



Media Professionals, Mentors and Advocates for Diversity

THE BYLINE

Website: <http://www.aabj.org/>

MAY/JUNE/JULY 2017 ISSUE

AABJ Raises Funds to Send Students to #NABJ17

By Jaya Franklin

\$275 Student Registration for NABJ Convention

\$169/night NABJ Host Hotel (4-night stay)

\$238 Roundtrip Flight from ATL to NOLA

Total \$1189



For a National Association of Black Journalists student member, the numbers listed above can be overwhelming. A college student would need over \$1,000 before they even arrive to the host city to attend the NABJ convention.

With this in mind, as a board member of AABJ and a student advisor for NABJ-GSU, the board got together and launched an online fundraiser to assist our college students with their expenses to attend the upcoming NABJ convention in New Orleans.

We launched the online fundraiser in April 2017 and raised about \$4,000 from journalists, family, friends and other professionals who were just looking to support a good cause.

I've been attending the NABJ conventions since 2006 and it is well worth the costs. However, limited funds shouldn't stop a future journalist from participating in this life-changing

experience. As a graduate of Clark Atlanta University, "Find a Way or Make One," was instilled in our brains the day we stepped on campus as college freshmen, and I have held onto the concept ever since.

I was an active member of the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists' Student Consortium more than 10 years ago while enrolled in CAU's Mass Media Arts program.

When the NABJ convention rolled around each summer I would apply for different opportunities to get my expenses covered in exchange for sweat equity, since I was still in school and trying to work my way up in the media industry.

However, those types of opportunities are limited.

Our largest gift came from Jemele Hill, co-host of ESPN's [The Six](#). People always say "don't be afraid to 'shoot your shot,'" and this is a prime example of a clutch three.

I decided to join one of Jemele's Twitter conversations one morning, I had never spoken to her before and only saw her once at a NABJ Task Force party in Washington, D.C., but she seemed cool and transparent, so I gave myself the "what if" pep talk and started to type.

I wasn't sure if she would see my message on her Twitter feed because so many of her followers were replying to a message that she posted minutes beforehand.

Apparently a guy was upset that some ESPN workers had recently been laid off and he felt that Jemele, who is also member of NABJ, was getting paid too much money by ESPN. Jacob Middleton incorrectly stated that Jemele makes \$3.5 million.

Regardless of his feelings, I thought, *AABJ asking for \$275 for a student's convention registration, from a person who makes "\$3.5 million" couldn't break the bank, right?*

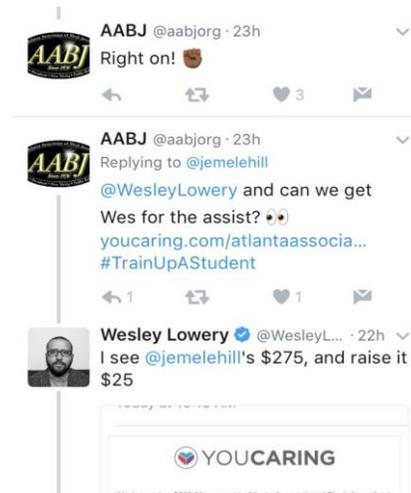
I intercepted right in the middle of the conversation.



Replied to @jemelehill
LOL! And we could use about \$275 for our AABJ students

And guess what? I got the bucket! AABJ for the win!

Not only did we land support from Jemele but this prompted [Wesley Lowery](#), a national reporter for the Washington Post, to chime in. He donated \$300 which covers one student's registration to the NABJ convention.



As a result of the hard work of AABJ Secretary Carol Gantt, AABJ Treasurer Jennifer Matthews and myself, we got over 48 donors, and 210 shares out of this fundraising campaign. Carol also managed to get four Southwest Airlines e-passes to cover the cost of airfare for a few of our students.

AABJ will happily use the proceeds from this venture to send eight AABJ students from Clark

Atlanta University and Georgia State University to the convention in New Orleans August 9-13. It should be noted, however, that AABJ does not give away free money. Each AABJ student applying for this scholarship had to complete several steps to even be considered, including submitting a letter of recommendation, an essay and providing proof that they have already taken steps to get to the NABJ convention in New Orleans before soliciting our help.

The students are required to document their experiences via social media while attending the conference using the hashtag #BecauseofYou17

and they are committed to serving in several different capacities for AABJ throughout the year.

