

NNAF News Fellows Program Seeks Candidates For 2014

Building News Literacy Skills in Current Affairs Reporting

Last year, the National Newspaper Association Foundation inaugurated its News Fellow program during NNA's We Believe in Newspapers Summit. The purpose of the program was to develop news literacy skills in young journalists, looking at issues from a community newspaper perspective. Fellows tackled one national issue with implications in America's hometowns. In the 2.5 day program in Washington, they studied with veteran community newspaper journalists to research an issue, interview key players, work with their mentors to distinguish facts from spin and opinion, (recognizing that opinion has a key role in shaping public policy), and produce a news or interpretive story for publication in hometown media. Some work before and after the event will be needed to fulfill the objectives.

Requirements:

Fellows must meet criteria set by NNAF as well as any set by sponsoring press associations. They must:

- Be journalism or communications majors or scholars in a similar discipline with some coursework in basic reporting, and have an interest in community journalism.
- Be able to travel to Washington, DC, from March 12-13. Two hotel nights, double occupancy in NNAF's sponsoring hotel, the Crystal Gateway Marriott, and airfare are provided by sponsors. Spending money for meals is not provided as part of the program. Money for recreational activities is the responsibility of Fellows.
- Have a laptop or tablet computer capable of WiFi connection. Computers are not provided. Some online research will be needed.
- Be able to learn to travel on their own, with guidance from mentors, on public transportation in and around the Washington, DC, area. Students under 21 must have a signed letter from parents granting permission to travel without supervision in and around the city. Mentors will not be responsible for students' activities when they are on their own.
- Be interested in hot-button national issues, open minded and able to research both sides (or many sides) of the issue of the day.

- Be able to identify a medium for final publication of their work product. Publication in a local community newspaper is encouraged, but a student newspaper or website or even the student's own blog are also permitted. The final work product must be a story on the issue, but may be accompanied by insights on news-literacy or on the student's own news-gathering experience.
- NNAF requests simultaneous but not exclusive publication rights to the work product for publication in National Newspaper Association media.

For more information, contact Carol Pierce at carol@nna.org or 703-237-9802.



Anchan

"Being a news fellow allowed me to see Washington from a journalistic point of view. I'd visited the area with my family in the past, but going with NNA was a different experience. Visiting a city with so much history and life with mentors and other journalists was an opportunity that doesn't come along every day and I feel honored to have been a fellow."

—Asha Anchan

University of Nebraska
2013 NNA News Fellow



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