



2025-2026

Impact Report



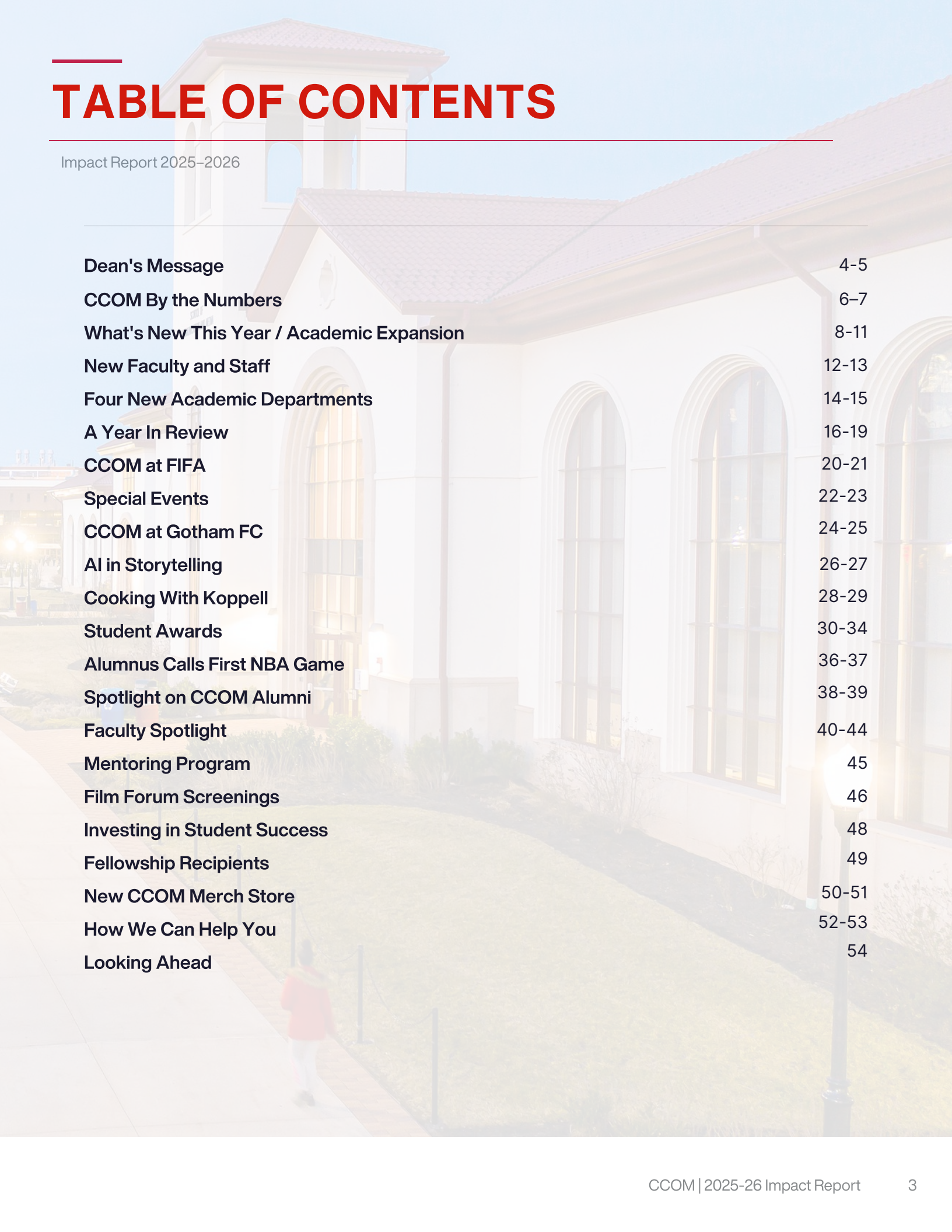


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Impact Report 2025–2026

Dean's Message	4-5
CCOM By the Numbers	6-7
What's New This Year / Academic Expansion	8-11
New Faculty and Staff	12-13
Four New Academic Departments	14-15
A Year In Review	16-19
CCOM at FIFA	20-21
Special Events	22-23
CCOM at Gotham FC	24-25
AI in Storytelling	26-27
Cooking With Koppell	28-29
Student Awards	30-34
Alumnus Calls First NBA Game	36-37
Spotlight on CCOM Alumni	38-39
Faculty Spotlight	40-44
Mentoring Program	45
Film Forum Screenings	46
Investing in Student Success	48
Fellowship Recipients	49
New CCOM Merch Store	50-51
How We Can Help You	52-53
Looking Ahead	54



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

To the CCOM Community,

What an incredible first year we experienced as our own College, filled with national student awards, faculty excellence and recognition, new academic programs, alumni success, transformative industry partnerships, and tremendous momentum across our community.

The CCOM spirit is reflected throughout this year's Impact Report and strongly reflects our wider, University goals: Optimizing Student Access and Success, Driving Academic Excellence and Innovation, Expanding Reach and Amplifying Impact, and Building Institutional Strength and Resilience.

At CCOM, we believe students shouldn't have to wait until graduation to begin building their careers. From their first semester, they are encouraged to create, collaborate, tell stories, solve problems, and gain real-world experience alongside faculty, classmates, alumni, and industry professionals. Our students work on film sets, produce live broadcasts, cover major events, create podcasts and digital content, lead student media organizations, and partner on innovative research and collaborate on projects that win national awards. They learn with the same technologies and equipment used by professionals and produce content in state-of-the-art studios and production spaces.

We also continue to create new opportunities that set a CCOM education apart. Our new Dreamscape Learn lab will introduce students to emerging technologies and unique forms of storytelling. Our Mentoring and Semester in L.A. programs continue to connect students directly with accomplished professionals and alumni. Longstanding partnerships with NBC 4 New York/Telemundo 47 and Sony bring the industry even closer to our students. We've embraced the future with AI-focused courses and production, and with Montclair now home to NJ PBS, we're entering an exciting new era for public media, education, and experiential learning.

None of these accomplishments happen without exceptional faculty and professional staff. Our faculty bring creativity, expertise, scholarship, professional accomplishments, and an extraordinary commitment to our students, while our talented professional staff work every day to support our students, strengthen our programs, and tell impactful stories about our community.

Perhaps one of the strongest measures of CCOM's momentum is our continued growth. Higher education nationwide is navigating significant enrollment challenges as the long-anticipated "enrollment cliff" reshapes the landscape. Against that backdrop, CCOM continues to attract talented students who see tremendous value in an education that connects academic excellence with meaningful professional experience.

I'm incredibly proud of what we have achieved during our first year as a College and even more excited about where we are headed. Thank you for being part of our CCOM community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Keith Strudler

Dean College of Communication and Media

GROWING FAST

GROWING TOGETHER

1,847 Undergraduates enrolled in Fall 2025
Up from 1,286 in Fall 2021 **↑ 44%**

681

First-generation
students enrolled
in Fall 2025

7

Undergraduate
majors

3

Majors launched
since Fall 2021

Five years of enrollment data from across the college, where our students are coming from, and their majors.