Congratulations to the following students:

- Sierra Porter – GSU
- Anfernee Patterson – GSU
- Alana Howard – CAU
- Cierra Johnson – CAU
- Cardine Johnson – GSU
- Craig Brown – CAU
- Toby Adeyemi – GSU
- Autumn Porter – GSU

The Black Male Media Project To Inspire Black Men

By Cierra Johnson

Five professionals addressed issues and provided viable solutions amongst the Black community – particularly African American males – on a new level of truth. On Saturday, June 12, the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists (AABJ) hosted a brunch at Paschal’s Restaurant entitled, “The Black Male Media Project to #InspireBlackMen.” Guests were greeted by moderator Greg Lee, Editorial Director at NBA.com and former National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) president.



After food was served and business cards were exchanged, panelists Writer, director, actor Palmer Williams, Jr. former Les Montgomery

(Former TV News Editor for CNN & WSB-TV Sports), Kevin Shine (CEO of Writing Sessions America), Anthony Amey (Anchor and Reporter for WSB-TV Sports) and James “Jay” Bailey, Chairman, Phoenix Leadership Foundation were



ready for an insightful discussion.

Actor, director, Palmer Williams, Jr. led the conversation

by expounding on the statement, “Stop stepping over dollars to make pennies.” He stated, “We have to stop back-biting each other and being overly competitive with ourselves [the black community].” Williams emphasized the importance of utilizing resources within our own community and his hope for an increase in African American entrepreneurs.



Audience members were captivated by his sense of humor as other

panelists chimed in. WSB’s Anthony Amey explained how he ended up at the local station. “Do not be like me. Be better than me” he said, catching the audience’s attention. He explained how being on TV is great, but how important it is of having people who look like us behind the scenes making the decisions.



Audience members joined the discussion by asking questions. Most notable, was Maynard Jackson III

and his wife, Wendy. They talked about a film project they are currently working on about his

father, former [Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson, Jr.](#)



Holding up his Emmy Award Les Montgomery, talked about this success as a journalist and how he had to make decisions

on how to edit video depicting black male. He made it a point to say his faith in God played in his success.

The conversation shifted to Kevin Shine addressed the needs of millennials. His wise words caused many “Ooo’s” and “Wow’s” across the room as he pointed out the issues faced by music artists who are essentially being

pressured to make dollars instead of “real music.” Shine reminded the young adults in the room that it is all right to make mistakes, that



grades play a huge role in one’s income, and that patience is a key factor to success.

James “Jay” Bailey, pointed out that “kids want to be athletes, rappers or dope dealers. It’s not because they are dumb, they just want to be successful.” Bailey reminded the audience the kids that are in his mentor program only see those three types of “success” and he is doing all he can to change that narrative.

Black-ish Creator Honored

By Chelse Brown

Kenya Barris, creator and writer of ABC’s hit comedy show, “Black-ish” is unbothered by the negative comments and feedback about the controversial issues addressed on the show. Topics such as the Presidential election of Donald Trump; the Black Lives Matter movement and police brutality draw backlash by critics. “We want to make sure the show has a voice, and the best way to do that was to look at my family,” Barris said. “If people like it that’s great. If they don’t at least I can be honest about what my voice and path were.”



(Photo CAU March 18, 017)

On March 18, Barris was one of six

alumni honored at Clark Atlanta University’s ninth annual Spirit of Greatness Gala, held at the CNN Omni Hotel. After graduating from CAU in 1996, Barris went on to producing and writing many shows, serving his community and starting a legacy for his family. At the Gala, Mr. Barris was the recipient of the Pathways to Excellence Awards for his hard work and dedication to the entertainment business.

Barris spoke highly of his Alma Mater, “...me coming out of L.A. this was my first time just being around the humanity of being black. There was some light that we all shared about that.” Barris is thankful for attending a historically black college, “... it made me the man I am today.”

“The Clark Atlanta University Alumni Association, Inc. takes pride in honoring our distinguished alumni and nation’s trailblazers each year, while raising funds to support the next generation of leaders who are currently matriculating through CAU,” said Marshall Taggart, president of CAUAA.

