

OUR PURPOSE

The Byron Burney Community Journalism Academy (BBCJA) engages the community through teaching, mentoring and hands-on experiences. We encourage community members of all ages to become more involved in telling the stories that have impacted their lives and changed their communities for the good or to their detriment. We inspire students through hands-on training and journalistic activities. Skills such as news gathering, writing, producing and reporting are taught using various media formats.



BBCJA helps individuals grow as communicators by encouraging strong independent editorial voices. It utilizes its platform to encourage individuals, especially the youth, to enter into related fields of study and/or careers.

OUR FOCUS

In line with HRBMP's commitment to ensure positive representations of African Americans in the media, BBCJA's focus is to have participants write stories and develop themes that chronicle the core of the African American experience.

Current themes for the participants to address through their work include the impact of youth and gun violence, community policing, and more.



CONTACT US

Hampton Roads Black Media Professionals, Inc. (HRBMP) is a nonprofit organization of communicators dedicated to inspiring African American students to pursue college and media related careers.

Email: hrbmpinc@gmail.com

BYRON BURNIEY COMMUNITY JOURNALISM ACADEMY



Presented by



P. O. Box 2622, Norfolk, VA 23501-2622

hrbmpinc.org

"Get to know us...learn to use us."

BYRON BURNLEY COMMUNITY JOURNALISM ACADEMY



OUR SERVICES

BBCJA launched in August 2020 with the dedicated support of Byron Burnley's widow, family, friends and HRBMP supporters. Throughout the pandemic, instruction took place with academy participants and their mentors via Zoom. During the monthly one-hour sessions, participants learned news writing, producing, reporting skills and more from seasoned professionals who volunteered their time and shared their talent.



OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BBCJA concluded its inaugural year in July 2021 by recognizing the students who participated. At a celebratory event, they each received a 4K camera and VISA gift card.

We anticipate a full class of students in our second year when in-person instruction is slated to begin in the fall of 2021. Sessions will take place at the Y.H. Thomas Community Center in Hampton.



HRBMP members and Hampton City Representatives at the Academy Meeting Center.

OUR NEEDS

As a nonprofit organization, we rely on the generosity of donors who help support our mission. In addition to monetary donations, the Academy needs items that are necessary for a successful journalism career. These items include computers, editing software, field and studio cameras, tripods, microphones, lights, light kits, audio boards, headsets, and more. To donate, please email hrbmpinc@gmail.com



ABOUT BYRON BURNLEY

For nearly 30 years, Byron Burnley provided dedicated and stellar service as he moved through the ranks at WVEC-TV as a photographer, a chief photographer, and the operations manager of the entire newsroom. He was a member of the National Association of Black Journalists and a past president of the Hampton Roads Black Media Professionals. During his tenure with WVEC-TV, he earned numerous accolades and awards; however, his greatest reward was helping others. Throughout his career, Bryon mentored and guided others and always had kind words to impart. After leaving WVEC TV, he was employed by iSoft, a contractor at Fort Eustis where he served as an audio-visual specialist. While in this position, Bryon demonstrated his professional excellence, kindness to others, and genuineness. Byron Burnley passed away on February 21, 2020. The BBCJA is a testament to his legacy.

