

Northwestern | MEDILL

The Fight To Save Local News

Medill is leading the charge to reinvent the relationship between news organizations and audiences and to preserve high-quality journalism.



Medill Responds to Crisis in Journalism

◆ **Above:** Texas Tribune co-founder and Medill alumnus Evan Smith (front) with Dean Charles Whitaker at the 2023 Local News Summit.

◆ **Right:** Press Secretary of CPS and freelance journalist Evan Moore delivers a remark to attendees of the 2023 Local News Summit.

◆ **Front cover:** Chicago Reader associate publisher Amber Nettles and Borderless Magazine's editorial director and Medill alumnus Mauricio Peña (MSJ14) work together during the Local News Accelerator's Media Innovation & Leadership Academy (MLA).

Thanks to comprehensive research conducted by Medill's Local News Initiative, the crisis now roiling American journalism is well documented.

Local and regional newspapers, many of them more than 100 years old, are going out of business. Broadcast media is shrinking. Online startups are folding after blowing through millions of dollars in initial funding. And throughout the industry, journalists are losing jobs.

In recent years, through its Local News Initiative, Medill has gone beyond its traditional role of undergraduate and graduate education, launching a number of outreach programs to assist media professionals in combating the industry's troubling trends and to help high schools educate young journalists.

"The role of a modern journalism program cannot simply be the training of future journalists. The industries that we serve are in such turmoil that if our students are to have jobs, to have industries to go into, those industries need leadership, research and someone from outside the industry to help them think outside of the box and chart a path forward," said Medill Dean Charles Whitaker. "So it's in our vested interest to step outside of what our traditional role was and provide the leadership, the innovation, the creative thinking to enable these organizations and entities to continue. Otherwise, if they implode and cease to function, there will be no place for our students to go."

This special edition of the Medill magazine takes a look at the Local News Initiative and its outreach programs.

Local News Initiative Charts Future of Journalism

If you want to know the state of journalism in the U.S. today, your best source is the website of Medill's Local News Initiative, localnewsinitiative.northwestern.edu.

From the sobering information contained in an annual report on the state of local news, to success stories that illustrate what's working, the site provides an up-to-date look at the journalism industry. But for those willing to drill a bit deeper, the site also details the pathbreaking work of the Local News Initiative (LNI), a key project of Medill.

Founded in 2017, the LNI is an innovative research and development project with the goal of reinventing the relationship between news organizations and audiences, while developing new approaches to local news business models. The LNI is led by Professor Tim Franklin, senior associate dean and John M. Mutz Chair in Local News. Franklin came to Medill from the Poynter Institute after a distinguished career in which he served as the top editor of *The Indianapolis Star*, *Orlando Sentinel* and *Baltimore Sun*.

"A goal of the Local News Initiative is to do what Medill and a university can uniquely do: impactful research about the local news industry and local news audiences," Franklin said.

Unquestionably the most visible product of the LNI has been its annual report on the state of local news, which is led by Visiting Professor Penny Abernathy. The 2023 report, which came out last November, garnered headlines across the country with its grim finding that the U.S. was losing 2.5 local newspapers a week and that 204 counties now have no access or very limited access to local news — "news deserts." In addition, using metrics developed by Medill's data scientists, researchers and faculty members, the report identified another 228 counties at risk of becoming news deserts.

However, the report, the LNI website, and the LNI itself now also shine a light on local news bright spots, those media outlets that are succeeding in attracting audiences, doing high-quality journalism — and even making money — in today's challenging media environment. Creating more of those successes is a key goal of the LNI.

"We want people to know the challenges around local news — and they are considerable — but we also want to be inspiring new ideas to help local news outlets figure

out new business models going forward. And we want to work directly with news organizations to help them become sustainable over the long term," Franklin said.

To do that, the LNI has created or expanded a number of programs aimed at bolstering local news (see related stories on following pages). While a number of the programs are focused on the Chicago area, the LNI's research and work includes news organizations across the U.S. The Medill Subscriber Engagement Index, done in conjunction with the Spiegel Research Center, includes more than 100 news organizations from across the country and provides local digital readership and benchmarking data to news outlets big and small for free.

In doing so, Medill hopes to develop models for local news that, while probably different from what media have done in the past, will enable journalism to continue to benefit society, said Dean Charles Whitaker.