Barris isn’t the only entertainer who has been recognized for their accomplishments recently. Former First Lady Michelle Obama wrote a letter of recommendation for Yara Shahidi, who plays Zoey in “Black-ish,” for her application to Harvard University. “I think school comes before acting for her... she really values education,” Barris said of Shahidi. When asked, what advice he would give those in the Class of 2017 who want to pursue a career in the entertainment industry, he said, “the other stuff will come but you have to be able to manage other stuff once it does come and education is your key to doing that.” Barris will deliver the commencement

speech to Tufts University Class of 2017 on May 21, 2017.

Barris has been staying busy these days. Along with juggling family life and business endeavors, he is one of the writers for the new film, "Girls Trip," directed by Malcolm Lee and starring actors Jada Pickett Smith and Queen Latifah.

"People don't know what it is like when black women get together and have fun. We really wanted to show a comical way of black women getting together and having fun," says Barris. Of course, "Girls Trip" is a must-see! The movie follows the wild adventure of four lifelong friends who travel to New Orleans to explore the crazy festivities of the Essence Music Festival.

The film will be released July 21, 2017.

Date Like A Woman: Kai Nicole Profile

By Cecil Hannibal

As children, we are sold this concept of "boy meets girl." They fall in love, get married and live happily ever after. However, these ancient social standards have evolved and in modern day society most relationships don't follow this format. The influence of social media and pop-culture has changed the complicated game of dating. If only dating was a subject in school. Can you imagine walking to your math class right after Dating 101? But how does one learn how to date? Author Kai Nicole has penned a dating book specifically for women called *Date Like a Woman*. In 2011, Steve Harvey wrote *Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man*, a book geared to help women regain control in their relationships. *Date Like a Woman* is Nicole's literary response to Harvey's.



"You can think of my book as the reply from a woman's perspective, Steve Harvey has never dated men, he doesn't know what a woman has to do to enjoy her dating experience, he can only say what he thinks

women should do...and a lot of the advice in that book was sexist," Nicole says.

To fully understand how Nicole became a dating guru you should understand her journey. Nicole has roots in Washington, DC but traveled to Boston to become a Harvard graduate. She then returned home to receive a law degree from

Howard University. Nicole has worked in law, entertainment and the technology industry. With these different experiences, you may be wondering, "Well, why did she write a dating book?" Like many great ideas, Nicole became inspired by #blacktwitter in 2013 when she saw men and woman arguing over how much a man should spend on a date. She recalls a follower telling her she should write a book about this topic. Nicole accepted the challenge and three years later she's ready to share her experience with the world.

"My book is not about getting married, it's not about relationships, it's about enjoying the dating experience. All of the dating gurus right now are men, I can't think of one woman who has made it giving dating advice to other women, which doesn't make sense," says Nicole.

Date Like a Woman is full of dating expectations and learning how to manage them. The Harvard alum shares her lifetime of experience dating men. From being one of the only African-American women in a university filled with 'privileged' students to spending her prime years in major cities such as Atlanta, DC and Los Angeles, she noticed a common thread among single women.

"We live in a world of sexist fairy tales; those are fed to woman at a very young age and it somewhat skews what women think dating should be. You kind of have to let those things go in order to date in reality and this book helps women come over to the realistic side of dating," said Nicole.

One of the best aspects of this book is that it can be for a woman of any age. Whether you're a social media crazed millennial or old fashioned baby boomer, all of the advice can be applied

universally. Nicole's book can be purchased on her website, datelikeawoman.com, for \$19.99. If you're ready for a new outlook on dating, make sure to check it out.

GSU Study Abroad: My European Hospitality Experience

By Sierra Porter

Studying abroad was a goal of mine since 2015. When I enrolled at Georgia State University in 2016, I knew that it was time to make my goal a reality. I took several trips to the Study Abroad office to see which program would interest me the most. The GSU European Hospitality program with stops in Germany, France, Switzerland and Italy in 10 days caught my attention because of the opportunity to learn about business administration and hospitality. Even though I am a journalism major, I believe it is vital to develop many skills outside of journalism.

The trip exposed me to European hospitality operations. My classmates and I compared each country's economic impact, organizational structure, market segmentation, service management, human resource management, technological improvements, eco-innovation and sustainable practices to those in the United States.

Our assignments were based on the visits we had in each country, and by the end of the course I had to turn in a 13-page paper detailing on my experiences. I gave my insight on each country and the different places I visited in each country.