Film and Television

679

Up from 329 students
in Fall 2021

+ 350 Students

Sports Communication

229

Up from 106 students
in Fall 2021

+ 123 Students

Social Media and PR

208

Up from 98 students
in Fall 2021

+ 110 Students

Animation and VFX

147

Launched in 2022 with
1 student

New Program

Advertising

110

Launched in 2021 with
1 student

New Program

Journalism and Digital Media

116

Up from 86 students
in Fall 2021

+ 30 Students

Communication and Media Studies

358

From 416 majors in Fall 2021, as
students shift into specialized tracks

Roughly 20% of Student Body

WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR

New International Diploma in Journalism and Digital Media Certificate

Roxane Depaire made history by becoming the first student to earn the International Diploma in Journalism and Digital Media Certificate from the College of Communication and Media (CCOM) at Montclair State University.

Originally from southwestern France and now studying in Paris at the EFAP International School of Communication, Depaire said the program helped her fulfill a long-held dream.



"Since I started my studies, I have dreamed of going abroad to study for a year in the U.S. When I discovered this program, I knew it would be a perfect fit for me and my goals."

— Roxane Depaire, International Diploma Graduate

Dreamscape Lab



Throughout the academic year, the [Dreamscape Learn Lab](#) has been in development and testing in partnership with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA), culminating in a state-of-the-art lab featuring an immersive classroom and virtual reality pod. Launching in Fall 2026, the lab is a cutting-edge educational initiative built through Dreamscape Learn that combines virtual reality, cinematic storytelling, and experiential learning.

Housed within the College, the Lab will operate under CCOM's oversight, which will guide its integration into academic and experiential learning opportunities across the university.

Online M.A. in Strategic Communication and Media

Montclair's online Strategic Communication and Media master's program is a flexible, stackable degree that was launched in the Fall 2025 semester to prepare professionals to lead with strategy, insight and modern communication tools in a rapidly evolving media landscape.

The optional, in-person agency immersion course combines Montclair's hallmark experiential learning opportunities with the flexibility of online learning modules. Graduates are prepared to analyze audiences, shape messaging and lead complex communication efforts that have real impact.



[Learn More About the Program](#)

“This program has exceeded my expectations. At first, I wasn’t sure whether online was the right format for me, but I was still able to build meaningful connections while balancing work life, personal life, and my role as a graduate assistant.”

— **Amanda Saintina**, Strategic Communication and Media M.A. Student

“I chose this program because I wanted to transition from psychology to working in the media industry, particularly I want to work in social media management.”

— **Gabriella La Rosa**, Strategic Communication and Media M.A. Student

“There’s so much to learn. The professors and the community here is so responsive and so supportive that it’s the best possible experience.”

— **Delaney Butler**, Strategic Communication and Media M.A. Student



Montclair Named New Operator of New Jersey's Public Television Stations

OPBS

New Jersey State Treasurer Aaron Binder and Montclair State University announced that Montclair has been selected as the new programming and management operator of New Jersey's four FCC-licensed public television stations. The University and the College of Communication and Media will manage NJ PBS beginning July 1, 2026. The selection brings public media back home to New Jersey with broadcast-ready facilities, a statewide journalism network, and a fiscally responsible plan built for the long term.



[Full Article](#)

New Faculty



Eli Bosnick
Assistant Teaching Professor
of Film and Television



Bryan DeNovellis
Assistant Teaching Professor
of Sports Media



Julia Kots
Assistant Professor of
Film and Television



Dr. Kevin Lerner
Professor and Chair
of Journalism and Sports Media



Jason Mandel
Assistant Teaching Professor
of Advertising



Victor Morales
Assistant Teaching Professor
of Animation and VFX



Alexandra Fermin
Assistant Dean for Finance
and Administration



Keith Green
Director of Communications
and Strategic Operations

PROMOTIONS

New Staff Roles



Amanda Brandt
Career Advisor



Kaya Maciak
Digital Media and
Communications Specialist



Angelic McDowall
Program Associate



Vicki Nauta
Director of Career Services



Al Prieto
Special Assistant to the Dean



Dr. Laura Ryblewski
Assistant Dean of Student
Success

Brianna Casagrande Vega
Academic Advisor



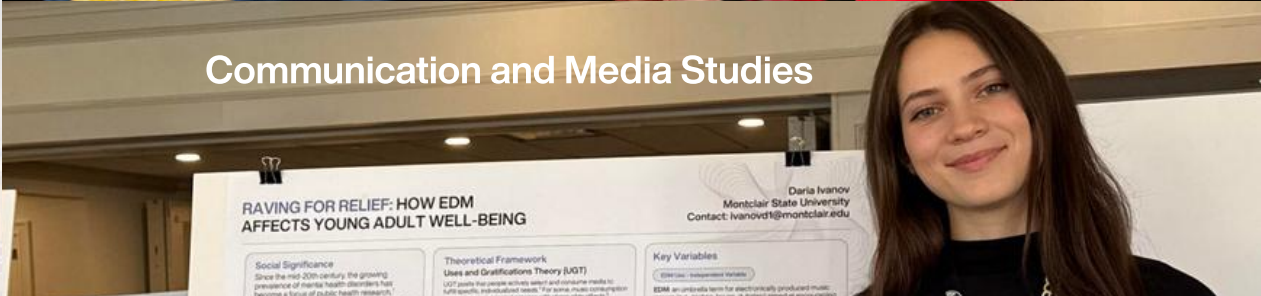
Dr. Todd Kelshaw
Associate Dean for Faculty
and Academic Affairs

CCOM is proud to announce the appointment of 12 faculty and staff and the promotions of three professional staff.

Four New Academi



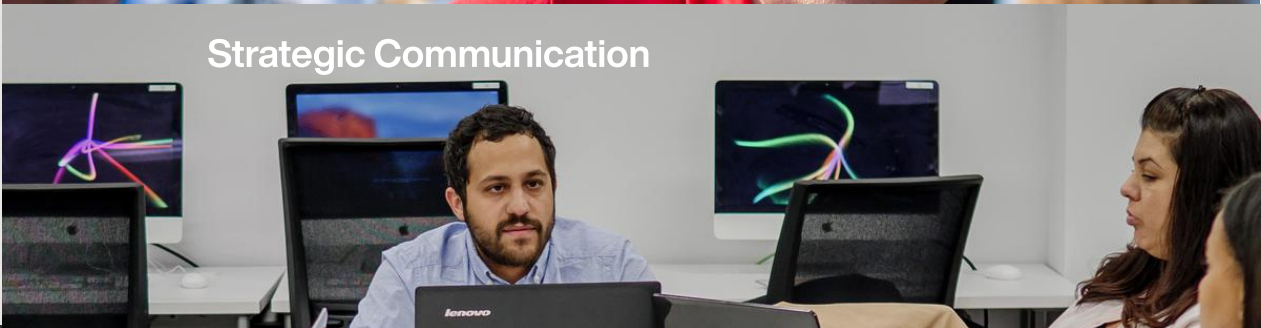
Animation, Film, and Television



Communication and Media Studies



Journalism and Sports Media



Strategic Communication

In becoming an independent College, CCOM established four new departments this year, bringing strong leadership and streamlined coordination to our seven undergraduate majors.

c Departments

Chaired by Stuart MacLelland, the department offers a BA in Film and Television, covering the full production pipeline from concept to screen, including screenwriting, storyboarding, live-action shooting, and digital editing. Also housed here is the BFA in Animation and Visual Effects, where students work in state-of-the-art facilities on 2D and 3D animation, game development, and immersive storytelling.