"Is that possible? I absolutely think it's possible. Do I think we're going to save local news as it has traditionally existed? No. But the goal is to determine what local news and journalism should look like in the rest of the 21st century," Whitaker said.

"The goal is to preserve vehicles of information that will function as a way for our communities to see themselves, that will serve as another pillar of democracy that will be a bulwark against authoritarianism," Whitaker added. "I'm agnostic about what form that takes, I just want us to help figure out what that form is. The goal is to ensure local news, a reliable source of credible information that citizens can turn to, that we can agree upon and that is trusted by everyone, in order to preserve democracy."



Local News Accelerator: Helping Chicago-Area Media Succeed



For more than 50 years, *La Raza*, a Spanish-language newspaper in Chicago, has been a go-to source of information for Latino immigrants in Chicago. But as the population of second-generation Latinos in Chicago who are bilingual or English-speaking increased, *La Raza* found itself less relevant to that population.

With support from Medill's new Local News Accelerator (LNA) that included extensive audience research and assistance in developing a business plan, *La Raza* created a new subscription newsletter aimed at that younger audience, a growing economic and political force in Chicago. The newsletter now boasts a 50 percent open rate, far above that of many online news publications. In addition, the research has spurred change in the print version as well.

"The research identified some areas of transformation and growth for us, which was very helpful," said Jesus Del Toro, general manager and editor in chief of *La Raza*. "It made us think about what sort of content is interesting for this younger audience, which is bilingual, rather than just our

traditional audience. So we are now considering topics and elements that build interest for this younger generation."

La Raza was one of five Chicago-area news outlets selected last year to partner with the LNA, part of Medill's Local News Initiative. The LNA acts as a small business incubator to help Chicago-area businesses succeed in their mission and bottom line, said Mackenzie Warren (BSJ00), Medill alumnus and LNA director.

"We bring to bear the expertise that exists at Northwestern — journalism and integrated marketing communications at Medill, business knowledge at Kellogg and product development at McCormick," Warren said. "We have a unique combination of experience that we can bring to our partners, the media businesses that we are assisting."

Previously a top news executive at Gannett focusing on news strategy and career development for journalists, Warren joined Medill last year to develop the LNA. The incubator is designed to strengthen local news in Chicago by helping outlets with business strategies, audience development, consumer research, product development support and leadership coaching. The media leaders choose a specific project for their outlet and then work with one another and experts in the field at Medill's newsroom and classroom spaces in downtown Chicago and Evanston.

◀ **Left:** Senior Associate Dean, Professor and John M. Mutz Chair in Local News Tim Franklin talks to Media Innovation & Leadership Academy participants.

▶ **Right:** Senior Director of audience engagement at the Chicago Sun-Times, Angela Massino, participates in the Local News Accelerator's Media Innovation & Leadership Academy (MILA). Massino is part of the first class of MILA, a week-long program focused on equipping media leaders with the knowledge and tools to transform media organizations in Chicago.



In addition to *La Raza*, last year's organizations included legacy media, such as the *Daily Herald*, a suburban Chicago newspaper, and *Crain's Chicago Business*. LNA also partnered with nonprofits such as *City Bureau*, which focuses on citizen journalism in neighborhoods that are historically majority-Black or brown residents; and Illinois Answers Project, a solutions journalism initiative of the Better Government Association (see related story on page 9).

This year the LNA will work with: *Chicago Sun-Times*; WBEZ, the NPR affiliate; WTTW, the PBS affiliate; *Chicago Reader*; *Borderless Magazine*; *Cicero Independiente*; *Windy City Times*; and Shaw Media, a publisher of 50 titles in the west and northwest suburbs. As was done last year, each media outlet will collaborate with the LNA to choose a specific project to focus on and then develop a strategy and tactics to succeed in that effort.

“All of the publications had different business models, including nonprofits, all with geographic diversity and aimed at reaching different audiences across different platforms.”

— Mackenzie Warren, LNA director

Medill Dean Charles Whitaker said, “We want the Local News Accelerator to provide a place for media execs, particularly fledgling outlets, to come together to develop technical skills and expertise, to learn how to better understand their audiences, perhaps experiment with new revenue models, new content and new ways of engaging with audiences. It’s a think tank of managers coming together and experimenting with tools and techniques.”

