

The
Learning Institute
For Working Journalists

reporting on **immigration**

april 18 - 21, 2006
University of Arizona

Presented by
the Media, Democracy & Policy Initiative
College of Humanities University of Arizona  McCormick Tribune
Foundation

The Learning Institute For Working Journalists

The McCormick Tribune Foundation and the Media Democracy & Policy Initiative invite applications for the 2006 Learning Institute for Working Journalists. The Institute will provide an important professional development opportunity for journalists seeking to improve their understanding of the complex issue of immigration reform in 2006. The issue, once relative to certain urban areas, is becoming a more prevalent national issue in new regions of the country, requiring media to write extensive stories or develop new beats. It stands to be a key issue in the next presidential elections in the United States in 2008 and in Mexico in 2006.

The Learning Institute for Working Journalists is a professional development opportunity designed for 10 journalists to meet at the University of Arizona from April 18-21, 2006. The fellowship is completely funded by a grant from the McCormick Tribune Foundation and covers the cost of travel, hotel and all sessions. The beneficiaries of the program are the journalists and their newsrooms and thus, the readers.

The Media, Democracy & Policy Initiative is perfectly situated to provide this opportunity for two reasons: its location and its mission. First, immigration policy reform is an important issue in Arizona. It is in a state that has offered key bi-partisan legislation in the Kennedy-McCain Bill in 2005; the first to pass a controversial anti-immigrant resolution; and because of its proximity to the US-Mexico Border, the history of these two nations is closely connected economically and culturally.

The Learning Institute is a comprehensive three-day program to offer journalists to meet and talk with those that are on the frontlines of a controversy that has no easy answers. Since the 2000 U.S. Census, studies are showing dramatic increases in migration in various parts of the country that have typically not seen immigration as a priority. There is pressure on U.S. journalists to effectively cover this issue; and many times, there is no one reporter assigned to this beat. In border states such as Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Florida and California, border or immigration beats were added during the last two decades. Writers covering traditional beats such as enforcement, health care, and business are also finding immigration an issue.

Who is eligible?

The Institute encourages applications from journalists who can successfully demonstrate that they would benefit from improving their background on the immigration issue and recognize a significant change in their communities' immigrant populations. Candidates must be willing to: attend an intensive program and all its sessions; evaluate the program; and share the experience with the newsroom in a specific session. Institute Fellows will become members of a think tank participating in an ongoing dialogue on immigration coverage throughout the year and required to write at least one essay on immigration for the MDPI website. The program includes a one-day trip into Mexico to directly observe the process of crossing the border.

Application Process

Completed applications and required attachments must be received by **Monday, March 27, 2006.**

Materials can be emailed, faxed or mailed. However, the applicant should call the MDPI office to guarantee that the application has been received. The applicant will be asked to submit a one-page letter of interest with three examples of writing, a resume, a recommendation letter from the managing editor/city editor confirming that the journalist will benefit from the program and has permission to attend. For more information, contact:

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Goals of the Learning Institute for Working Journalists

- An opportunity to increase their background and demystify the complexities of one of the most crucial issues facing the nation, immigration policy and its related issues.
- A break from the pressure of daily deadlines to meet with experts in the immigration field from around the country.
- An opportunity to meet other journalists who are facing the same issue in their newsrooms and in their communities.
- An opportunity to meet informally with those on the frontlines of the immigration policy issue: the community, the experts, the policymakers, and the migrants.

Immigration Reform in 2006

Immigration is a complex and difficult issue to understand, particularly for anyone who has not had access to years of policy research and academic studies. It is an issue with no clear solutions and a host of serious concerns that make any proposed legislation a challenge to completely address. Once a bill is approved, the toughest question facing both local and federal officials is how to enforce it. _

Then, there is the effect that immigration has on the existing community, and the effect it has on those that are entering the country, legally or illegally. In other words, it is a news story with high impact and human value. It tears at Latino communities and often splits down political lines of conservative and liberal politics. It is a major item that many in office hope to avoid, while others plan to build their legacy on.

In Washington, there are at least seven major pieces of immigration legislation currently pending in 109th Congress and one of the most controversial bills passed in December 2005. The HR 4437, known as the Sensenbrenner bill, calls for among other things a 700-mile wall to be built along the US-Mexico border. Moreover, it is expected that as many as 17 states will be considering anti-immigrant bills during their current sessions. In Arizona, where Prop 200 — an anti-immigrant bill — passed in 2004, there are 49 anti-immigrant-related bills currently proposed in the state legislature. The effect has been that Arizona has become the feature of many discussions on immigration not only because of its proximity to the border but because of its trailblazing legislation.

Scholars can trace US immigration policy back to 1798 and the Alien and Sedition Acts which gave the President the right to deport anyone considered a danger to the peace and security to the country. Since then, there have been 21 major policies that have either encouraged or discouraged immigrants to enter, resulting in great fluctuations in the numbers of both legal and undocumented immigrants.

immigration april 18 - 21, 2006

The Learning Institute For Working Journalists

The program agenda

The program is designed like good story telling. It is developed to open with the issue of immigration seen from its broadest level of national and bi-national impact, narrowed down to its direct impact on the US-Mexico Border, and finally to the interpretation at the state and local level. Here is where policy follows an anti-immigrant path and the state systems are in chaos because national solutions are not working. The state level is also the proving ground for conservative legislation being considered for the national agenda.

