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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 14, 2022

## WLBT SELECTS DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS FOR MEDIA TRAINING CENTER

Jackson, MS – WLBT announces Michael A. White, Jr. as Director of Operations for the Gray/WLBT Media Training Center, launching later this year. The Training Center program will be housed at WLBT, and will prepare students for today's unique operating environment, while simultaneously improving diversity, equity, and inclusion in media.



The Center will educate and train students who attend Mississippi colleges and universities, with a focus on Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the state, namely Jackson State, Alcorn State, Mississippi Valley State, Rust College and Tougaloo College. White, as the program's Director of Operations, will lead the charge in developing the program at WLBT.

White started at WLBT as an intern before being hired as a Studio Operator. From there, White, moved into the newsroom as an Associate Producer, advanced to News Producer, and was then promoted to Morning Executive Producer, serving as an executive producer since 2020.

"Over the past two years, Michael has taken the lead on our news internship initiative, creating one of the most successful programs in station history. Because of his involvement with the internship program, Michael is already working with many of the schools that will participate in the Training Center project," said WLBT Vice President and General Manager, Ted Fortenberry. "Those established relationships will help us ramp up quickly, which is important since we are targeting September as the start date for the inaugural class."

Sandy Breland, Gray Senior Vice President - Local Media, said, "Michael is the perfect person to lead this important initiative. He knows firsthand how training can open doors and lead to opportunities. He will be vested in the success of each student who goes through the training center" "

A graduate of Jackson State University, White received his Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communications and Media Studies.

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### About WLBT:

WLBT is the local NBC affiliate for the Jackson, Mississippi, market, and is Mississippi's flagship station. Ranking #1 in local TV and digital media in Central Mississippi, WLBT consistently produces award-winning local news coverage. Broadcasting for more than 65 years, WLBT continues to be the market leader in broadcast technology, news and weather coverage, and in quality programming, available to news consumers on more platforms than local competitors through WLBT News' streaming channels, including Roku, Amazon Fire, Apple TV, Fubo, Hulu and DirectNow, as well as through the WLBT News app for smartphone users and online at [wlbt.com/live](http://wlbt.com/live) and [vuit.com](http://vuit.com). For more information about WLBT, visit [wlbt.com](http://wlbt.com).

### About Gray:

Gray Television, Inc. is a multimedia company headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. We are the nation's largest owner of top-rated local television stations and digital assets in the United States. Our television stations serve 113 television markets that collectively reach approximately 36 percent of US television households. This portfolio includes 80 markets with the top-rated television station and 100 markets with the first and/or second highest rated television station. We also own video program companies Raycom Sports, Tupelo Honey, and PowerNation Studios, as well as the studio production facilities Assembly Atlanta, Third Rail Studios and Third Rail Studios West.

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