Media outlets changing the face of local news.

Block Club Chicago



BORDERLESS

EVANSTON
ROUNDTABLE

THE TENNESSEAN



▶ **Top:** LNA fellow and recent MSJ graduate Lu Calzada interviews Medill alumnus David Plazas (MSJ00), The Tennessean opinion and engagement director at the 2023 Local News Summit.

▶ **Above:** LNA coach Troy McDonald interviews Sun-Times reporter, columnist and Medill alumna Maudlyne Ihejirka (MSJ87).

▶ **Right:** LNA coach Jean Hodges hands the Illinois Answers team members certificates of completion for their participation in the Local News Accelerator program.



▶ **Page 7, left:** Becky Vevea is the bureau chief for Chalkbeat Chicago. She speaks to her team as together they strategize an approach to their case study during the Media Innovation & Leadership Academy.

▶ **Page 7, right:** Fran Scarlett is a business strategist and transformational change coach. Scarlett was a featured teacher and coach in the Local News Accelerator's Media Innovation & Leadership Academy. Scarlett taught teams about business strategies related to customer value proposition and the business model canvas. Each team applied these lessons to their relevant work at their media organization.

“We’re focused on concrete outcomes that improve the reader experience, that give the reader access to trustworthy local news and information and outcomes that contribute to the perpetuation of the business,” Warren said, noting that many areas of Chicago do not have access to a reliable local news source.

“We believe that lack of a local news source is a vulnerability in local democracy. Where you have local news, good things happen for local citizens; where you don’t, bad things happen. We want every Chicago-area resident to have access to trustworthy news and information.”

— Mackenzie Warren, LNA director

In addition to working with its selected partners, the LNA also is helping create a network for Chicago-area media outlets. An early LNA survey showed that there are more than 100 news outlets in the metro area, ranging from large incumbents such as newspapers and TV stations, to startup digital magazines and podcasts, to one- or two-person operations that cover specific neighborhoods or niche subjects. The LNA hosted the 2023 Local News Summit with 90 attendees.

“I think perhaps the most important thing about the Accelerator is that it gives us, the participants, new motivation and new ways to tackle problems. That motivation and that push to experiment and go beyond tradition and the usual things that we do is perhaps the best thing we receive from the Accelerator,” said *La Raza’s* Del Toro. “Working with Medill has been a very good experience.”



Create a Successful Media Outlet — In Three Days

Your assignment: Come up with a viable business plan for a legacy newspaper or an online startup and pitch it successfully to a group of investors. And do it in three-and-a-half days!

That was the task given to 16 Chicago-area editors, news directors and media executives in the first-ever Media Innovation & Leadership Academy (MILA) held earlier this year. Given a challenging case study that detailed a hypothetical market — a mid-sized Midwestern city — the audiences and history of their respective publications, four teams of MILA participants faced off in a “Shark Tank”-style competition to come up with a plan and pitch it to a group of judges acting as investors.

The competition was the capstone of the Academy, a week of intensive education and training provided as part of Medill’s new Local News Accelerator program. MILA featured seminars on areas such as content strategy, understanding audiences, developing a business model and related topics, all led by faculty from Medill, Kellogg and outside experts.

“The Media Innovation & Leadership Academy is essentially a mini-MBA in media management packed into one week,” said Mackenzie Warren, director of the Local News Accelerator. “We want participants to emerge with a deeper understanding of those key areas so they can deliver results in any scenario.”

For the participants, MILA provided insights into those management topics and an opportunity to meet and share experiences with fellow media leaders.

“I’m relatively new to leadership. This opportunity was intriguing to me because I want to anticipate what the next thing in journalism is as opposed to just the current state of the industry, and I wanted to learn how to be a better leader in my newsroom,” said Becky Vevea, Chicago bureau chief for *Chalkbeat*, an online publication that covers education.

“I’m at the point in my career where I’m really excited about local news and it seems like there’s a lot of interesting things happening there,” said Bill Carey, a media consultant who formerly worked at *Slate*. “This gives me the opportunity to focus on that and fill in some of the gaps I have from working mainly in national news.”

At the start and finish of the Academy, participants were asked to evaluate themselves on how confident they were in several key areas, including business strategy, content strategy, leadership, product development and research and insights. The participants reported being significantly more confident across all areas, particularly in leadership and content strategy. Many cited the opportunity to learn from one another.

