

## Michigan Students hear urgent message at Eye on Michigan Investigative Workshop: credible Journalism is needed now more than ever

By: Sara Nickel

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Journalists and media professionals at the Eye on Michigan Investigative Workshop on Nov. 20, 2025, told students that in an era of uncertainty, ethical journalism remained essential to Michigan.

The workshop, held in downtown Detroit, brought together educators, reporters, media professionals, high school and college students for a day of training, hands-on exercises, and guided discussions about the role of journalism.

Speakers throughout the day emphasized that, despite the challenges facing the field, accurate and honest reporting is critical for society.

Sascha Raiyn, a reporter for WDET-FM, informed students of the realities of working in the field. She told students that becoming a strong journalist required more than mastering traditional skills. Rather, a journalist needs resilience in the field was just as important just as much as technical skills.

“It is really easy to think that being skilled, being professional, being experienced, looks like perfection, but it does not,” Raiyn said. “It is being able to respond to chaos, problems, things that are unexpected and overcoming.”

Raiyn added that journalists often had to adapt quickly in news conferences, and the ability to recover from mistakes or unanticipated obstacles was a defining part of the profession.

Several presenters also spoke about the growing volume of content circulating across the world, making it difficult for the public to distinguish factual reporting.

Jeffrey Sauger, an Assistant Professor of Photojournalism at Central Michigan University, advised on how to counter the growing volume of content and misinformation in circulation in Michigan and worldwide.

“The more trained journalists out there that can do this, the better chance we have against all the content creators and the bad actors, trying to muck up what truth and what fact and fiction are,” Sauger said.

He said that educating future journalists was one way to help communities sort through information, especially as many young people encountered news through social media.

“It’s really hard to know things when you’re living your regular life, so journalism and journalists in particular are so important because they’re the ones who are getting the stories out there,” said Alexandra Perez, Downtown Administrative Assistant for Wayne County Community College District.

Perez encouraged students visiting her booth to keep studying and going at it [journalism] because someone else will.

The workshop also highlighted the profession's rapidly developing fields within journalism, including photojournalism, digital storytelling and reporting in news-conference environments.

Students practiced taking photographs, collecting audio/video and conducting short interviews with speakers.

Workshop leader, Raiyn, said these exercises mirrored the work journalists perform daily and gave students a realistic look into the expectations and pace of newsroom work.

Sauger explained to students who practiced these journalistic skills that they have the tools to change their communities and urged them to continue.

“The sooner we can expose people to knowing how they can change things in their community, and how it can have an impact by giving a voice to people without, the better,” said Sauger, in regards to the workshop.

“You have to be bad for a long time before you get good,” Jeffrey Sauger said. “We need journalism more now than ever.”

Oakland University student Dewayne Jordan said the workshop offered more practical and engaging content than a typical classroom setting.

“This was much more of a help tactic for someone who is going for journalism,” Jordan said. “I feel like it would be a different environment because with a classroom, it isn't as engaging or social.”

The workshop continued to reinforce the value of early training by pairing students with journalists, who encouraged professional development in credible journalism until the end of the session.

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- Oakland News under the College of Arts and Sciences articles
- 600 words
- 1. Sascha Raiyn (in-person interview at event), [www.linkedin.com/in/raiyn/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/raiyn/)
- 2. Jeffrey Sauger (in-person interview at event), [jeffsauger1jm@cmich.edu](mailto:jeffsauger1jm@cmich.edu)
- 3. Alexandra Perez (in-person interview at event),  
[www.linkedin.com/in/alexandra-perez-a50264215/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/alexandra-perez-a50264215/)
- 4. Dewayne Jordan (in-person interview at event), [dewaynejordan@oakland.edu](mailto:dewaynejordan@oakland.edu)