

Alaska Public Media Forms Partnership with University of Alaska Anchorage Department of Journalism and Public Communications

Working Partnership Provides Students with Hands-On Experience

ANCHORAGE, AK – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Alaska Public Media (AKPM) and the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) Department of Journalism and Public Communications (JPC) have formed a new, working partnership to provide JPC students with access to AKPM’s Elmo Sackett Broadcast Center TV Studio. As of August 31, 2022 all students in the JPC 383 TV Production Class will use the recently upgraded TV Studio and Production Control Room under the instruction of John Sharify, UAA’s 2022-23 Atwood Chair of Journalism.

“This partnership is a win-win for our students. They’ll get to learn from the talented and hard-working professionals at Alaska Public Media, who produce compelling stories. The students will get hands-on experience in all facets of media production in state of the art facilities. It doesn’t get better than that!” said Sharify. Sharify’s accolades include 79 Emmys and 9 National Edward R. Murrow awards including the National Murrow for top news writer in the U.S. in 2004, 2007, 2008 and 2020. Sharify is also a two-time National Press Photographers Association’s (NPPA) Reporter of the Year and twice runner-up. He has reported in newsrooms in New York City at WPIX (PIX11), and in Seattle at KOMO News 4 and KING 5 News.

Joy Chavez Mapaye, Ph.D., Professor and Department Chair for the Journalism and Public Communications department at UAA, as well as a Community Advisory Board member at AKPM, initiated the partnership. Mapaye stated, “JPC wanted to create a stronger connection with Alaska Public Media in general and welcomed the opportunity to access Alaska Public Media’s studio as we’re currently rebuilding our new studio space.”

While classes take place in the AKPM studios, Sharify and his students will work under the supervision of AKPM Director of Production, Valerie Kern. “I’m so excited about this partnership because the students will get hands-on experience with all aspects of TV broadcast production in a real, working studio, while AKPM can get valuable insight into the media consumption preferences for young Alaskans - which is a demographic that public television is actively trying to reach and connect with better,” said Kern.

In addition to assignments for their class, the students will assist as crew members for ***Debate for the State***, AKPM’s three-part political debate program in October shot live at the AKPM studio and broadcast statewide. Stated Kern, “This partnership truly is mutually beneficial in

many ways. I'm also very grateful that I will be able to observe the teachings of John Sharify, a highly-respected storyteller in this industry."

The partnership will be on-going through the end of the Fall semester and will be reevaluated by both parties for continued partnerships in the future.

[Photo for media use](#)

Caption: (Left to right, front row) UAA JPC students Hailey Barnes and Gloria Lord, AKPM Director of Production Valerie Kern, UAA Atwood Chair of Journalism John Sharify, and UAA JPC student Feng-Ching Chang. (Left to right, back row) JPC Technical Support Trent McNelly, UAA JPC students Peter Jackson, James Boatman and Carson Kosobud.

Credit: Alaska Public Media

About Alaska Public Media

[Alaska Public Media](#) (AKPM) is a shared Public Broadcasting System (PBS) and National Public Radio (NPR) member and a 501(c)(3) organization. Committed to meeting the needs of our community and state, AKPM produces and presents news and content that provides lifelong learning opportunities in public affairs, health and leisure, science and nature, economic and social development, civic engagement, and world events. The company is located in Southcentral Alaska and is comprised of KSKA radio, KAKM-TV, Create TV, PBS KIDS, PBS KIDS 24/7, and [alaskapublic.org](#). Alaska Public Media also operates the Statewide News network and a shared television service with KTOO in Juneau and KYUK in Bethel.

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About University of Alaska Anchorage Department of Journalism and Public Communications

The [University of Alaska Anchorage's \(UAA\) Department of Journalism and Public Communications](#) (JPC) was founded in 1979. Graduates of JPC have succeeded in careers in journalism, public relations, advertising, strategic communications, and digital media in a variety of industries across Alaska and the Lower 48. The JPC program is home to the [Atwood Chair of Journalism](#) and offers a [bachelor's degree in JPC](#) and a [one-year certificate in graphic design](#).

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