

# The Center for Independent Media

## New Journalist Fellowship Application

### Overview

The New Journalist Pilot Program, scheduled to run for six months in 2006, is the inaugural venture of the Center for Independent Media. The Pilot Program aims to strengthen the network of progressive blogs on a state-by-state basis. A core component of the program is its Fellows, selected for their ability to advance original information via their blogs and influence the wider public debate.

### Our Mission

The Center for Independent Media is a not-for-profit organization that fosters diversity of ideas in the national debate by educating and training people on the use of new communications technologies, such as the Internet, as an alternative publishing and distribution system to traditional broadcast and print media. The Center brings talented and diverse voices and ideas to the fore of our nation's discourse, through its Fellowships, conferences, and research. Programs emphasize the importance of citizen-driven journalism as a critical founding principle of our nation, the positive role of democratically elected government in securing the common good and social welfare, and the continuing benefits of our founding culture of egalitarian government by the people, for the people.

The Center's Fellowships and programs, upon launch, focus on blogs as a fast-growing exemplar of independent media working to diversify the spectrum of ideas in the national debate.

## About the Center

The Center for Independent Media was founded in April 2006, emerging from a four-month intensive research study conducted by a progressive not-for-profit media watchdog organization. The research project's objective was to understand how blogs work to broaden ideological diversity in the media, and how to reinforce these positive effects. The study focused on how blogs advance original information and expert commentary that impacts the national debate. Fifty-three bloggers were surveyed in January-February 2006, providing essential empirical data on the demographics of blogging, and the specific needs, in terms of education and services, that bloggers require in order to be more effective. The results of these surveys and analysis led to the decision to create the Center for Independent Media as a progressive not-for-profit learning center dedicated to fostering ideological diversity in the media, through the furtherance of independent media.

The Center seeks to train a growing networked corps of skilled online blogger/journalists producing original news and information that augments the current media landscape of local newspapers, television, and radio, and influences wider media coverage of issues critical to national debate.

## What is the New Journalist Fellowship program?

The New Journalist Pilot Program looks to recruit several highly skilled state-focused bloggers who focus on producing original news reporting. Bloggers admitted to the program receive support, training, and resources with the aim of fostering the production of original news and information via their blog(s).

Applicants are judged on the quality of their previous writings or blogging; the relevance of their professional background, both past and present; their dedication to the journalistic pursuit of informing the public, their willingness to adhere to the Pilot Program's journalistic code of ethics (see <http://www.newjournalist.org/ethics.html>), and affinity for the Center's mission. Applicants will also be chosen based on the importance of their writings' focus and how their focus brings ideological diversity to the media.

What are the terms of a Center for Independent  
Media fellowship?

The term of a fellowship is 3 months with the possibility of renewal once the term expires. The average fellowship is two three month periods. Fellows receive:

- a stipend of \$4500 to be paid over 3 months;
- investigative journalism training;
- editorial mentorship from experts in the field of blogging and/or journalism;
- research tools such as Lexis Nexis and access to information databases;
- legal information, advice and access to legal representation;
- technical help and consulting;
- networking opportunities with other bloggers, news media and news makers in the state; and
- possible media training/booking and other promotion of the work produced

In exchange, fellows are expected to:

- produce at least 3 blog posts per day on average;
- fulfill goals in original reporting, to be set on an individual basis;
- originate news that impacts public debate;
- adhere to the program's journalistic code of ethics;
- participate in all trainings, meetings, and conferences; and
- regularly submit a status report on their blogging endeavors

### Application Deadline

All applications must be received by **July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006**, to be considered. As admissions to the program will be offered on a rolling basis, you are encouraged to submit your application prior to the deadline.

## Eligibility

The New Journalist Pilot Program does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, age, lifestyle, religion, ethnic origin, disability or veteran status. To be eligible for the fellowship, individuals must be U.S. nationals or permanent residents of the U.S.

## New Journalism Pilot Program Application Form

### Biographical Information

Please submit the following information:

- Full Name
- Address
- Daytime/Evening Phone
- Date of Birth
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Employment Status
- Profession(s)
- Blog URL
- Email Address

Please attach the following to your submission:

- A current resume
- Three examples of your work in blogging or journalism. If possible include one of blogging and one other type of writing. If you have an example of original reporting you have done please add it here, and denote it as such.

## Essay Questions

Please respond to the following questions in writing in a separate document with your writing samples and title each section with the corresponding question number.

1. What drives you/interests you about news reporting?
2. How does blogging relate to your professional ambitions?
3. Do you see yourself a journalist, activist, pundit, or combination thereof?
4. What are the types of stories you would like to report on? If you had a journalistic "beat", what would it be?
5. What activist experience do you have (ie have you volunteered for a campaign, are you a member of any advocacy groups, etc.)?
6. Which national bloggers are your favorites to visit? Minnesota bloggers?
7. How would you characterize your relationships with other bloggers? What kind of activities would you like to see among bloggers and what has been your experience with such activities to date?

## Application Submission and Deadline

Please submit your application by email to [applications@newjournalist.org](mailto:applications@newjournalist.org).

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