**New Ventures Fund/ Media Democracy Fund**

**Mid-Grant Report**

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The Media Policy Reporting and Education Project is off and running in 2014. What follows is a short summary of how well we are meeting our benchmarks.

**Enroll Reporters for 2014**

Our aim was to enroll 4-5 returning media policy reporters as “fellows” who can hep mentor new reporters, plus bring in 4-5 new reporters from new outlets. We have met our benchmark of at least 4 new reporters and 4 new outlets.

--Mike Ludwig, Truthout (fellow)

--Mark Scheerer, Public News Service (fellow)

--Cole Stangler, In These Times (fellow)

--George Lavender, Making Contact (fellow)

--Kwan Booth, Making Contact (reporter)

--Sam Ross-Brown, Tikkun (reporter)

--Sarah Mirk, Bitch Media (reporter)

--Dyan Ruiz, People.Power.Media (reporter)

--Jay Cassano, Waging Nonviolence (reporter)

In addition, we are working with reporters from Colorlines, an outlet that has received its own independent media policy grant. From MDF/ NVF. We also have kept alumni from the program invested by maintaining a google group to push out content around the program.

**Monthly Background Briefings**

Because of the grant cycles, there was a slight lag in our program between the conclusion of our previous grant in February 2014 and the start up of our new grant in May 2014. As a result, we have only held two briefings, but we will now be on a regular schedule.

* Briefings Provided:

5/14 Net Neutrality: the FCC’s 706 Plan (Matt Wood, Free Press)

6/14 Community Networks (Chris Mitchell, Ryan Radia, Wayne Pyle)

* Briefings Planned:

7/14 Media Consolidation: Tmobile/sprint, Comcast/TimeWarner, etc.

8/14 Spectrum Auction

9/14 eRate

10/14 FCC Meeting (outcomes)

11/14 Surveillance

12/14 IP Transition

**Partnerships with Media Policy Activists/ NGOs**

TMC Executive Director maintains active relationships with media policy NGOs in person and online. She is an active participant in the net neutrality listerves, and is in frequent communication with key leaders at Free Press, Common Cause, Center for Media Justice, Public Knowledge, EFF, Media Alliance, and the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, and maintains contact with other organizations including NHMC, NPM, Prometheus, TURN, etc.

The main focus of conversation in the past several months is whether TMC should continue to focus on net neutrality, or whether, now that John Oliver et al have taken up the fight, we should turn to issues like media consolidation, spectrum auction and e-rate that are perhaps being ignored. We are leaning towards the latter.

**FCC Workshop**

Allies and reporters agree that nothing would be more helpful to the effort to increase the quality of media policy reporting than holding a workshop in DC focused on the FCC. To date, however, we have been unsuccessful in fundraising for that effort, including an aborted attempt at crowdfunding. We have not given up however, and hope to have better news to report soon.

**Appendix: Media Policy Stories Filed 3/14 – 6/14**

Fellows:

**Public News Service, Mark Scheerer**

Note: Overall 49 versions created by Public News Service, picked up by 1,058 other outlets, reaching close to 15 million, not counting all of the online.

[http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2014-04-25/media-reform/free-internet-setback-net-neutrality-defenders-plan-pushback/a38991-1](http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2014-04-25/media-reform/free-internet-setback-net-neutrality-defenders-plan-pushback/a38991-1" \t "_blank)

[http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2014-05-15/media-reform/marginal-voices-to-speak-loudly-at-fcc-today/a39382-1](http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2014-05-15/media-reform/marginal-voices-to-speak-loudly-at-fcc-today/a39382-1" \t "_blank)

Note: 79 outlets picked up so far, 5 + million

[http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2014-06-24/media-reform/high-speed-broadband-the-public-private-debate/a40049-1](http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2014-06-24/media-reform/high-speed-broadband-the-public-private-debate/a40049-1" \t "_blank)

[http://www.newsservice.org/viewStoryLog.php?s=a3dkPSUyMmJyb2FkYmFuZCUyMiZzZD0wNiUyRjI0JTJGMjAxNCZkdXBzPTE](http://www.newsservice.org/viewStoryLog.php?s=a3dkPSUyMmJyb2FkYmFuZCUyMiZzZD0wNiUyRjI0JTJGMjAxNCZkdXBzPTE" \t "_blank)=

**Truthout, Mike Ludwig**

Opinion Piece:

[http://www.truth-out.org/opinion/item/23738-the-fccs-net-neutrality-proposal-is-out-its-time-to-make-our-voices-heard](http://www.truth-out.org/opinion/item/23738-the-fccs-net-neutrality-proposal-is-out-its-time-to-make-our-voices-heard" \t "_blank)

Reportage:

[http://truth-out.org/news/item/23820-everything-you-ever-wanted-to-know-about-the-fccs-net-neutrality-proposal](http://truth-out.org/news/item/23820-everything-you-ever-wanted-to-know-about-the-fccs-net-neutrality-proposal" \t "_blank)

[http://truth-out.org/news/item/23659-facing-growing-grassroots-pressure-wheeler-revises-net-neutrality-proposal](http://truth-out.org/news/item/23659-facing-growing-grassroots-pressure-wheeler-revises-net-neutrality-proposal" \t "_blank)

[http://truth-out.org/news/item/23300-is-the-fcc-poised-to-destroy-net-neutrality](http://truth-out.org/news/item/23300-is-the-fcc-poised-to-destroy-net-neutrality" \t "_blank)

[http://truth-out.org/news/item/22823-fcc-votes-to-curb-media-consolidation-in-local-tv-markets](http://truth-out.org/news/item/22823-fcc-votes-to-curb-media-consolidation-in-local-tv-markets" \t "_blank)

**Making Contact, George Lavender and Salima Hamirami**

[http://www.radioproject.org/2014/04/shh-life-in-a-state-of-surveillance/](http://www.radioproject.org/2014/04/shh-life-in-a-state-of-surveillance/" \t "_blank)

**Reporters:**

**Bitch Magazine, Sarah Mirk**

[http://bitchmagazine.org/post/net-neutrality-is-a-feminist-issue-heres-why](http://bitchmagazine.org/post/net-neutrality-is-a-feminist-issue-heres-why" \t "_blank)

[http://bitchmagazine.org/post/even-the-fcc-says-it-moved-too-fast-to-be-fair-on-net-neutrality](http://bitchmagazine.org/post/even-the-fcc-says-it-moved-too-fast-to-be-fair-on-net-neutrality" \t "_blank)

**Alumni:**

**The Nation, Leticia Miranda**

[http://www.thenation.com/article/179775/dialing-dollars-how-county-jails-profit-immigrant-detainees](http://www.thenation.com/article/179775/dialing-dollars-how-county-jails-profit-immigrant-detainees" \t "_blank)

[http://www.thenation.com/article/179934/fccs-net-neutrality-proposal-explained](http://www.thenation.com/article/179934/fccs-net-neutrality-proposal-explained" \t "_blank)