Chaired by Dr. Christopher McKinley, the BA in Communication and Media Studies prepares students for meaningful careers and civic engagement through an interdisciplinary curriculum in media, politics, and communication strategy. Students graduate with hands-on skills in presentation, leadership, and media production, ready to navigate a rapidly evolving communication landscape.

Chaired by Dr. Kevin Lerner, the department offers a BA in Journalism and Digital Media, where students write, report, and produce content across TV, radio, web, and social platforms, and the BA in Sports Communication and Journalism, that prepares students to bring the energy of sports storytelling into a competitive, fast-growing field.

Co-chaired by Dr. Bond Benton and Dr. Jin-A Choi, this department includes a BA in Social Media and Public Relations, which trains students to craft content across earned, shared, and owned media through storytelling and data analytics, and a BA in Advertising, which focuses on building campaigns that connect brands with audiences through paid media.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2025-2026

SEPTEMBER 2025

STEVE ADUBATO '80 AND PRESIDENT KOPPELL SPEAK AT HOMECOMING



Emmy Award-winning broadcaster and Montclair alumnus Steve Adubato joined President Jonathan Koppell for a live taping of "Think Tank with Steve Adubato" during Homecoming 2025. The episode explored leadership, the state of American media, and higher education's role in civic engagement.



NOVEMBER

#FOCUS: 2025 ELECTION NIGHT

This fall semester's FOCUS production represented a collaborative project among our student media organizations, spotlighting the key issues that matter most to the Montclair community and our state during this critical election.

FALL 2025

NY GIANTS COLLEGE GAMEDAY EXPERIENCE

CCOM students went behind the scenes at the New York Giants College Student Game Day Experience, made possible through the SEBE Foundation. The two-day experience gave students firsthand insight into sports media, production and gameday operations while connecting them with industry professionals and career opportunities in the sports industry.

FALL 2025

NEW ECC-MONTCLAIR TRANSFER AGREEMENT



The BFA Animation and VFX program created a seamless pathway for Essex Community College students in the AAS New Media Technology program to complete their bachelor's degrees at Montclair, opening new doors for community college students across New Jersey.



JANUARY

ALUMNI AT THE XXV OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Seven Montclair students and alumni, alongside Professor Stacy Gitlin, contributed to NBC Sports' coverage of the Milan Winter Olympics. Gitlin worked her fourth Olympic Games overall, helping connect six recent graduates with NBC production roles. Jason Naccarella '23, an Emmy winner from the Paris Games, returned for his second Olympics.



MARCH

STUDENTS PRODUCE WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL DOCUMENTARY

Montclair made history as the first University in New Jersey to introduce women's flag football as a varsity sport. Students in the SPTC Sports Production class documented the Red Hawks' inaugural season, from their dominant ECAC run to a deep playoff push, in a five-episode "Hard Knocks"-style documentary series..."Red Hawks Rising."

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2025-2026

MARCH 2026

ON THE ROAD IN D.C.



Students traveled to Washington, D.C. for the "On the Road: Reporting from the Field" course, producing a documentary special, *Washington D.C.: We the People*. Led by Professor Steve McCarthy, students gained hands-on experience in field reporting and production while covering issues like homelessness, environmental justice, and immigration, reflecting CCOM's commitment to experiential, real-world journalism.



MARCH

MONTCLARION EDITIONS NOW AT BLOOMFIELD COLLEGE

Editor-in-Chief David Bien-Aime and Emily Rutter, the former Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Bloomfield College, delivered the latest edition to Bloomfield College, the first time The Montclarion has been distributed on another campus.



APRIL

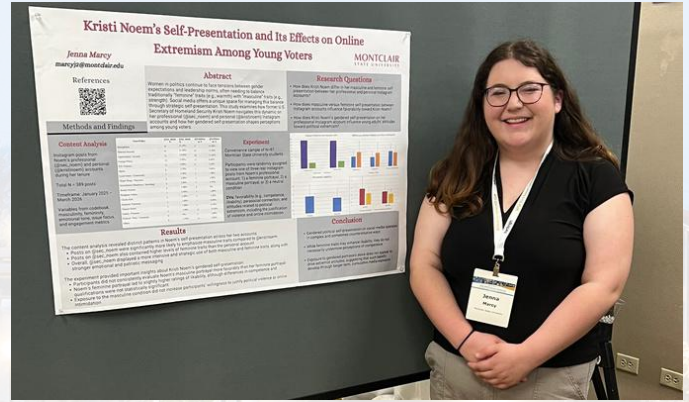
FOCUS: AI JOURNEYS

The spring semester's FOCUS production had students examining how Gen Z are navigating the rise of AI. Over several months, students researched, reported, shot, edited, and animated six original segments. The project also featured interviews with digital media expert Sree Sreenivasan and Joe Amditis of the Center for Cooperative Media.



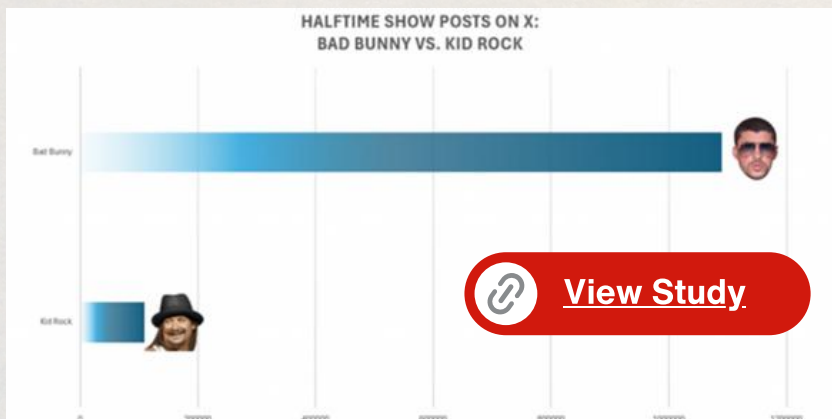
APRIL NETFLIX FILMS AT CCOM

CCOM's Ethan Batista, Daniel Harris, Daniela Jimenez, and Gabriel Rivas gained hands-on experience as location assistants for BMO during Netflix's Roommates, a comedy produced by Happy Madison Productions and filmed on campus. BMO's year-round efforts to bring professional film productions to Montclair and integrate students and alumni reinforce Montclair's commitment to experiential learning.



APRIL STUDENTS PRESENT AT TOP ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

Communication and Media Studies students Jenna Marcy (in the photo above) and Daria Ivanov presented their research at national academic conferences in Chicago and Pittsburgh, exploring online extremism among young voters and how EDM affects young adult well-being.