“I love being around this group and the energy you receive and the good ideas that we get,” said M. Eileen Brown, vice president of sales and marketing for the *Daily Herald*, a medium-sized daily newspaper in suburban Chicago. “You have to keep learning, and as a legacy organization we have to be constantly exposed to new ideas and new ways of doing things.”

The Shark Tank pitch that ultimately succeeded in gaining buy-in from the judges: A combined proposal from all four teams that called for merging the online publication with the legacy newspaper and creating a hub for community journalists in order to develop new audiences.

◀ **Left:** Director of the Midwest Solutions Journalism Hub and Medill senior lecturer, Deborah D. Douglas.

Medill Becomes Hub For Solutions Journalism

A criticism occasionally leveled at journalism is that while it does a good job at exposing problems, it traditionally has done little to show what is being done to address those problems.

And while journalists excel at covering a particular event or incident, they are less proficient at understanding and illuminating the underlying systemic issues that may contribute to those incidents.

In recent years, a new discipline in journalism has been developed to address those criticisms. Called solutions journalism, it offers a new approach that maintains rigorous journalistic principles and practices while also teaching journalists to go beyond traditional approaches.

Medill is one of four institutions named to be the inaugural university hubs for the Solutions Journalism Network, and last year Medill alumna Deborah D. Douglas (BSJ89) became the director of the Midwest Solutions Journalism Hub. Douglas, an award-winning journalist and educator, is now spreading the word of solutions journalism through teaching and training to media outlets and universities throughout the Midwest.

As detailed by the Solutions Journalism Network, a nonprofit organization advocating that approach, reporting on social issues using solutions journalism embraces four pillars:

1 Response: How the response to a social problem has worked or why it hasn't.

2 Insight: Distilling the lessons learned from the response.

3 Evidence: Data or qualitative results that show the effectiveness of the response.

4 Limitations: What challenges or shortcomings exist to the response that may limit its effectiveness.

“When people hear solutions journalism sometimes they think it’s just positive news, or good news or as one of my former editors said, namby-pamby do-gooder journalism. It’s not that at all. You’re defining what the problem is. But you’re stating early in your story that you’re going to move into responses and potential solutions and examine those as well,” Douglas said. “It’s a way of covering pressing social problems and systemic issues and what can be done to address those issues.”

Teaching more journalists to use that approach is the goal of the Midwest Hub in the Solutions Journalism Network, Douglas said, who has provided dozens of workshops for media outlets throughout the Midwest, with more on the way.

Alex Nitkin (BSJ15) has been using the solutions journalism approach in his work as a reporter for the Illinois Answers Project, an arm of the Better Government Association, a Chicago nonprofit news organization and civic advocate working for transparency, equity and accountability in government in Chicago and Illinois.



Nitkin recently wrote a story on potentially licensing rental properties in Chicago followed by another on what infrastructure improvements could be made to Chicago streets to make them safer for bicyclists. In both cases, he examined solutions that had been successful elsewhere — Denver for the licensing story and Evanston for the infrastructure story — and whether those approaches would work in Chicago.

“You still have to approach everything with a skeptical eye and do a lot of reporting and research and source building,” Nitkin said. “The only difference in the outcome is a different type of journalistic output that focuses on people trying to solve systemic problems and put that under the microscope.”

“Solutions journalism doesn’t need to crowd out more traditional investigative journalism that just exposes what the problem is. A reason why I believe in solutions journalism and its projects is that it’s a way to make public policy more accessible and invite people to engage more. There’s a tendency for people to disengage when

reading depressing news. When a publication just exposes a problem very often the response of readers is not to engage,” Nitkin said.

“What appeals to me about solutions journalism is that you’re presenting an ongoing fight — showing there is a path forward. You’re not giving anyone a free pass and you’re being real about the problems,” he added. “But you’re inviting the reader to care more and invest more in the issue.”

That sentiment is increasingly common among Medill students, said Dean Charles Whitaker.

“Our students have long said that they are not interested in just shining a light on problems. They want their journalism to have impact and to find if not a resolution for some the issues, at least to shine a light on those individuals and institutions that are tackling a problem,” Whitaker said. “They felt it was exploitative to just go in and write about something and say, ‘This horrible thing is happening’ and then leave. They felt that was incomplete journalism, and we tended to agree.”

