



Celebrating 3 Years of Innovation, Collaboration and Commitment to the Spirit of Roy W. Howard

Forging a New Future for Journalism



“When you dream up something, you never know if it is going to work. We had a dream of an interdisciplinary journalism school that used the full resources of its universities to (1) do journalism and then (2) really analyze that journalism while taking advantage of the tremendous resources of each university. But what we have seen goes beyond my wildest imagination.”

- Paul Lamb, Lamb & Barnosky

INTRODUCTION

In 2018, the Howard Centers for Investigative Journalism (Howard Centers) were created to “honor the legacy of Roy W. Howard, former chairman of the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain and a pioneering news reporter whose relentless pursuit of the news took him around the world, spurred innovation and helped lay the groundwork for modern journalism.”

The initial investment of \$3M in each of the Howard Centers at Arizona State University (ASU) and the University of Maryland (UMD) was intended to drive real-world change while raising the bar in innovative teaching and experiential learning. In just three years, we have watched both Howard Centers exceed expectations and become the “gold standard for preparing future investigative journalists” in the country. We visited the Howard Center locations in the Fall of 2022 to observe their advancement since 2019. We conducted visits to each university in order to engage with students, alumni, faculty, and university leadership, as well as internal and external collaborators. Our objective was to gain a firsthand understanding of the operations and dynamics

within the Howard Centers. This report reflects on our visit and our deep satisfaction with the programs.



“One of the things we loved was how gracefully the very talented and accomplished faculty stepped back and let the students be the stars of the show. The work they are doing is amazing and there is a big element of public service. When I think about what those students are doing and what they are going to give back to their communities and society as a whole, I can’t think of a better public service. It’s amazing.”

– Liz Carter, Scripps Howard Foundation

OUR VISIT

From Monday, October 31 through Friday, November 4, 2022, Perkins and Howard family members and Androcles Board Members, Androcles’ attorneys at Lamb & Barnosky, and leadership from the Scripps Howard Foundation were treated to an immersive experience at both universities. We kicked off our Howard Center site visits in Phoenix, Arizona, the location of Arizona State University’s Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, followed by our site visit to College Park, Maryland, the location of the University of Maryland’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism. Over five days, we attended dinners and presentations by award-winning faculty and engaged in private discussions with the Presidents and the Provosts of both universities and had the opportunity to meet, work with and hear directly from some of the Howard Centers’ exceptional past and present students. We are grateful to Dean Battinto Batts Jr. at Arizona State University and Dean Lucy Dalglish at the University of Maryland for hosting our group and providing us with uncensored opportunities to ask some of the more difficult questions relevant to the Howard Centers and their work ahead. Further, the valuable time we spent on-site allowed us to assess their programs on both a macro (university) and micro (Howard Center) level. In combination, this permitted us to come to our own impartial conclusions about the Howard Centers’ work and overall impact.

We are pleased to say that we found two innovative journalism ecosystems at work, successfully forging new paths for sustainable investigative journalism and truth in media. We deeply appreciate having partners who recognize and welcome our sincere interest in their work, the students, and the profession as a whole.

The Howard Centers represent a collection of unique thinkers, educators and students who have come together to solve real problems facing the journalism profession. Their work builds trust in local media, creates programming to help mine large repositories of information, and builds innovative technological infrastructure in the industry. The Howard Centers have won numerous awards for investigations of local and national importance, while creating bespoke solutions,

programs, and scalable models that have prompted collaborations with some of the most influential sources of national and international news (*e.g.*, NPR, PBS, USA Today, The Associated Press (AP), Inside Climate News and ProPublica).

Each Howard Center utilizes an innovative “teaching hospital” model and focuses exclusively on bringing the newsroom directly into the classroom. Both programs are led by world-class faculty, including Pulitzer prize-winning journalists, who are exceptionally experienced and revered in journalism. While each Howard Center is unique, they both leverage their locations, resources and renowned faculty to offer students an opportunity to produce investigative stories with public impact.

University Leadership Supports the Howard Center at ASU

The Cronkite School prides itself as being the “Nation’s Journalism School” and it is focused on leveraging its name and assets worldwide to expand its journalism program internationally. ASU’s President, Michael Crow, advised us that the university is fully invested in Cronkite’s work and plans to “invest more in the journalism school because it is central to where [the university] is going.” President Crow believes that ASU, with its “15 international university partners” and its unrivaled “ability to teach anything on any learning platform, on any scale, in any culture and in any location,” is well positioned to address global issues in journalism.

Provost Nancy Gonzales called Cronkite “the jewel in the crown” of ASU that “needs to be protected.” From her vantage point, Provost Gonzales believes the university’s international alliances, with countries such as India and China, are available avenues for “marketing the work of the Cronkite school” and for “draw[ing] attention globally to issues and topics deemed to be important.” Provost Gonzales believes there is a lot of work to be done in combatting mis/disinformation. However, she also strongly believes because “ASU moves with speed [and] agility” and has the “designed structures within the university that can define an important issue” and “marshal the appropriate resources across disciplines,” that ASU is correctly poised to be part of a global solution.

