

The  
Learning Institute  
For Working Journalists

reporting on **immigration**

*april 18 - 21, 2006*  
University of Arizona

*program agenda*



# The Learning Institute For Working Journalists

## **Welcome to The Learning Institute for Working Journalists**

This program is designed like good story telling. It has been 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 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.

## **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.

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# *immigration*

## **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.

# *travel day*

*Tuesday, April 18*

## **Immigration: An Issue of Image and Identity**

**5 p.m. Reception:** University Marriott Hotel

**Moderator:** Otto Santa Ana, UCLA

**Artist:** Don Bartletti, *Los Angeles Times* photojournalist  
"Between Two Worlds: the people of the border" 1992  
Slide show and discussion with his updates with images

# day one

## Understanding Immigration Policy

8:30 **Introduction and Overview** Copper Room, UA Student Union  
**Framing the Debates**

8:45 **Session I** Copper Room, UA Student Union  
**Key Issues in the Immigration Debate Today**

**Speaker: Olga Briseño, Director of Media Democracy and Policy**

A brief discussion of the history of U.S. immigration policy, the general architecture of the current immigration system, and the key issues facing the immigration system.

Discussion includes: Numbers entering – competition with U.S. workers and fiscal impacts; race, culture, language, incorporation, and citizenship; illegal immigration, border control and national security; provision for economic immigration and temporary worker programs; citizens vs. workers in a global economy – civil vs. political vs. social rights.

9:45 **Break**

10:00 **Session II** Copper Room, UA Student Union  
**Why Does Immigration Divide Us?**

Describes frameworks for understanding immigration's impacts on economic performance and wages federal vs. state and local taxes and social services

**Sugg. Speaker: Prof. Gordon Hanson, economist, UC San Diego**

10:45 **Break**

11:00 **Session III** Copper Room, UA Student Union

**Panel: The Politics of Immigration Reform:  
Proposed Policy Solutions and Comparison of Pending Legislation**

A moderated discussion examining immigration in the current political landscape, asymmetric voice in the system, interest group politics, and dimensions of political tensions

**Poss. Moderator: Prof. Daniel Tichenor, Rutgers University, historian**

**Panel: (no more than 4, about half are confirmed)**

Doris Meissner, Migration Policy Institute

U.S. Congressman Jim Kolbe, (R, Arizona)

U.S. Congressman Raul Grijalva (D, Arizona)

Former U.S. Congressman Ron Mazzoli

Sponsor of the 1986 Immigration Act

*Wednesday, April 19*

**Understanding Immigration Policy (continued)**

- 12:00 Luncheon** Santa Rita Ballroom, UA Student Union  
Immigration Reform in 2006:  
What has the media not fully represented?  
Suggested Speaker: U.S. Senator John McCain
- 1:30 Break**
- 2:00 Session IV** Copper Room, UA Student Union  
Immigration & the rest of the country:  
– What do the new proposed policies mean to your areas?  
– What are the concerns & how are they being addressed?  
Roundtable discussion with institute fellows  
Moderator: Isabel Garcia
- 3:30 Transportation to the Arizona Daily Star**
- 4:00 Session V**  
Media Coverage of Immigration: An analysis of an immigration story  
Presenter: Ignacio Ybarra, Arizona Daily Star reporter on series entitled “Perra Flaca”  
Moderator: Bobbie Jo Buel, Executive Editor, Arizona Daily Star
- 5:30 Return to hotel**
- 7:00 Dinner** University Marriott  
The Mexican Perspective:  
A bi-national problem calling upon bi-national solutions  
Suggested Speaker: Jorge Bustamante

# *day two*

## **Impact on the Border — Deaths on the Border**

4 a.m. Tour of the U.S.-Mexico border Departs from Marriott University

**Speaker:** Kathryn Rodriguez, coordinator for Derechos Humanos, a human rights organization

Tour guides will include MDPI staff, John Fife of No More Deaths and possibly institute committee members.

*Thursday, April 20*

**Impact on the Border — Deaths on the Border**

# *day three*

## A frontline look at immigration policy: The case of Arizona

8:30 **Breakfast meeting with policy makers** Arizona Inn

**Moderator:** Former Tucson Mayor George Miller

**Guests:**

Tucson Mayor Bob Walkup

Pima County Supervisor Richard Elias

Tucson Unified School District Board Member Adelita Grijalva

Tohono O'dham Tribal Chair Vivian Juan Saunders

Douglas City Manager Mike Ortega

9:30 **Travel to Federal Courthouse**

10:00 **Session I** Federal Courthouse

**The Criminalization of the Border: Immigration policy and the courts**

**Moderator:** Isabel Garcia, attorney

**Panelists:**

Daniel Ortega

Attorney for clients challenging Proposition 200

Former Arizona Supreme Court Justice Stanley Feldman

Lynn Marcos, director of the Immigration Law Center

Andy Silverman, UA law professor

William Walker

Attorney for clients charged with violating federal immigration law

Margo Cowan Pima County Assistant Public Defender

*Friday, April 21*

**A frontline look at immigration policy: The case of Arizona**

12:00 **Luncheon** Manning House

When the federal system doesn't work, states are left to find solutions: The case of Arizona

Suggested Speaker: Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano

1:30 **Break**

2:30 **Session III** Copper Room, UA Student Union

Frontline immigration policies: Education, Health Care, Business

Moderator: Cecilia Rosales, chief of the UA Border Health Division of Public Health Services

3:30 **Break**

4:00 **Session IV** Copper Room, UA Student Union

TBD

6:00 **Institute Fellows Meeting** Hospitality Room, Marriott University

7:00 **Dinner** TBD

Border Literature and its Impact

Introduction: Tom Miller, Tucson author

Speaker: Ruben Martinez

Award-winning journalist, author, musician

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**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 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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