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television

NEWS

ANDREW VREES NAMED PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER OF WMUR-TV, MANCHESTER

A Homecoming for Award-Winning Hearst Television News Executive, Former WMUR News Director and New Hampshire Native

NEW YORK, NY, and Manchester, NH, May 20, 2021 – Andrew Vrees, a Stratham, New Hampshire, native and member of the corporate news team that has helped Hearst Television become one of the nation's most honored voices in local journalism, has been named president and general manager of WMUR-TV, the Hearst Television ABC affiliate in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Vrees since 2016 was Hearst Television's vice president, news, after serving as news director of the company's flagship station, WCVB-TV in Boston. He succeeds Jeff Bartlett, who will retire this summer and under whom he served for five years as WMUR's news director.

In addition to its status as New Hampshire's TV news outlet of record, WMUR-TV is recognizable to viewers nationwide during the presidential election cycles as host of primary debates originating from the state. In recent decades, alongside its parent company, WMUR has become one of the nation's leading brands for political journalism.

"Andrew is the ideal executive to succeed Jeff and work with the outstanding WMUR team to continue and expand upon the station's great legacy," said Hearst Television President Jordan Wertlieb. "His career-long dedication to local television's special role as a provider of news, information and community service and his inherent connection to the state will ensure that WMUR builds upon its rich history as New Hampshire's statewide news leader."

Since he began his corporate role with Hearst Television, he has been a part of the company's news executive team led by Barbara Maushard, senior vice president,

news, which has launched three groupwide journalism initiatives – a Washington, D.C., based National Investigative Unit, headed by former CBS News investigative reporter Mark Albert; a National Consumer Unit, headed by former NBC News consumer reporter Jeff Rossen; and "Project CommUNITY," an ongoing initiative to investigate, chronicle and study undertakings across the country focused on uniting people within their communities. Under the Project CommUNITY banner, the Hearst stations have helped raise more than $33 million for relief for Covid-impacted families throughout Hearst Television's communities. During this period the company also has been honored with three groupwide USC Annenberg Walter Cronkite Awards for political journalism and two Service to America Awards from the National Association of Broadcasters Leadership Foundation.

During Vrees' time at WCVB, among numerous other honors the station earned an Edward R. Murrow Award for Overall Excellence as the nation's most outstanding news station, and Vrees was named *Broadcasting & Cable* magazine's News Director of the Year (top 25 markets) for 2012. He served as news director of WMUR from 2004 to 2009, assistant news director at Hearst Television's KOAT-TV in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from 2001 to 2004 and assistant news director at WTVG-TV in Toledo, Ohio. He began his career in television in 1991 as a news anchor, reporter and producer at KTVF-TV in Fairbanks, Alaska, followed by moves to KSWO-TV in Lawton, Oklahoma/ Wichita Falls, Texas, and then KTUU-TV in Anchorage, Alaska.

Among his industry activities, Vrees has been instrumental in shaping industry standards as a member of the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) board of directors. In his spare time he competes in Ironman Triathlons.

Vrees received bachelor's degrees in journalism and political science from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

About Hearst Television

Hearst Television owns and operates 33 television and two radio stations serving 26 media markets across 39 states reaching over 21 million U.S. television households. Through its partnership with nearly all of the major networks, Hearst Television distributes national content over nearly 70 video channels including programming from ABC, NBC, CBS, CW, MY Net, MeTV, This TV, Estrella and more. The radio stations are leaders in Baltimore news/talk and rock music listenership. Hearst Television is recognized as one of the industry's premier companies and has been honored with numerous awards for distinguished journalism, industry innovation, and community service. Hearst Television is a wholly owned subsidiary of Hearst.