University Leadership Supports the Howard Center at UMD

The Philip Merrill College of Journalism (“PMCOJ”) has just added the Local News Network to its portfolio. The PMCOJ and the Howard Center are focused on leveraging its location, award-winning faculty and successful collaborations to create new and unique tools to “enhance and amplify” the Howard Center’s investigative journalism projects, while remaining focused on public service. In addition, the PMCOJ is developing new open-source journalism technology that will enable all newsrooms to do investigative reporting at scale. UMD’s President, Darryll Pines, expressed that he is grateful for the university’s partnership with the Scripps Howard Foundation and that he is dedicated to the University’s continued support of the Philip Merrill College of Journalism and the Howard Center.

Provost Jennifer King Rice added that, from her perspective, having the Howard Center at UMD breathes “fresh air into journalism at a time when the profession is under threat and facing enormous challenges.” Further, she believes, the Howard Center “is cultivating a new vision for

the whole field and helping [UMD] educate a new generation of journalists who share the vision of interdisciplinary, collaborative, journalistic work grounded in data and science.” According to Provost Rice, universities having a college of journalism that reflects that understanding is “wonderful.” At the behest of President Pines, Provost Rice shared with us the University’s strategic plan and expressed how proud they are that the college of journalism and the Howard Center already exemplify its four broad strategic commitments, which are: (1) reimagining learning to be engaging and experiential; (2) taking on humanities’ grand challenges; (3) investing in people and communities; and (4) partnering for the public good.

According to both President Pines and Provost Rice, UMD’s four commitments are “framed around a larger vision that we are a public university, serving the public good” and that “everything [UMD] does should be impactful.”



“These two programs are now the gold standard for preparing future investigative journalists through hands-on learning from some of the top investigative journalists in the country.”

- Mike Canan, Scripps Howard Foundation

OVERALL FINDINGS

The success of the Howard Centers shows the initial vision to create a graduate-level journalism program founded on a commitment to interdisciplinary instruction, collaboration, and access to real-world investigative experiences was sound. In only a few years, the Howard Centers have risen to national leadership by reimagining, redefining and reinvigorating journalism education. And, as we saw and heard firsthand, the Howard Centers’ first cohort of graduates is proving that the Howard Centers are not just shaking up journalism education –they are confidently disrupting hiring professionals’ expectations and the industry itself.

We congratulate the Howard Centers for their accomplishments and exceeding expectations while undeniably impacting society and the journalism profession itself. The Howard Centers have proven innovation and a commitment to collaboration works and that their successful education models can be scaled and shared. They lead the way by creating a journalism education built on multidisciplinary learning, in-house innovation, cutting-edge technology and access to the industry’s most experienced thought leaders. The Howard Centers have become instrumental in creating and building the modern infrastructure of technology that drives journalism.

In recognition of their outstanding achievements and continuation of the Howard Center mission, the Scripps Howard Foundation announced that it would provide an additional \$3 million of

funding to each of the Howard Centers for Investigative Journalism at Arizona State University and the University of Maryland over the past three years.

FORWARD THINKING SUGGESTIONS

Without question, the Howard Centers transcend traditional journalism education expectations and experiences, and we are delighted with the rapid pace of progress and the level of accomplishment. Based on those successes, we have provided a few suggestions we may or may not have discussed during our visit.

- (1) Collaborating on ideas specific to combatting mis/disinformation on a national scale;
- (2) increasing collaborations between the two Howard Centers, including sharing technology and unique data collection tools; and
- (3) recognizing the mutual benefit behind increased collaborations between the Howard Centers and the other disciplines within each university. For example, we learned that both Cronkite and PMOJ, which includes their Howard Centers (‘the Journalism Schools), use their own technology to create large data sets and take outliers from those sets to generate ideas for new investigative stories. After taking what is needed, the Journalism schools may share the remaining data with professional external collaborators. Currently, as we understand it, the Journalism Schools do not share relevant data sets with other disciplines within the university. Even though, it is possible, other disciplines could use the information for their department’s research. Consider, if the other discipline makes a significant discovery, the journalism school reports on it. The intention is to create a self-supporting, data-driven, research and publication ecosystem within the university, which supports public-interest research with public-interest investigative reporting. Furthermore, the journalism schools’ technological innovations and ability to mine large sets of data indicates that the schools are aptly suited to help uncover bespoke ideas for research in any discipline.

VISUAL SUMMARY

The attached visual summary highlights moments, meetings and pictures from our visits, including summaries of events, discussions and presentations. It is our effort to harness some of what we learned during our visits from the experts and students at the Howard Centers – specifically, the power of telling a story in a multi-dimensional, multi-dynamic, multi-functional way.

To open the visual summary, [click here](#).

