

Ronni Butts

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Journalism Portfolio: <https://ronnisimonebutts.journoportfolio.com/>

EDUCATION

North Carolina Central University, Expected May 2027 - 4.0 GPA

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Civic Engagement and Public Policy Concentration

Minor in Mass Communication

EXPERIENCE

The Raleigh News & Observer Politics Intern

May 2026

Campus Echo (NCCU's student newspaper)

Oct. 2023 to present

Co-Editor-in-Chief

May 2025 to present

- Led a newsroom that produced award-winning accountability journalism
- Copyedited campus, politics, sports and feature stories for digital media weekly
- Professionalized newsroom by creating policy handbook and social media kit
- Led professional development lessons for staff and contributors weekly
- Helped facilitate first [print edition](#) since 2019 in collaboration with The Nubian Message
- Increased social media following by 70% on our [Instagram account](#)

Politics Staff Writer

Oct. 2023 to May 2025

- Contributed weekly articles on local and on-campus news and politics
- Experience in press pool for Harris-Walz presidential campaign

The Raleigh News & Observer (McClatchy HBCU Development Program)

May to July 2025

Politics and Metro Intern

- Covered daily N.C. politics, including the [General Assembly](#), bills and [protests](#)
- Experience in reporting on House and Senate sessions and committees
- Appeared on Under the Dome [podcast](#) twice to discuss my state politics reporting
- Frequently wrote the newsroom's politics newsletter, Under the Dome

The New York Times Corps

Sept. 2025 to present

- 2025 cohort member and mentee of NYT White House Correspondent
- Attends professional development seminars, meets with mentor monthly

POLITICO Journalism Institute

May to June 2025

- Worked alongside POLITICO Deputy Head of News David Kihara to quantify ICE raids throughout the U.S. since the beginning of the Trump administration
- Attended seminars targeted to improve understanding of politics and policy reporting
- Moderated panel discussion of editors describing leadership in the newsroom

AWARDS

- **Third Place Best Feature Story** – Southern Regional Press Institute **May 2025**
- Honda Campus All-Star Challenge National Champion **April 2026**
- Steve Schewel Campus Echo Award **April 2025**
- Campus Echo Outstanding Achievement Award – Mass Communication Dept. **April 2025**
- Honda Campus All-Star Challenge All-Star Award **April 2025**

EXTRACURRICULARS

- **Moderator** - Durham's only mayoral [debate](#) in 2025 campaign **Oct. 2025**
- **National Association of Black Journalists** – student member **Fall 2024 to present**
- **NC Local News and Information Summit** – Panelist **March 2026**

SKILLS SUMMARY

Collaborative Leadership • AP Style • Writing and Reporting • SEO • Public Speaking • Canva • Copy Editing • Social Media Engagement • Creating Multimedia Content • Editing on CapCut