FEATURED STUDY HALFTIME SHOW POSTS

A social media data analytics study by Dr. Bond Benton, Dr. Jin-A Choi and Dr. Yi Luo from the Joetta DiBella and Fred C. Sautter III Center for Strategic Communication compared reactions to the 2026 Super Bowl halftime performances by Bad Bunny and Kid Rock.

CCOM at FIFA 2026



FIFA

NEW YORK
NEW JERSEY

Nine CCOM students and alumni were selected for the FIFA Host Broadcast Intern Programme, gaining hands-on experience behind the scenes of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.



FIFA WORLD CUP 2026 CHAMPIONS



Congratulations to the following students:

Jose Calderon III – Commentary Control Room (CCR) Assistant

Mackenzie Cochran – Liaison Assistant

Philip Ehlers – CCR Assistant

Genevieve Fara – Liaison Assistant

Thomas Gaffney Jr. – Production Assistant

Joseph Micciche – 360 Assistant

Giancarlo Quesada – CCR Assistant

Christian Staniec – CCR Assistant

Asita Sylla – IT Assistant



YOGI'S BIG CATCH CHALLENGE SEPTEMBER 21

The Yogi Berra Museum set a new Guinness World Records™ title for the biggest continuous game of catch, with 2,358 participants, in honor of what would have been Yogi Berra's 100th birthday. Students from Hawk Communications managed media relations, Montclair News Lab journalists reported live for Hawk+, Red Hawk Sports Network produced a 45-minute pre-event broadcast, and WMSC 90.3 FM hosted a two-hour live show.



RHSN HOMECOMING SEPTEMBER 27

Forty students produced a live five-hour pre-game and football broadcast in front of a packed Sprague Field with nine cameras and a full EVS control room. Junior director Phil Ehlers led the crew after two years on the team; Senior Heidy Carranza Alvarado operated EVS for the third consecutive year.



STUDENTS PRODUCE FIRST MOUNTAIN MUSIC FESTIVAL FEBRUARY 13

A new collaboration between the College of Communication and Media and the College of the Arts gave students the opportunity to fully produce the inaugural First Mountain Music Festival, a live concert event featuring local indie and alternative artists.

SPECIAL



DANNIS B. EATON SPEECH COMPETITION NOVEMBER 10

The Public Speaking Resource Center (PRSC) presented the Dannis B. Eaton Speech Competition on the theme "My Home." Five students from majors ranging from Molecular Biology to Animation and VFX took the stage, exploring cultural heritage, religion, community belonging, and the search for identity.



OLGA MIKUTINA WATCH PARTY FEBRUARY 17

Presentation Hall buzzed with excitement as students cheered on Montclair student and five-time Austrian national champion (2020–21, 2024–26) Olga Mikutina as she competed in the women's short program on the Olympic stage. Hosted by Red Hawk Sports Network, the watch party drew students from across campus.



CCOM HOSTS ITS FIRST CAREER FAIR MARCH 25

The College hosted its inaugural Career Fair on March 25, presented by Hawk Communications and CCOM Career Services. Students networked with representatives from NBCUniversal, WNBC, and Telemundo 47, heard from featured speakers including WNBC News 4 anchor David Ushery, and connected with industry employers.

EVENTS



FORMER EDITORS-IN-CHIEF OF THE MONTCLARION RETURN TO CAMPUS APRIL 8

Ten former Editors-in-Chief spanning 2004 to the present gathered at a reception celebrating The Montclarion's history. The event is the first in a series leading to The Montclarion's 100th anniversary in 2028.



PUBLIC SPEAKING RESOURCE CENTER INAUGURAL OPEN HOUSE APRIL 13

PSRC held its first open house at Morehead Hall, Room 214, welcoming students, faculty, and staff to learn about speech coaching and communication support available across the entire university community.



Sophomore Communication and Media Studies major Tori Mcklaine covered a Gotham FC game as part of the team's College Media Corp Initiative, which is managed by CCOM alum and Communications Coordinator Cole Kutner.

 [Full Article](#)

CCOM AT GOTHAM FC



AI IN STORY



Students in FMTV 261-07: AI Tools for Film and Television spent the semester integrating AI into every stage of production, from pre-production and scripting to editing and sound design. Led by Professor Stuart MacLelland, the students' screenings showcased original, AI-enhanced projects built to industry standards, demonstrating hands-on experience using machine learning tools throughout the creative process.

Production Process

Pre-Production

Concept art, AI-assisted scripting, storyboards, and character/story development.

Production

Virtual cinematography, avatar systems, synthetic actors, and voice performance direction.

Post-Production

AI-assisted editing, compositing, upscaling, rotoscoping, and narrative-coherence passes.

Sound/Score

AI music scoring, ambience, foley, and voice-model sound design.

TELLING



Every student team completed an AI Ethics Presentation and maintained a process-documentation log, recording which tools were used at each stage and affirming respect for copyright, actor likeness, and dataset transparency. Misrepresenting AI-generated work as unaided human output was treated as a matter of academic integrity, reinforcing the professional standards students will carry into the industry.

Tools in the Toolkit

Voice + Audio

ElevenLabs, Wondercraft, AIVA, Suno, Soundraw, Adobe Podcast, Descript.

Editing

DaVinci Resolve, Premiere Pro, Final Cut, After Effects with AI plugins.

Production Management

AI-assisted scheduling and call sheets via Filmustage and Studiovity.
Grounded in Ethics

COOKING WITH KOPPELL

SEASON 5

Cooking with Koppell features President Koppell and members of the Red Hawk community preparing their favorite dishes over fun and engaging conversations. CCOM students are involved in every stage of the production process to bring the shows to life, from research and pre-production work to post production.

For the Season 5 premiere, Dr. Sudha Wadhvani of CAPS shared her grandmother's beloved Aloo Gobi recipe, and the family story behind it.



Café 1908 bartender Tom Ormond joined President Koppell in the kitchen to prepare his wife's famous egg drop wonton soup, while sharing the story of making a major career change later in life.



Political science major Abigail Rodriguez shared her passion for education policy with President Koppell while teaching him how to make a Puerto Rican classic, Mofongo.



Season 5 Student Production Crew

Faith Amero, Shane Arzinger, Aaron Bloom, Jaames Bonassisa, Benjamin Bowden, Kim Lacarillao, Millie Monks, Amelody Martinez, Saad Othman, Giancarlo Rey, Kaley Ross, Kevin Salado

Taught and supervised by **Professor Nicole Pometti**

STUDENT



AWARDS





Two Edward R. Murrow Awards October 17

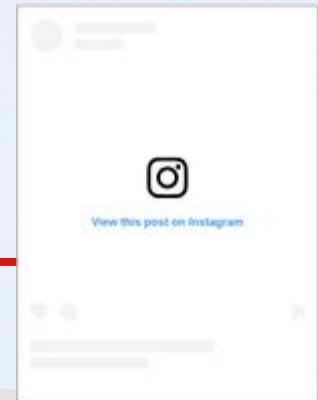
CCOM student productions earned two Edward R. Murrow Awards: “Arizona Stories: Border, Water and Politics” for Excellence in Video Newscast and “#FOCUS Democracy: Our Election” for Excellence in Video Hard News.