A key part of training how to do solutions journalism is educating journalists to slow down and listen better in order to engage more fully with communities that traditionally have not been well covered by media, Douglas said.

“This kind of journalism helps us to examine and deconstruct the assumptions that we start with, and that makes us better journalists. It forces us to re-evaluate our framing to produce more accurate and authentic stories where traditionally underserved or poorly framed communities can finally feel seen and understood,” she added. “Solutions journalism invites us to excavate the ‘how’ part of the ‘who, what, when, where and how’ of journalism. In solutions journalism you can look outside your coverage area for examples of interventions that are being tested that could work or may be working.”

At 45 media partners and growing, Douglas plans to grow the Midwest Hub of the Solutions Journalism Network further this year, with additional training and a conference, in addition to continuing to publish The Hub, a newsletter focusing on best practices and successes in the field.

“Solutions journalism is right for all media. Research shows that people spend more time reading solutions journalism and tend to be the most engaged audience members,” she said.

Above: Medill alumna Alex Nitkin (BSJ15) is the government finance and accountability reporter for Illinois Answers Project, which was launched by the Better Government Association in 2022 to expand the practice of solutions journalism.



▲ Above: Lane Tech High School student journalist Alex Burnstein interviews Medill alumnus Mauricio Peña for the 2023 Scholastic Press Association of Chicago conference.

Teach for Chicago Journalism Supports High School Teachers and Students

Carl Schurz High School on Chicago's Northwest side hadn't had a school newspaper for the past 20 years.

That changed in the fall of 2022 when Kevin Rutter, a career and technical education teacher, became the school's newspaper advisor, and with the help of Medill's Teach for Chicago Journalism program, revived the *Schurz Times*.

Schurz serves approximately 1,200 students, most of them Latino and from lower-income families. Rutter had been the advisor for Schurz's yearbook for several years and agreed to take on the new challenge.

“I have a yearbook class and I saw that there were a lot of kids interested in taking photos and writing stories, so we started an after-school club to complement the yearbook. I thought it'd be a good thing to get the newspaper up and running.”

— **Kevin Rutter**, *Schurz teacher and newspaper advisor*

Under the leadership of Michael Spikes, director, and Katie Fernandez, senior program coordinator, the Teach for Chicago Journalism program supports high school students and advisors in creating and maintaining journalism programs. Teach for Chicago is part of the Local News Initiative.