The Learning Institute program begins with an optional session on the "Image and Identity of Immigration." Invited is Pulitzer Prize winning photographer Don Bartletti, who not only has recorded images along the border for the past 30 years, has been a lifelong resident of the San Diego-Tijuana communities. The fields of anthropology and linguistics are examining how the media images portray immigration and the effect they have on minorities in society. This impact is worthy of discussion especially since 35 million Latinos make up the largest minority group in the country.

Day One Highlights: Understanding Immigration Policy

First, the social, economic and political framework in which to view immigration policy. Presented by Judith Gans, a Harvard scholar and policy analyst developing her research at the University of Arizona Udall Policy Center, she is focused on better defining immigration as a product of race, culture, language, incorporation and citizenship. The sessions offer an understanding of policy history, economic and political effect from top experts. Leading expert and economist Gordon Hanson of the University of California at San Diego will describe immigration and its effect on economic performance and wages; taxes and social services; and its view from local, state and federal governments.

A panel moderated by historian Donald Tichenor of Rutgers University will address the current status of immigration policy and its historical roots. Confirmed for the panel is one of the most recognized voices of immigration policy, Doris Meissner of the Migration Policy Institute, and a former head of INS.

U.S. Sen. John McCain, co-author of the McCain-Kennedy Bill has indicated that he will address the Institute luncheon and a high-level Mexican official will provide the Mexican perspective.

Because US Policy and attitudes are negative to the Mexican situation and its people, Mexican government officials are responding with anti-American views. Recognizing that especially along the border, these communities grew up together and rely on each other economically and culturally, the realities of Washington politics is worthy of a discussion. Immigration a bi-national problem with global context that will require bi-national solutions to honestly find answers.

program agenda

Day Two: Impact on the Border/Deaths on the Border

On this day there is one activity: a visit to the US-Mexico Border and into Mexico where journalists can witness firsthand the staging areas where migrants from all over Mexico, Latin America and other parts of the world gather to prepare before crossing the desert into the United States. Nationally, 58 percent of the migration is from Mexico. The other 40 percent on from Visa overstays from countries from all over the world. MDPI staff and others will be along as translators.

Day Three: A Frontline Look at Immigration policy: Arizona

Arizona is an interesting case to consider. It sits along the border with a large Latino community, culturally connected to its southern neighbors and yet it was the first state to pass anti-immigration legislation. Prop 200 limits the availability of services to illegal migrants, among other restrictions. The number of anti-immigrant legislation now being offered in Phoenix is up to 49 from a few weeks ago when its was at 20. If approved, English will be the official language, a wall will be built along the border, financial, health care and even an education will be denied to those without the proper identification.

The first session opens with an informal breakfast with local officials. Invited guests will include the mayors of Tucson and Douglas, a Latino county supervisor, a school board member and a teacher. Former Tucson Mayor George Miller will guide the discussion along.

Next is a meeting at the Federal courthouse where 90 percent of the cases are about immigration. As many as 40 immigration cases are processed daily with the majority of which are sent back to the border. Second time offenders can be sent to a federal prison. A discussion group led by the chief public defender will examine the problems.

To further examine the state's view of immigration, the governor will be invited to be the luncheon speaker. To cover the issue a journalist will preside over a panel of state legislators with differing political viewpoints.

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**McCormick
Tribune
Foundation**

Mission

The mission of Media, Democracy & Policy Initiative is to develop a model institution to address issues concerning the image and identity of Latinos in American media, society and politics while adding historical context to the national dialogue on these issues.

Media, Democracy & Policy Initiative is a university-based think tank in the College of Humanities created in 2004 to address social justice issues important to the Latino community. The uniqueness of this initiative is in its mission and in its interpretation -- through media: documentary films, exhibits, or published essays and editorials.

The Learning Institute for Working Journalists at the University of Arizona is made possible through a grant from the McCormick Tribune Foundation. The founder and benefactor of the McCormick Tribune Foundation, Robert R. McCormick, was a firm and passionate advocate of journalism and press freedom. As a result, journalism is one of the major priorities of the McCormick Tribune Foundation. <http://www.rmtf.org/>

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application

Mail to:
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Applicant Information		
name		
home address		
city/state/zip code		
newspaper/broadcast station/group		
title/position		
work address		
city/state/zip		
office phone	office fax	office email
cell phone	other contact information	
Current Position		
Describe your areas of responsibility and years in the business		

Application forms are due March 27, 2006. Applicants will be notified by phone or email by March 29, 2006

Required Attachments

Please mail or fax this completed form along with:

- Send three examples of your writing and a resume
- A letter from the person to whom the applicant reports, answering these questions:
 - How would this program benefit your coverage of immigration issues?
 - How significant is the issue of immigration in your community?
 - Does the applicant have the organization's commitment and support for institute participation?
 - Will the applicant be released from normal duties to attend this program?
 - Will the applicant be allowed to write an essay for the Learning Institute?
- A letter from the applicant answering these questions:
 - Why do you want to attend the institute?
 - How would this benefit your coverage of immigration issues?
 - How do you cover immigration now?
 - If you do not have an immigration beat, why does this interest you; and if not, will you?