Germany

In Germany, my classmates and I attended a lecture at the Goethe University Frankfurt where Dr. Annika Wolf taught us that once in a new country, you must learn how to behave as natives, conforming to the larger society, respecting the beliefs, customs, and practices of the local culture. We also visited [Imex](#), the landmark exhibition for professionals working within the incentive travel, meetings and events industry. There we were exposed to different tools to help us succeed in the job market. I attended six seminars. My favorites were, "Millennials- are you ready for us?" and



"Securing the future: creating a strong talent pipeline." Conducted by Anne Berrevoets and Gráinne Ní Ghiollagáin, the "Millennials-are you ready for us?" seminar taught millennials like me how to get our

voices heard in the job market. The speakers attempted to break the stereotype that millennials are selfish, entitled, and lazy but instead are hardworking and ambitious. The seminar was able to show how young and senior professionals can work together. The only way this can be achieved is through mentorship.

The objective of my second favorite seminar, "Securing the future: creating a strong talent pipeline," was to explore the future talent in the meeting and event industry, and what it would take to bridge the gap between post-secondary training and the needs of the industry.

We learned in German restaurant services, a server does not automatically bring out water. The customer must ask for water, and-is then given a few minutes to look over the menu before being asked what you would like to eat. While at the Daheim im Lorsbacher Thal restaurant, it took the waiter about 25 to 30 minutes to bring me an appetizer, meal, and dessert. It seemed even longer to receive a check compared to the U.S. Servers in Germany are taught to allow guests to enjoy their meal and their experience without being harassed too many times. I received the best customer service at the Staedelsches Kunstinstitut Art Museum where I was greeted upon arrival, and when I couldn't find the restroom an employee who couldn't speak English well did his best to

understand what I was saying and meet my needs. He showed me where the restroom was and we made small talk. Even though we were culturally different, we took the time to get to know each other. My visit to the Museum was the highlight of my visit.

Overall, my experience in Germany had a positive effect on my perception of the hospitality business. If I want to start a business in Germany, I would know how to provide good customer service and how to market my business.

France



There is a stereotype that French people do not like Americans. However, my visit to France was nothing but pleasant. I enjoyed the people, food and historical landmarks. Hospitality details are similar to those in Germany.

Driven by the negative stereotype, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry France (CCI) has created the High Hospitality Academy. Matthias Fekl, State Secretary in charge of Foreign Trade, Tourism, Promotion and French Citizens Living Abroad has a program that provides advice on how to better welcome travelers to France. I had an all-you-can-eat buffet dinner at Pont Saint Martin, where the waitresses were very kind and met all my needs, even though there was a slight language barrier, the staff was patient with me. Arriving at the Chateau de Pourtales Hotel, I was greeted kindly and given the key to my room. Then, I was given a tour of the hotel by a friendly guide who continued to while answer every question I had.

Kristian Bartholin, Deputy Head of Counter, presented a lecture on terrorism and tourism in Europe. Tourism is big business in France. However, tourism also brings up the topic of the terrorism threat to Europe. The Council of Europe is its leading human rights organization. It was created in 1949 to promote human rights, the rule of law, and promotion of democracy. The European Union was formed in 1953 to deal with trade aspects. Bartholin said the threats are from people both native Europeans and those who are not. The Council of Europe Action Plan on the fight against violent extremism and

radicalization includes a comprehensive approach to terrorism prevention and suppression. The plan addresses exposing false legitimacy of terrorism, seeks to address root causes for radicalization, criminal law response, preventing radicalization in prisons and on the Internet and pointing out how to spot terrorists acting alone. The Union has achieved half a century of peace, stability, and prosperity. Despite the risk of terrorism, I felt safe the entire time. For me, the stereotype French people not liking Americans was debunked.



Switzerland

Switzerland has a different approach when it comes to hospitality. When meeting and greeting, Swiss people are introduced by their last names. First names are only used by close friends and

family. This is different from America because, here, usually someone is introduced by his or her first name then their last name.

Like meeting someone in the United States, they believe in shaking hands with everyone present and with firm eye contact. Most people when they first meet each other shake hands and make eye contact. They also allow the hosts to introduce guests while at parties, similar to a friend presenting a friend to a new crowd of people in the U.S.