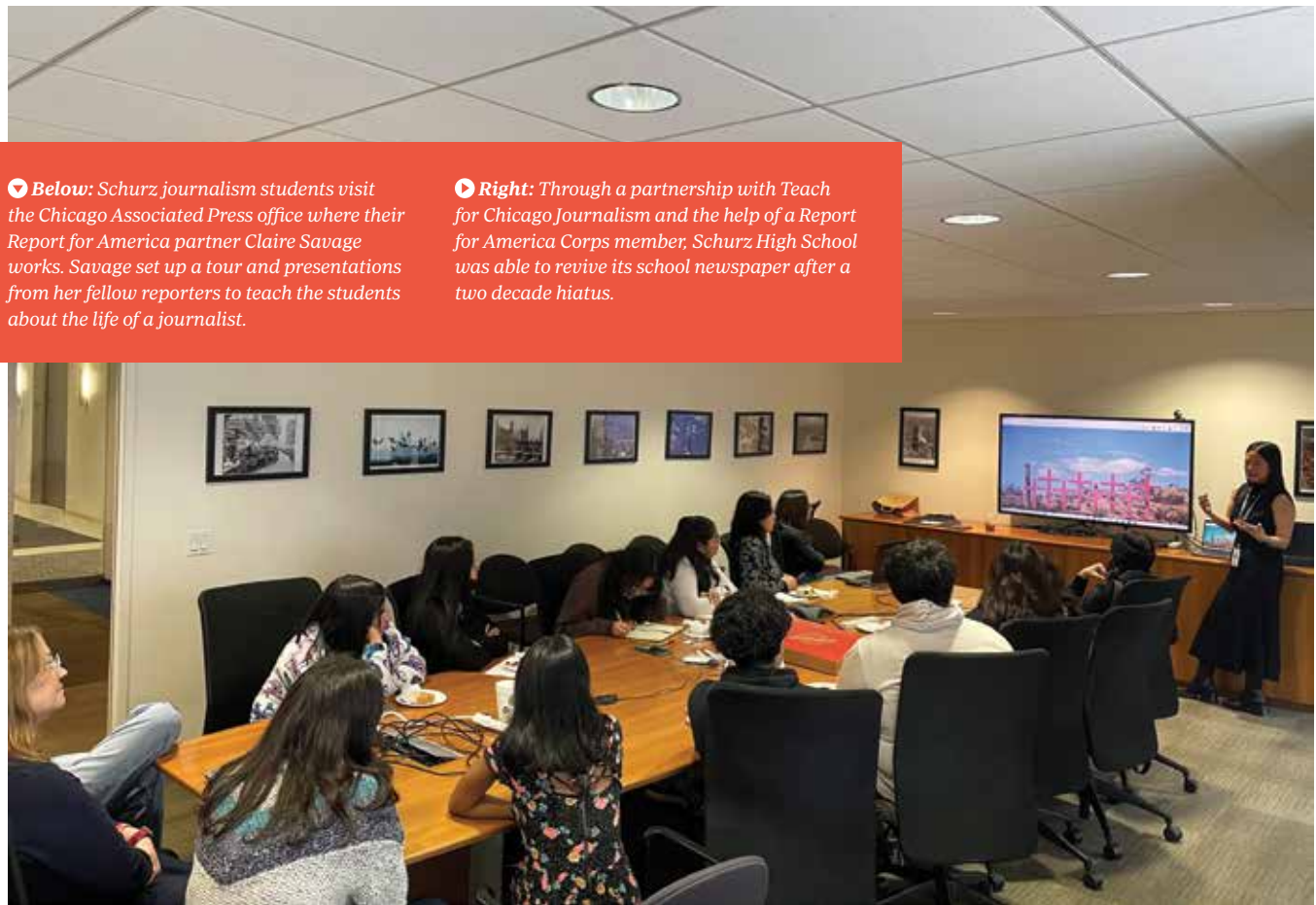
Maintaining and building high school journalism programs in Chicago can be a challenging task, Fernandez said. Only about 25 out of more than 100 Chicago public high schools, including charter schools, have a news publication of some type and that number declined greatly in recent years.

“There are lots of different barriers that have presented publications from being started or continuing to publish. In Chicago we have a lot of new schools, charter schools and when they're opening, one of the first thoughts is not to start a newspaper,” Fernandez said. “It takes some time for them to start one and find an advisor who's willing to take that on.”

Fernandez reached out to Rutter offering to assist in getting the *Schurz Times* going again. “She's been incredibly supportive,” Rutter said. One key part of that support has been finding journalism professionals to volunteer to work with the high school students. At Schurz, Claire Savage, an AP reporter, has been meeting weekly with the students, editing stories and doing presentations on how to write stories, take photos and other topics.

To assist those teachers who do become advisors, Teach for Chicago Journalism offers an Advisor Academy, which provides free training on topics such as media law, newsroom organization, curriculum development and other topics.

Rutter has become a strong advocate for high school newspapers. “It's a lot of work, but I really like showcasing the kids' work. It's a great thing for the school — every high school of this size should have this experience available for the students.”



▼ **Below:** Schurz journalism students visit the Chicago Associated Press office where their Report for America partner Claire Savage works. Savage set up a tour and presentations from her fellow reporters to teach the students about the life of a journalist.

▶ **Right:** Through a partnership with Teach for Chicago Journalism and the help of a Report for America Corps member, Schurz High School was able to revive its school newspaper after a two decade hiatus.

Scholastic Press Association of Chicago

In 2021, Medill became the home of the Scholastic Press Association of Chicago (SPAC), which provides a central source of information for journalism teachers, advisors and students as well as presents awards for student publications. At its annual conference, SPAC provides opportunities for collaboration among advisors to exchange ideas and experiences and brings in journalism professionals and faculty to speak to the group.

