

NNAF News Fellows Program Seeks Candidates For 2018

Building News Literacy Skills in Current Affairs Reporting

Eight Fellows and five mentors participated in the National Newspaper Association Foundation's News Fellows Program last March during NNA's Community Newspaper Leadership Summit in Washington, DC. The purpose of the program, now entering its sixth year, is to develop news literacy skills in young journalists by looking at issues from a community newspaper perspective.

Fellows tackle one national issue with implications in America's hometowns. They study with veteran community newspaper journalists to distinguish facts from spin, research an issue, interview key players, and produce a news or interpretive story for publication in hometown media.

Fellows must:

- Be committed to producing a story on the issue that may be accompanied by insights on news literacy or on the student's own news-gathering experience by April 15, 2018.
- Be a college newspaper editor or journalism or communications major with some coursework in basic reporting.
- Be able to travel to Washington, DC, from March 14-16, 2018.
- Bring a device capable of WiFi connection for research.
- Be able to learn to travel on public transportation in and around the DC area.
- Be interested in hot-button national issues, be open minded and able to research many sides of the issue.
- Be able to identify a medium for final publication of their work.
- Be willing to give NNAF simultaneous but not exclusive publication rights to the work for publication in National Newspaper Association media.

- Bring own spending money for recreational activities and extra meals.

Sponsors must:

- Arrange and pay for two hotel nights in NNAF's sponsoring hotel, the Crystal City Marriott.
- Arrange and pay for airfare.
- Provide a \$400 donation to the NNAF to underwrite the tuition. Tuition covers dinner at the National Press Club on Thursday evening plus five additional meals and local transportation required for program activities.
- Acquire a signed letter from parents granting permission for the Fellow to travel to DC and in and around the city without supervision if the student is under 21.

For more information, contact Carol Pierce at carol@nna.org or at 703-237-9801.



Eight journalism students and their mentors gather on the Newseum balcony overlooking the Capitol between news briefings. Pictured from left to right, Steve Haynes, president and publisher, The Oberlin (KS) Herald; Emily Gibbens, University of North Dakota; Danni Zhou, University of Pittsburgh; Bill Jacobs; Melissa Behling, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Peter Rubinstein, Roosevelt University; Liz Parker, executive editor and co-publisher, New Jersey Hills Media Group, Bernardsville, NJ; Gabriel Sanchez, University of Minnesota; and Christopher Michael Bowling, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Not pictured are Makenzie Huber, South Dakota State University; and Mariya Zheleva, California State University. Deb McCaslin and Stan Schwartz also served as mentors.

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