Hotels in Switzerland are filled with staff members who know the meaning of hospitality. At the Hotel Schweizerhof Luzern, I was given a hotel tour by Mrs. Hauser. The hotel has been owned by the Hauser family since 1845. After my hotel tour, the staff offered me a drink of my choice, and I was given a variety of snacks. My glass was refilled without charge, and they regularly checked up on me. I felt welcomed while at the hotel.

I would have to say next to Italy, Swiss employees had the best customer service. Lunch at the Truebsee Alpine Lodge on Mount Titlis was refreshing. The restaurant staff all spoke perfect English, and we were served all-you-can-eat pasta dishes. The Swiss believe that you should sample everything that is offered

to you while at a dinner table. My classmates and I certainly did!

Switzerland hospitality practices are like the U.S., and the country made me feel like I was at home despite the cold weather.



Italy

The hospitality industry in Italy is an excellent career opportunity for millennials who want to take a leadership role. The 5-star Hotel Principe di Savoia has the youngest guest relations manager.

Marco Coppola is 28-years-old and is working at the most expensive hotel in Italy. Rooms can go up to 20,000 euros (about \$22,360) a night. Employees must be well groomed and only wedding rings may be worn. The hotel prides itself on excellent customer service. Coppola and his team above and beyond to make guests feel like they are all VIPs. Coppola says to

survive in this industry one must believe in people and humanity, have compassion, know how to smile, and how to treat, relate and talk to people.

Italy takes pride in customer service. I was treated like family everywhere. At Frantoio dei Colli Toscani, Castello Sonnino, Ristorante Il Porcospino, and Trattoria Anna Maria, my classmates and I were fed very well. From pasta to meat and hardy potatoes, we got an authentic taste of Italy. In Italy, if you don't finish your pasta the restaurant server feeds it to you with a fork until there is no more pasta on the plate. I felt welcomed wherever I went. The servers were friendly, kind and professionally dressed.

Italy, by far, was my favorite stop in the entire trip.

I believe having excellent hospitality skills are beneficial for all career paths. It is important to get your job done, but you must also make sure customers are satisfied and are left with a memorable experience. This trip was a blessing, and I am happy that I got to go on the voyage of a lifetime.

Namaste, OR "Namaste"

By Lee Kendrick

I would become so accustomed to hearing that greeting...

In the early weeks of 2016, during my workouts at the gym, I was constantly hearing the song, "Hymn for the Weekend" by Coldplay featuring Beyoncé, in the background. On one occasion, I recall looking up at the TV mounted on the wall in the men's locker room and was surprised to learn that the song I'd been hearing was actually the music video on several televisions in the gym. I focused on the video for a second and literally was captivated by the visuals. It was like someone had pulled my soul out of my thin, athletically-toned body and placed me directly within this beautiful place, INDIA!

The singer in the video walked around some part of India and was followed and celebrated by the locals. Kids threw powdered colors and danced all around him. What was this taking place? The Holi Fest? What's that? These and other questions started to arise each and every time I set foot in that gym and saw the video. I became obsessed, I searched the internet day in

and day out inquiring about this festive place. I day-dreamed constantly about what it would be like if I actually was there. One day it hit me, I must GO!

December 21, 2016 - I purchased my very first international airline ticket to New Delhi, oh man, what have I done!!! I didn't sleep at all that night, I kept whispering softly under my breath "I'm going to India"



Why India?

Everyone kept asking me why India. My answer was simple and always the same: a spiritual quest, exploration of the culture and fun! I really was just curious to see how others acknowledged and experienced God. That led to my curiosity of their lifestyle... What do Indians do for fun? What do they eat?

Where do they buy their clothes? So on and so on. I was really getting excited about this adventure and could not wait to go!



March 8, 2017 - Indira Gandhi International Airport, about midnight New Delhi time, I

landed! 16 hours...Eight from Atlanta to Paris, then eight more hours from Paris to India! I made it! I'm literally on the other side of the planet! Two solid weeks of immersing myself in this culture!

My trip was divided into two parts. For the first week, I would get to experience this new world alone before my girlfriend joined me.

Alone in this world.