“A lot of high school advisors are the only ones at their school with any journalism background or training, so this is an opportunity for them to get together and compare notes,”

— **Katie Fernandez**, Senior Program Coordinator, Teach for Chicago Journalism Program

AP Seminar

Spikes and Fernandez, in conjunction with The College Board, have developed an Advanced Placement seminar in journalism for high school students called Media, Democracy and Journalism. The seminar is being piloted at three Chicago high schools: Jones College Prep, Northside College Prep, and Gwendolyn Brooks College Prep Academy; as well as Conant High School in Hoffman Estates. The seminar is part of the AP Seminar program in which students collaborate to investigate topics, research and write essays and give individual and team presentations.

“The important skills that are developed in this course mirror those of a journalist — analyzing arguments, comparing perspectives and synthesizing information from multiple sources,” Fernandez said.

“We were able to visit the schools and see some of their presentations and were able to see how much they learned about research and their writing skills. And one of the things we kept hearing was how much their media literacy skills are really becoming much better through this because they have to be so critical about sources.”

Teach for Chicago Journalism hopes to expand the AP seminar to other schools in the coming year.



Why focus on high schools?

Medill is undertaking the programs focused on high school journalism as part of its community-building efforts, Spikes said.

“We want to not only increase the number of students who may be engaged in student journalism at their schools, but also help students to see what the power of engaging with journalism is. We want our students to see Northwestern as a resource to help them.”

“The Teach for Chicago Journalism program also helps Medill in its efforts to ensure diversity in the students it attracts and enrolls,” said Dean Charles Whitaker.

“I am a product of the Chicago Public School system and grew up at a time when Chicago had a very robust high school journalism ecosystem as well. My neighborhood high school had a newspaper, a television and radio station, and a tremendous photography lab. That was how one became interested in journalism. You started at the high school level. But over the years high schools in Chicago, particularly neighborhood schools, have eliminated a lot of journalism programs.”

“That impacts us because we want Medill to have students from a variety of backgrounds while also having some journalism experience at the high school level,” Whitaker said. “With fewer and fewer students coming from neighborhood schools, we have intervened in a hope to rebuild high school journalism in the Chicago area.”



Grants, Gifts Support Local News Initiative Programs

► **Above:** *Medill alumnus and Evanston RoundTable reporter Duncan Agnew (BSJ21) at the Medill Local News Leadership Academy event.*

► **Right:** *Mackenzie Warren speaks to the first class of the Media Innovation & Leadership Academy.*

Support for the Local News Initiative and the launch of its programs has come from major grants from the McCormick Foundation, Knight Foundation, Lilly Endowment, other foundations and significant gifts from John Mutz (BSJ57, MSJ58) and Mark Ferguson (BSJ80). Medill is now seeking additional funding from other organizations and from alumni.

After an initial grant of \$300,000 from the Lilly Endowment and the Mutz gift, the Robert R. McCormick Foundation made a grant of \$1 million in 2019 and then followed up with a \$2.4 million grant in 2022 to launch the Local News Accelerator.

In addition to Lilly and McCormick, the Local News Initiative (LNI) has received grants and gifts from the Knight Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Joyce Foundation, Microsoft, Google, SNPA Foundation, Myrta Pulliam Charitable Trust and the KAS USA Foundation.

In 2017, Mutz contributed \$250,000 to help launch the LNI and then followed up with a \$2 million gift in 2020 to endow



a professorship in local news. Tim Franklin, Medill's senior associate dean and professor, is the John M. Mutz Chair in Local News.

While a student at Medill, Mutz worked on the copy desk at the *Indianapolis News*. However, he did not go into journalism, entering politics after a short stint in public relations. He served in the Indiana legislature and was elected lieutenant governor of the state before going into private business and philanthropy. He was the president of PSI Energy, the largest utility in Indiana, and then headed the Lilly Endowment Inc., one of the world's largest private foundations. Two of Mutz's children and two of his grandchildren also graduated from Northwestern.

"One of the things that the Lilly Endowment did when I was president was to encourage the creation of community foundations and we eventually seeded community foundations in every county in Indiana. That involvement, as well as running for office, made it crystal clear to me how important a reliable, sustainable — and I might say profitable — local news source is for a community," Mutz said.

To make a gift or for more information on how to support the Local News Initiative programs, contact Maggie Wave, director of development, at maggie.wave@northwestern.edu.

This special issue of the Medill alumni magazine is a publication for alumni and friends of Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications.

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