WMSC and Red Hawk Sports Network Honored at 2025 CBI Awards October 22-25

WMSC received three first-place honors for Best Student Media Website, Best Audio Hard News Reporting and Best Video Feature News Reporting. The station also earned third place for Radio Station of the Year and Best Hard News Reporting for its coverage of the California fires aftermath, as well as fourth place for Best Sports Reporting for its March Madness Sweet 16 coverage.

Red Hawk Sports Network secured two major national awards, including first place for Best Live Sports Broadcast Video for its coverage of the Men’s NJAC Basketball Finals.



The Montclarion Earns National Honors at CMA Apple Awards March 4-7

The Montclarion earned third place in Division 1 for Best Opinion Column, with Miranda Burnett recognized for her piece, “When ICE Watches, Trust Disappears.”

David Bien-Aime, Emily Ramirez and Mya Cialini received an honorable mention for Best Social Media Coverage of a Single Event for their Instagram video covering the Yogi Berra Big Catch event, which set a Guinness World Records title for the largest game of catch ever.



**MontclairInCostaRica
Nominated for Two Awards**
March 17

Professor Franklin's Spring 2025 Costa Rica study abroad class was recognized with two nominations in the GoAbroad Innovation Awards. The class's #MontclairInCostaRica Instagram campaign was nominated for its creative use of social media.



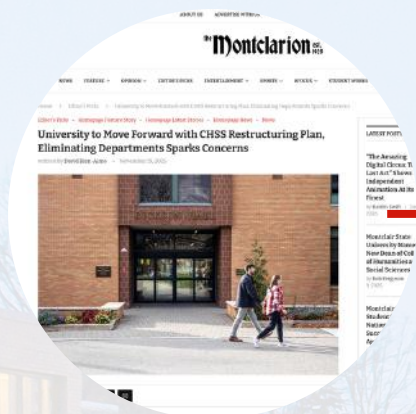
**The Montclarion Wins Five New
Jersey Press Foundation (NJPF)
Awards**
March 23

- First Place (Online Video): Jeimmy Garita for her feature video on "The First Mountain Music Festival."
- Second Place (General Excellence): The Montclarion Staff for the "Election Impact Edition" and "The Essentials Edition" magazines.
- Second Place (Photography): David Bien-Aime and Sophia Lazaridis for their "Photo Essay: Capturing the School Spirit of Red Hawk Day."
- Third Place (Biography/Personality Profile): David Bien-Aime and Olivia Grace Yayla for their Student Spotlight pieces on Damian Cacciato and a cancer survivor's artistic journey.
- Third Place (Layout and Design): Thomas Sheridan for his design work on "The Montclarion's 2025 Player of the Year: Jacob Morales."



**Montclair Students Win 'College
Emmy' for Fourth Year at 45th
College Television Awards**
March 28

The student-produced multimedia production, "San Francisco: On the Edge," received the College Television Award in the News category, highlighting CCOM's continued excellence in journalism and storytelling.



The Montclarion SPJ Awards April 23

Finalist in Region 1 "Mark of Excellence" Awards in the Category of "Campus Reporting": David Bien-Aime, Bianca Valenzano and Tom Boud.



PRSSA Earns Second Place Nationally in the Bateman Competition May 5

Five graduating CCOM seniors represented the University as finalists, advancing from a field of 46 university teams nationwide, and winning second place.



Folio Awards June 11

Talented student creators behind two projects that won at the 2026 Folio Awards hosted by the Fair Media Council!

- Social Media and Campaigning: Won Best Visual & Multimedia Storytelling
- "San Francisco On The Edge": Won Best Talk Show/Magazine

“Looking back, Montclair News Lab taught me the most and was closest to real industry experience.”

Montclair CCOM Alum Nicholas Mulkay Builds a Career in Production at NBCUniversal

Mulkay on set for NBC production, the Extra Mile Club.

ALUMNUS CALLS



College of Communication and Media (CCOM) alumnus Jonathan Edmond ('22) reached a major professional milestone on December 14, calling his first NBA game.



[Full Article](#)

FIRST NBA GAME



MORE ALUMNI ON THE RISE



Grace Keane '24
Production Assistant, FOX Nation

Grace Keane's path to live television production started long before she stepped into a control room as a production assistant for Fox Nation. Inspired by her father's journey from a local Pennsylvania station to national networks CNBC and UNTV, she arrived at Montclair ready to build a career in media. Keane graduated in 2024 with a degree in Film and Television and took full advantage of CCOM's hands-on learning opportunities, participating in News Lab and FOCUS productions. Those experiences helped shape the foundation she now relies on in her career at Fox Nation.



Teresa Gomez '24

Associate Producer | Creative & Account Services
The Walt Disney Company

Teresa leveraged her News Lab and Mentoring Program experience into a full-time role at The Walt Disney Company. What began as an interest in Journalism and Digital Media at Montclair became a launchpad for her career in the news and entertainment industries.



Miriam Aguirre '24

Production Assistant
Lippe Taylor

Miriam turned her passion for storytelling and social media into a successful career in public relations. After gaining valuable experience through internships at Edelman, Litzky Public Relations, and a full-time role at M Booth, she now serves as an Account Executive at Lippe Taylor, one of the nation's leading earned marketing agencies.



Claudia Challender '23

Communications Professional
Exelon

Now a communications professional at Exelon, Claudia Challender credits her time at CCOM, including her experience with Hawk Communications and as a student athlete with helping prepare her for a career in the field.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



PROFESSOR MEGHAN GILL PRESENTS AT TECHSPO '26

Professor Meghan Gill was a co-presenter for a Panel Presentation, "4 C's for 2 E's: What Your School May Be Overlooking in Teaching Exceptional Students and How to Fix It."



PROFESSOR DAVE KAPLAN HONORED BY SABR WITH RUSSELL GABAY AWARD

Adjunct Professor Dave Kaplan received SABR's 2026 Russell Gabay Award for his ongoing commitment to baseball in New Jersey, including his role founding the Yogi Berra Museum and the Muth Museum.



