

THE OPEN NEWSROOM

A 12-WEEK SUMMER FELLOWSHIP FOR STEAM MAJORS TO EXPLORE A SCIENTIFIC TOPIC OF INTEREST AND REPORT ON HOW THAT TOPIC IS IMPACTING RHODE ISLAND COMMUNITIES

A partnership between the Rhode Island Network for Excellence in Science & Technology and URI's Metcalf Institute

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Undergraduates from across the state learn about solutions-based practices and mindsets from professional journalists, receive one-on-one mentoring, and share their work and experiences with public audiences.

The Open Newsroom's ultimate goal is to create **an intensive yet supportive space** for students to **explore how science shapes our perspectives** on local issues and empower them, alongside communities, to **frame discussions** about research and science they care for most.



STRUCTURE

Weeks 1-3

Wondering & Discovering

Students conduct initial research on issues and communities

Weeks 4-6

Collaborating & Discussing

Students seek out and listen to community members

Weeks 7-12

Creating & Taking Action

Students reflect and build portfolio of news pieces

Community Conversation Night

Students and community members reflect on how science impacts their daily lives



JEZELL GREEN

Covered Asthma among youth and our changing climate in Providence



DYLAN BRENNER

Covered experiences of family caregivers supporting loved ones with chronic illness



SARA HOMMA

Covered brownfield sites and their impact on underserved areas



SELECT FEEDBACK

[My mentor] told me before that this was going to be a difficult thing, but really rewarding at the end. I could see that at the end. People were like, 'We're glad you're doing this, and if you enjoy it, keep doing it.' - **Dylan Brenner, Roger Williams University**

I've been thinking about working in a public-facing sector. Now I know that it's really hard and valuable work. The Open Newsroom made me understand just how important it is to speak to individual community members and understand the challenges that revolve around these issues... - **Sara Homma, Brown University/RISD**

The Open Newsroom made me know a lot more of my surroundings, and different communities, what they're facing. It just gave me a more, positive outlook on things and to look beyond what I am seeing in front of me. To do more research into what I'm reading. - **Jezell Green, URI**

WHAT WE LEARNED

By pursuing science topics and communities of interest to them, students begin to break down assumptions around experiences of science and learn multiple perspectives around an issue

Engaging with community members to draft news pieces is a challenging, but ultimately rewarding experience for students

Community members responded positively that new and lesser told stories around science are being highlighted through Open Newsroom reporting.



Students engaged with members from the following organizations:

