armstrong St. in the Germantown section of the city to turn it into a premier science facility where youth can learn in a fun, safe space outdoors.

Through these outdoor events happening now, the center will have 10,000 square feet of indoor space and 8,000 square feet of space outdoors.

The Grand Hank STEM Center will have 10,000 square feet of indoor space and 8,000 square feet of space outdoors.

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Chestnut Hill Local

Friday, July 25, 2025

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Northwest neighbors make 'Good Trouble' at Chestnut Hill West station

PHOTO BY BRIAN NELSON

Protesters wave and shout as drivers pass by the Chestnut Hill West station.

by Brian Nelson

The flyer read, "Sometimes change calls for a little trouble." But the crowd of roughly 150 people gathered at the Chestnut Hill West station seemed more jubilant over the success of their rally than troubled.

Organized after the "No Kings" protests that took place nationally on June 14, President Donald Trump's birthday, the "Good Trouble Lives On" rallies marked the July 17 anniversary of the death of civil rights activist and Congressman John Lewis.

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"Through my internship, I have learned that stories can come from anywhere. I have also learned that it is crucial to differentiate when to be a journalist and when to simply be a good listener"

-Brian Nelson, Student Intern

PENNSYLVANIA NEWSMEDIA ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

EASTERN PA PHOTOJOURNALISM



"I had a great first week interning at FunTimes Magazine as a photojournalism intern! This past weekend I covered the Immigrant Heritage Kick-Off event at Love Park and the 50th Annual Odunde Festival for the magazine. The photos below are from both events. I am excited to continue working hard and see what I can accomplish for the rest of the summer."

-Aidan Gallo, Student Intern, LinkedIn Post


"I started my internship at The Morning Call at the end of May, and it's been incredible. In my first month, I've already had 30+ photo galleries published and three cover pieces. I'm so grateful that I was given the opportunity to learn and gain experience doing something I'm so passionate about. I genuinely still feel like I'm dreaming."

-Oliver Lois Economidis, Student Intern, LinkedIn Post

EASTERN PA VIDEO JOURNALISM

As Philadelphia's District Council 33 continues to strike for an 8th day without a favorable new contract for city employees, Philadelphia Tribune intern Brielle Batchelor spoke to residents who live near the temporary dump site at 60th Street and Columbia Avenue to understand how the strike is affecting their community.



 The Philadelphia Tribune



“ Earlier this month, a devastating fire in the Strawberry Mansion neighborhood of Philadelphia claimed the lives of a pregnant mother and her two young children. Three days after the incident, my colleague and I from The Philadelphia Tribune visited the scene to speak with officials from the Philadelphia Fire Department and the Philadelphia City Council to see what efforts were being made to stop fires before they even happen.

In response to the tragedy, PFD members went door-to-door throughout the neighborhood, checking smoke alarms in nearby homes and installing new ones free of charge to prevent future loss of life.

- Brielle Batchelor, Student intern LinkedIn Post

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS AND NEXT STEPS

STUDENTS

- Transportation an issue for some students. Look to add a travel stipend in future program.
- Readiness training feedback was that it was too long, basic. Shorten training and have more options.
- Would like more interaction with other students and mentors. Add in-person or Zoom calls during the internship program.

NEWSROOMS

- Build in more time for newsrooms to interview more candidates.
- Review internship processes with newsrooms that have current programs.

MENTORS

- Mentors need to be more connected to the newsroom, not just the students.
- Expand universities as pipeline feeders who can therefore serve as mentors.

PNA/PNAF

- Recruit students earlier in the process.
- Add additional partners and newsrooms to fill in gap in central Pennsylvania.
- Start with newsroom needs earlier in the process for better matching opportunities.
- Review MOU's and add more specific language on payment schedule.



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