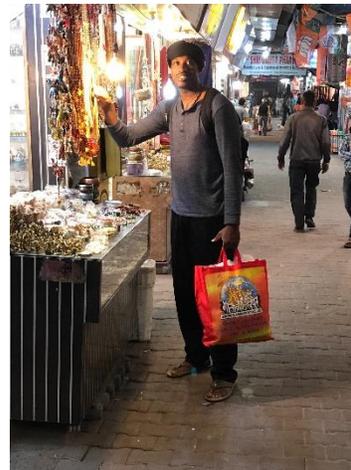
The Bible describes the experience of a man being alone. For the first few days of this trip not only was I alone but was concerned as well. I had not been able to find clean bottled water to drink for two and a half days, the bed in my AirBNB was as hard as cement, and the overpopulated city of New Delhi made for "breathtaking" air pollution. Here I was laying in discomfort as my body healed and adapted to this foreign land. This was nothing like the music video I had seen nearly a year before.

Then...

Monday, March 13, 2017, my girlfriend arrived and we hit the country running non-stop for a week! In New Delhi, we danced to Rihanna and Lil John, and covered ourselves and others in powdered colors at an open stadium celebrating the Holi Festival.



We took a railroad train through the countryside of Delhi to Agra to see the Taj Mahal. We explored the foothills of the Himalayas in Rishikesh. We were treated like celebrities everywhere we went, taking constant group selfies and questions about our ethnicity. We took Ubers, tuk tuks, taxis, rode the metro rail system, visited temples and ashrams, and indulged in the tastiest authentic Indian cuisine we could find. We got familiar with cows, monkeys and a population of 1.3 billion people! I lived a little. Really. I lived a lot. I was daring enough to get a tattoo from a hole-in-the-wall shop in New Delhi's Connaught Place. More importantly, I discovered how blessed we are in the United States even with so many of the issues that divide us.



The overall poverty, discrimination and injustices of blacks and other people of color in the United States didn't even occur as a real issue to me anymore when compared to an Indian's reality. The safety and rights women have here in

America are not perfect but should be praised! Our flawed educational systems, medical care and politics don't seem as bad now, along with so many other comparisons. However, the one thing that stood out to me about India was that population's LOVE for self and others. The level of respect and connectedness I saw in all communities was unbelievable. I am so blessed to have had this experience. It surely has set the stage for me to continue my quest.



Now, everyone wants to know what's next? When's the next trip? Will you go back to India again? Well, I'll just say this...as an African-American MAN, it only seems right for me to

touch the Mother Land!

Namaste!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[NABJ Producer Database](#) - You are invited to participate in the National Association of Black Journalists' database for producers. Our goal is to create an archive of producers that includes: TV, radio, newscast, podcast, executive, field, special projects, web, digital, social media, associate or assistant producers.

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

WHAT: [2017 NABJ Conference & Career Fair](#)

WHEN: Aug. 9-13, 2016

WHERE: Hilton New Orleans Riverside

Two Poydras Street

New Orleans, LA 70130

NABJ WORKSHOPS

CNN [Reporter/Producer](#) - CNN is hosting some of the most enterprising & engaging television reporters along with the best producers and digital journalists at the NABJ Convention in New Orleans on Friday, Aug. 11th.

[2017 NBCUniversity: The Fourth Estate](#) - This one-day intensive workshop, geared toward on-air AND off-air convention attendees, is taught by NBCU “professors” and is designed for individuals at all levels of their career.

[2017 CNBC Business Reporting Workshop](#) - CNBC is hosting an invitation-only, interactive business reporting workshop at the 2017 NABJ Annual Convention designed to teach on-air reporters and multimedia journalists how to break down financial news events quickly and report stories clearly for a global audience.

SCHOLARSHIPS, INTERNSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

[2017 Academy for Diversity in Digital Media](#)

Applications are now open for the 2017 Leadership Academy for Diversity in Digital Media. The academy, offered to 25 participants, will take place Dec. 3-8, 2017, at the Poynter campus in St. Petersburg, Florida. Tuition is free, thanks to the generous support of the program's naming sponsor, TEGNA Foundation, with additional funding from The New York Times.

This intensive, tuition-free program will address the unique issues journalists of color face on the path to leadership in digital journalism and technology organizations. It combines the efforts of the global leader in journalism education, The Poynter Institute, and the largest organization for journalists of color in the nation, NABJ, to promote diversity in newsrooms and create cutting-edge opportunities for career development.

JOBS

[Atlanta City Hall Reporter at Cox Enterprises](#)

[WJCL-TV News Producer](#)

[WJCL-TV New Producer](#)

[WRBL-TV Reporter/Anchor](#)

[WJHL-TV Producer](#)

[WATE -TV Reporter](#)