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**SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL
JOURNALISTS**



Journalism

students at Radford University are trying to restart a chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) on campus.

SPJ is a journalism organization that fights for a free press in the United States. Their mission statement includes maintaining constant vigilance in protection of the First Amendment, stimulate high standards and ethical behavior in the practice of journalism, and to encourage a climate where journalism can be practiced freely.

Radford students began talking about the need for a chapter of SPJ after the Trump rally that was held at the Dedmon Center. Trump began to bash the media during his speech while many student journalists were in the press area.

Since then, they have worked to try to start an SPJ chapter in the hopes of protecting their free press.

An SPJ chapter on campus will give Student Media and student journalists help learning and defending their right to free press. It also gives students a networking opportunity since they have regional, state, and national conferences that members are able to attend.

SPJ gives students an opportunity to win awards for their writing, photography, and videography, which is a great way to compete for a job once they graduate.

While there was a chapter of SPJ at Radford before, the chapter became inactive. To restart the chapter the group needs at least 10 members to join.

To join, you can pay the dues of \$37.50 on the SPJ website and fill out the application. Then send your name, address, and telephone number to Dr. Bill Kovarik at wkovarik@radford.edu.

SPJ will have a table set up at the Communication Week carnival on the MAC courts in the Student Recreation and Wellness Center on Thursday, April 14 from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. to give out information and answer any questions.