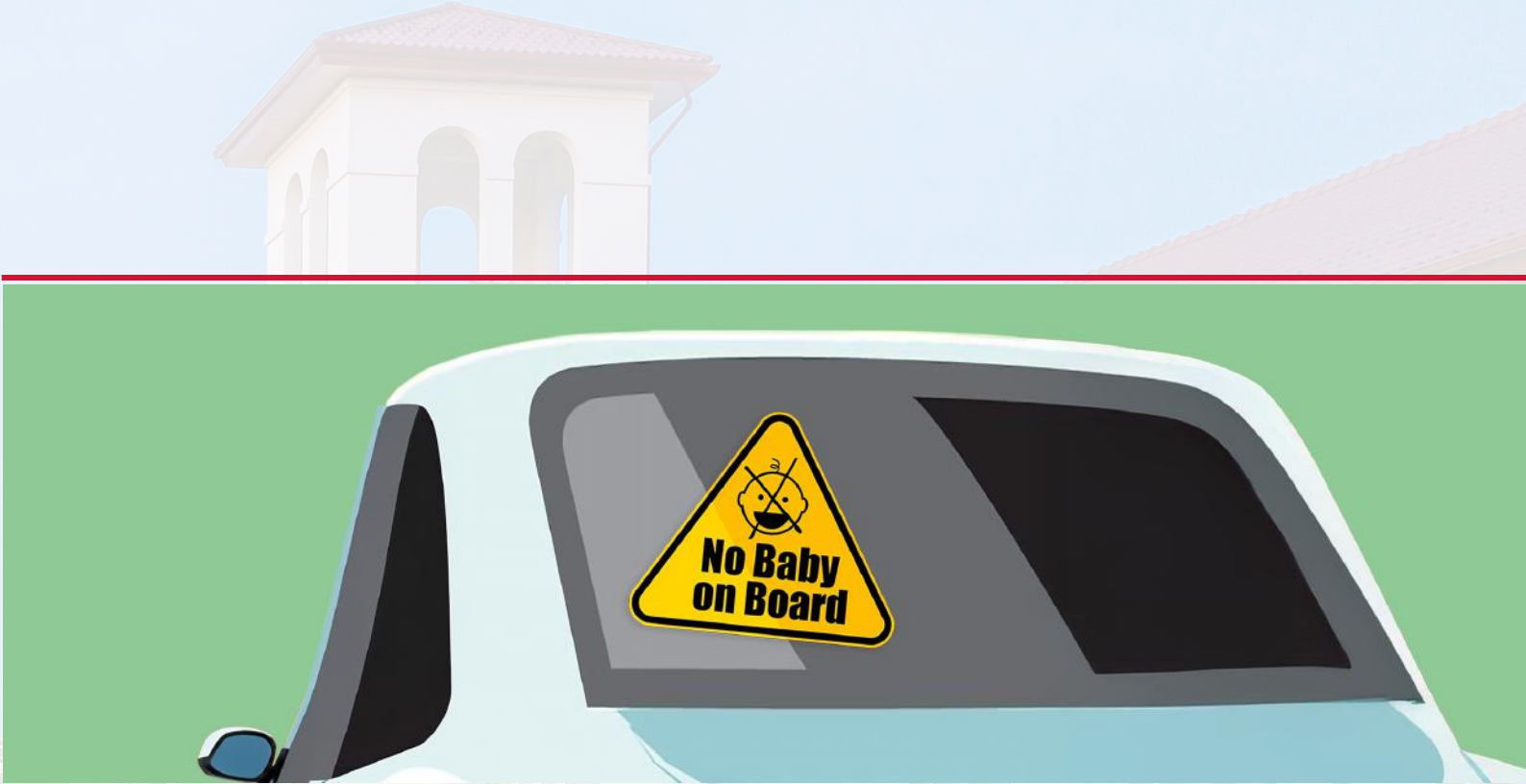
DR. PENNEY ON CBC NEWS

Dr. Joel Penney appeared on CBC News (Canadian national TV) to discuss the Super Bowl halftime show and political divides.



MONTCLAIR FACULTY AND STAFF SPEAK AT COLLEGE MEDIA ASSOCIATION

Adjunct Professor Tim Scheld and Al Prieto, Special Assistant to the Dean and Faculty Advisor of The Montclarion, spoke at the College Media Association convention in New York on March 5 on the subject, "Broadcast is Not a Dirty Word."



NJ PREMIERE OF ASSISTANT PROFESSOR'S FEATURE DOCUMENTARY FILM

A comedic, partially-animated feature documentary film titled "NO BABY ON BOARD", by Professor Julia Kots, about why women aren't having kids, had its NJ Premiere at the Garden State Film Festival on March 26-29.

AMERICAN GOTHIC

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAN GOTHIC CONFERENCE

Dr. Marylou Naumoff presented at the biennial Society for the Study of the American Gothic conference in Salem, Massachusetts. Her paper, "She Was Asking for It: Female Agency, Misogyny, and Obsession in Nosferatu," examined the film's portrayal of race, gender and the monstrous feminine, arguing that the 2024 film reflects contemporary anxieties surrounding white femininity amid ongoing debates about American identity.



PROFESSOR LAUREN CARR'S SHORT FILM WINS HONORABLE MENTION AT THE ATHENS INTERNATIONAL ART FILM FESTIVAL

Professor Lauren Carr's short film "Le Violon Crie" won an honorable mention at the Athens International Monthly Art Film Festival. It also won Best Animated Short at the Rohip International Film Festival and was additionally screened at the New York Movie Awards and the London Movie Awards.



HEALTH MISINFORMATION PUBLICATION

Dr. Christopher McKinley and Dr. Yi Luo co-edited a special issue in Frontiers in Communication on health misinformation across communication contexts. McKinley also published research in the journal "Mass Communication on Vaccine Misinformation."



