

PRESS RELEASE:

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WFAE Adds to Award-winning Newsroom with Three Hires

Charlotte, N.C. (Apr. 4, 2018) – WFAE has added three journalists to its growing newsroom. **Zuri Berry, Jessa O’Connor** and **Ryan McFadin** joined WFAE earlier this year. In their new positions, they will help expand the depth and reach of WFAE’s journalism.

As managing editor of news and digital, **Berry** will be responsible for driving daily news reports and digital expansion. He comes to WFAE from the *Boston Herald* where he was the deputy managing editor for news and multimedia and oversaw video production, social media strategy, hosted a show on Boston Herald Radio, and contributed day-to-day news editing. **Berry** had previous stints at the *Boston Globe’s* Boston.com and at *The Union* newspaper in Grass Valley, Calif. As a member of the *Globe*, he was a part of the Pulitzer Prize-winning team for breaking news coverage of the Boston Marathon bombings (2014). **Berry** is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists and a graduate of California State University, Chico.

In her role as digital news and engagement editor, **O’Connor** will focus on content creation and distribution across multiple platforms and reader engagement. **O’Connor** is a graduate of UNC Chapel Hill. She got her start on the student radio news show, *Carolina Connection*. **O’Connor** has received multiple national awards for her news coverage, the highlight of which is her “First Place in Radio” from the Hearst Journalism Awards program for her coverage of LGBT youth under the Trump Administration.

McFadin joins the producers of *Charlotte Talks* as an assistant producer. He will contribute to the production and execution of the daily talk show, special events and production of online content. Prior to coming to WFAE, **McFadin** was an associate producer for *On Second Thought* at Georgia Public Radio in Atlanta. He also worked at *All Sides with Ann Fisher* at WOSU in Columbus, Ohio.

“I am excited about the addition of these talented journalists to our news team. They will expand our capacity to both cover and engage with the community,” said **Ju-Don Marshall**, chief content officer. “In the short time they’ve been here, we have already increased the amount of local coverage we are producing each day. In addition, we have some wonderful community engagement initiatives and news projects planned for the coming months.”

About WFAE

WFAE 90.7 FM is a nonprofit public radio station, licensed to the University Radio Foundation Inc. With 90.3 in Hickory, 106.1 in Laurinburg and 93.7 in Southern Pines, WFAE serves over 230,000 weekly listeners in the greater Charlotte region with an award-winning mix of local, national and international news, and entertainment programs from NPR® and other content partners.

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