

ive Kent State students from the School of Journalism and Mass Communication (JMC) will contribute to news coverage for TEGNA, Inc. stations across the country as Republicans and Democrats converge upon Cleveland and Philadelphia for conventions next month.

The students – Patrick Shade, '17, Cameron Gorman, '19, Matt Poe, '18, Taylor Kerns, '17, and Anna Huntsman, '18 – will be based at WKYC Channel 3's newsroom in downtown Cleveland for both conventions. They will assist TEGNA's team of reporters assigned to cover the conventions with fact checking, researching and data mining.

TEGNA, formerly Gannett Co., owns 46 television stations in 38 markets, including WKYC, Cleveland's NBC affiliate.

"The stations want to go beyond superficial day-to-day coverage of the convention and really dig into some issues," said John Butte, JMC's coordinator of career services, who helped coordinate the partnership. "They'll have an arsenal of our students to help with that."

Butte, who spent a long career in television news, said the students are preparing for their assignments by familiarizing themselves with key players and issues in each of the party campaigns.

Director of Student Media Kevin Dilley said he is excited to see what students learn by taking part in national coverage of a historic election.

"This year's political conventions will kick an already busy election season into high gear for newsrooms around the country," Dilley said. "Our students will have a front seat to it all. I look forward to seeing what they learn and produce for the stations and what skills they bring back to the student media newsroom."

JMC students will be playing a role in other newsrooms and organizations as the Republican National Convention comes to Cleveland July 18-21. Several have accepted internships focusing on convention coverage with PBS and CBS. In addition, Sarah Matthews, '17, a public relations major, is a summer intern with the Republican National Convention's Committee on Arrangements.

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