DR. YI LUO RECOGNIZED FOR AI LEADERSHIP PRESIDENTIAL EXCELLENCE HONORABLE MENTION

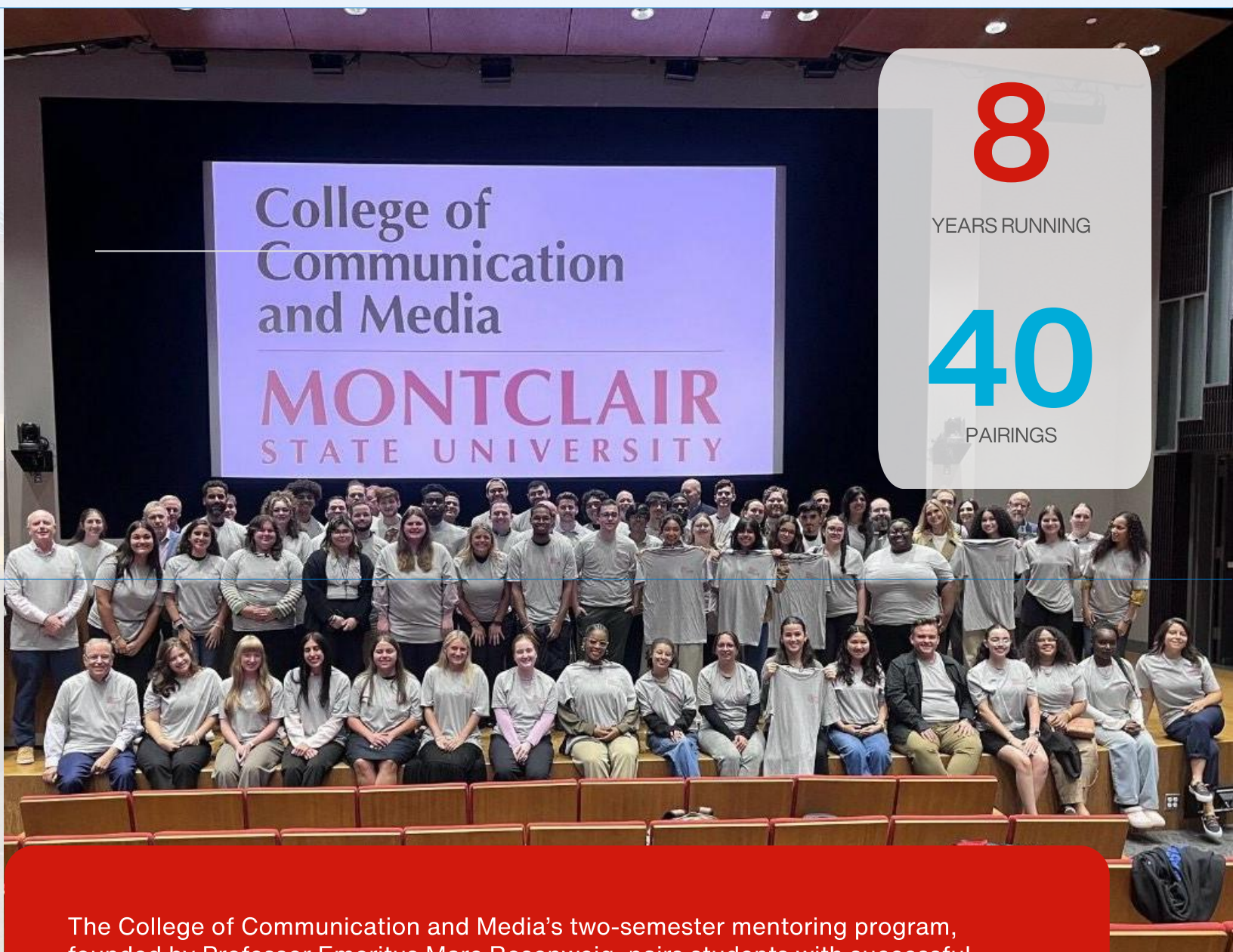
Dr. Yi Luo, a research faculty member at the Montclair AI Hub, was part of the team honored in the Collective Impact category at the Presidential Excellence Awards. She leads the Montclair AI Seminar Series and co-chairs the University Senate's Generative AI Committee. Dr. Yi Luo also presented her research at two sessions at the 2026 Faculty and Staff Showcase: AI at Montclair.



PROFESSOR THOMAS FRANKLIN'S 9/11 PHOTOGRAPH FEATURED ON NBC

Thomas E. Franklin's iconic photograph of three FDNY firefighters raising an American flag over the ruins of the World Trade Center was featured on NBC Nightly News with Tom Llamas on Monday June 29. The image appeared as part of a segment exploring the symbolism of the American flag in advance of the nation's 250th anniversary celebration

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



The College of Communication and Media's two-semester mentoring program, founded by Professor Emeritus Marc Rosenweig, pairs students with successful Montclair alumni and industry professionals across the communication and media fields to support their career development and academic success. 2025 marked the eighth year of the program with a record number of 40 pairings.

FILM FORUM SCREENINGS

SEPTEMBER 9

- * MANOS SUCIAS/DIRTY HANDS
WRITER AND
CINEMATOGRAPHER
ALAN BLANCO



SEPTEMBER 16

- * FAMILIAL TOUCH
CINEMATOGRAPHER AND
CAMERA OPERATOR
GABE ELDER



SEPTEMBER 23

- * SECRET MALL APARTMENT
DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, AND
EDITOR JEREMY WORKMAN



SEPTEMBER 30

- * ON SWIFT HORSES
DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, AND
WRITER DANIEL MINAHAN



OCTOBER 7

- * ART SPIEGELMAN: DISASTER
IS MY MUSE
DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER
PHILIP DOLIN



OCTOBER 14

- * BEING BUBLÉ & FLATBUSH
DEMEANORS
WRITER, AND DIRECTOR
DAN PERLMAN



OCTOBER 28

- * OOD BAD THINGS
ACTOR AND PRODUCER
STEVE WAY



Film Forum leverages our wonderfully dedicated filmmaking faculty, our rich resources in film, and film scholarship together with the impressive array of film industry assets and opportunities in New York City, New Jersey, and Los Angeles

NOVEMBER 4

- * APOCALYPSE IN THE
TROPICS (2024)
EDITOR, DIRECTOR, AND
PRODUCER DAVID BARKER



NOVEMBER 11

- * OH, HI!
DIRECTOR, WRITER, AND
PRODUCER SOPHIE BROOKS



NOVEMBER 18

- * BLUE SUN PALACE
PRODUCER SALLY SUNJIN
OH



NOVEMBER 25

- * BAD SHABBOS
EDITOR KAIT PLUM



DECEMBER 2

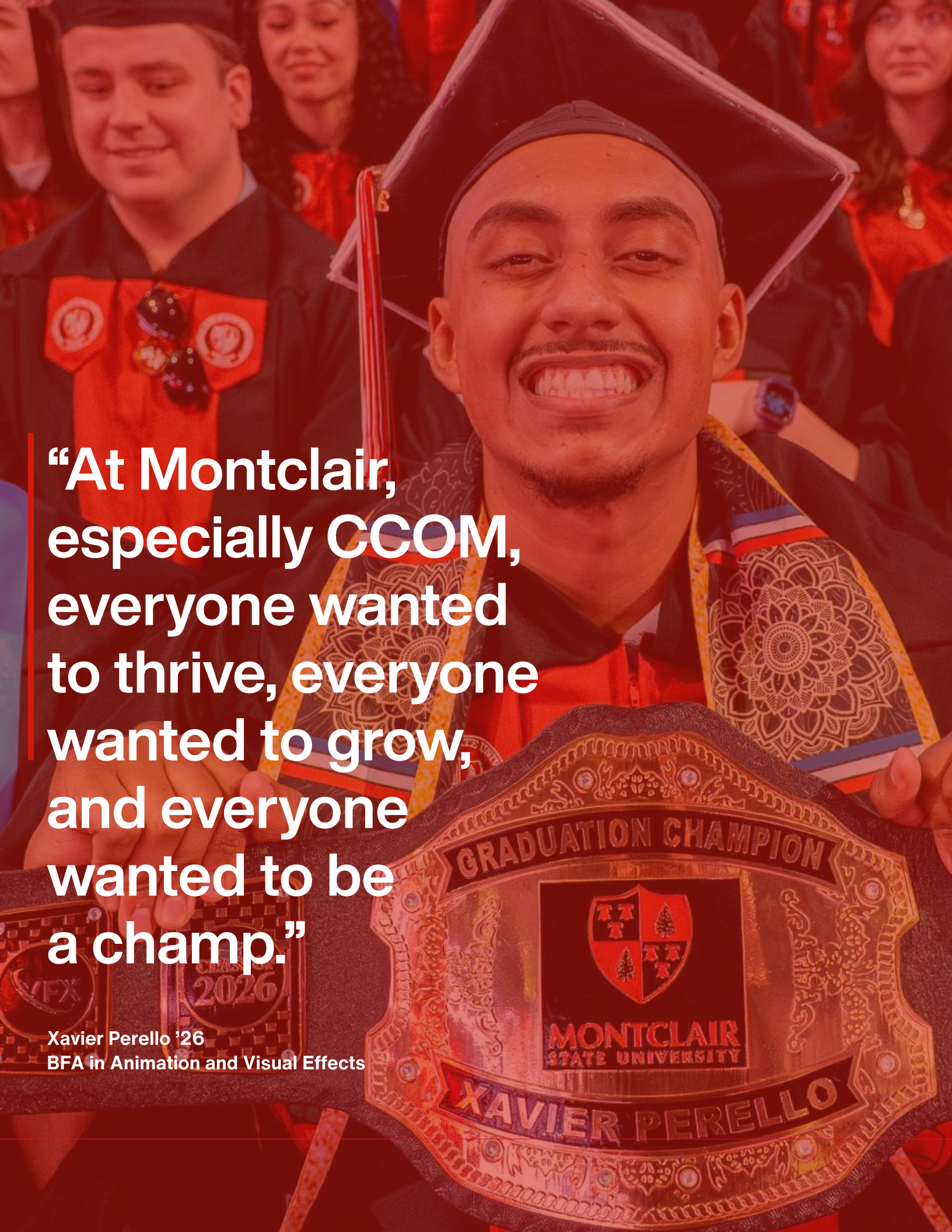
- * BEING MARY TYLER MOORE
PRODUCER BEN SELKOW



DECEMBER 9

- * BOOGER
PRODUCER LEXI
TANNENHOLTZ & EDITOR
KYLE MORIARTY





“At Montclair,
especially CCOM,
everyone wanted
to thrive, everyone
wanted to grow,
and everyone
wanted to be
a champ.”

Xavier Perello '26
BFA in Animation and Visual Effects

INVESTING IN STUDENT SUCCESS

25 STUDENTS GRANTED
SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2025–2026

Scholarships funded by alumni, friends, and industry partners help students pursue their education, gain professional experience, and prepare for successful careers in communication and media.

Janet Wilson Scholarship

Mia Sciabica

SCM Public Service Award

Taylor Lancenese

WMSC Radio Fund

Ash Schnoor

Bailey Thompson

Sebastian Strattin

Radio Club of America Scholarship

Ben Capp

Emmett Smithouser

Mia Savidge

Linda and George Hiltzik Scholarship

Daria Ivanov

Anabella Gianni

Ming Jing Qin

Jeimmy Garit

PICA Club/J. Anderson Journalism Scholarship

Jose Calderon

Gwenyth Greenspan

Prieto-Stasheff Scholarship in Journalism Media

Miky Arias

Marc and Lila Rosenweig Endowed Scholarship

Sarah Kurz

Andrew Brown

Rob Ferguson

Grace Valezquez

Angelo and Margaret DiFlauro Scholarship

Zach Laterra

John D. Sharkey Scholarship

Natalie Luongo

Georgina Solarino Scholarship in Communication Studies

Daniella Solano

Denise Rover Scholarship in Communication and Media Arts

Kimberly Culshaw

Joey Mosca

Rulan Yassin

Stacy Ottinger

Josephine Brizuela Valladares



“Thank you for your continuous support and for playing a crucial role in my education. It will allow me to complete my final year without significant financial strain and become the first in my family to earn a college degree.”

— Grace Valezquez, Scholarship Recipient

FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS



DAVID BIENE-AIME

NYU ED BRADLEY JOURNALISM FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

Former Editor-in-Chief of The Montclarion, David Biene-Aime was selected to be part of an elite cohort of college journalists for a fully-funded, one-week summer workshop at NYU's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute, with intensive training and mentorship. The fellowship's mission is to address under-representation of African-American males in newsrooms.

"The fellowship resonates with me because of its important mission: to help increase black male representation in the newsroom."

ANABELLA POLAND

2026 SOLUTIONS JOURNALISM NETWORK EDUCATORS ACADEMY FELLOWSHIP

Congratulations to Anabella Poland, Adjunct Professor and General Manager of WMSC 90.3 FM, on being one of only 20 educators selected nationwide for the 2026 Solutions Journalism Network Educators Academy Fellowship in partnership with the Medill Solutions Journalism Hub at Northwestern University Medill School.

This competitive fellowship brought together educators from across the country to advance solutions-focused reporting, with a special focus on youth mental health and community agency.



Get Your Student Club and Alumni Apparel

Proceeds from each sale support student projects, organizations and clubs!

New CCOM Merch Store 









CONNECT

Visit our [website](#) and engage with us on social media



SHARE

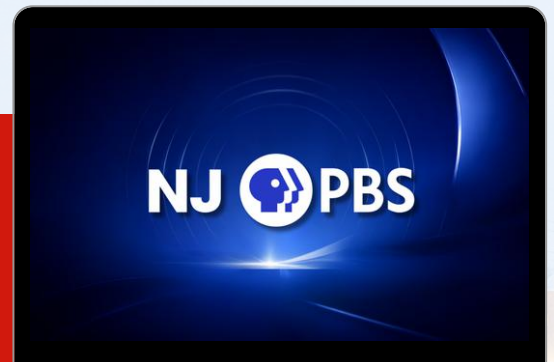
If you are an alum and recently got a new job or promotion or simply want to update us on your career, please share your great news with us via this [Google form](#)!

REACH OUT

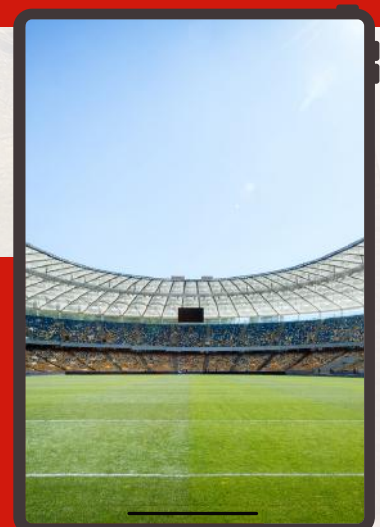
Our Career Services team help students with high-profile internship and job roles across the country. Whether you're an undergraduate student or an alum, we're here to support for you in your job search! Visit the [CCOM Career Services page](#) on Inside Montclair.

LOOKING AHEAD

Starting October 1, 2026, more than 20 full-time employees will operate NJ PBS, including three reporters and a production team of 11. Students will also participate through internships and supervised experiential learning opportunities



The Dreamscape Lab will be run by three new staff positions: a Director of VR and Immersive Learning, a Content Developer, and a Pod Operations Coordinator. The lab will be open to all colleges, schools, departments, and programs university-wide.



Stay tuned for an exciting partnership announcement with a local, professional sports team.

Writers and Editors

Keith Green

Director of
Communications and
Strategic Operations

Kaya Maciak

Digital Media and
Communications
Specialist

Gabriella LaRosa

Graduate Assistant

*Select photography
featured throughout this
report was provided by
Montclair State University
photographers Mike Peters
and John La Rosa.*

Support CCOM,
research, and our
infrastructure by
making a gift in
any amount: [here](#).

CCOM,
Montclair State University
1 Normal Ave.
Montclair NJ 07043
973-655-4000

