MPREP Applications

PNS: We live and breath by and with this issue, and have been raising funds to cover it as much as possible for over a decade. PNS has a proven track record reporting on this issue such that our stories are attractive to our network of over 8,000 other media outlets. Thus, our stories reach a wider audience - across platform, geography, politics and technical capacity. Every week we reach an audience of 24 million, and we stretch our funds to do as much reporting as possible.

Truthout: Covering media policy issues under the most recent program expanded Truthout's editorial scope and gave our readers insight into topics often ignored by mainstream media outlets. The program also expanded my understanding of media policy and helped me grow as a journalist. Holding powerful regulators and the mainstream media accountable while promoting media alternatives is consistent with Truthout's mission to "spark action by revealing systemic injustice and providing a platform for transformative ideas, through in-depth investigative reporting and critical analysis."

The Nation:

Over the last few years, TheNation.com has featured stories on the FCC’s weak net neutrality rules, how companies profit from Internet user behavior and editorials urging our readers to engage with the policy battles that will determine the future of 21st century communication tools. Some of our columnists and writers like John Nichols have done stellar reporting and analysis of what these policy shifts will mean to our readers. However, we would love the opportunity to further expand this coverage through the Media Consortium’s Media Policy program with Leticia Miranda as our media policy reporter.

We understand that we are in the midst of a critical point in media policy. Recently, Katrina vanden Heuvel, the editor and publisher of the Nation Magazine, detailed how the broadband industry and the FCC are at the whim of giant telecommunications as the country still grapples with a stark digital divide. This while states like Georgia are considering new laws that would limit community-owned broadband networks in its state and activists are fighting against AT&T to ensure that rural and low-income people can continue to have access to basic telephone service.

We are excited to sponsor Leticia Miranda as our media policy reporter. Ms. Miranda is currently an intern with the Investigative Fund at the Nation Institute and brings two years of experience to the media policy beat. She has worked in the media justice and media policy fields as an advocate with Media Literacy Project in New Mexico and a policy researcher at the New America Foundation’s Open Technology Institute. During that time, she worked on everything from organizing a townhall on net neutrality with Free Press featuring former FCC Commissioner Michael Copps to studying the history of rural electrification and its lessons for current rural broadband policy challenges. She also brings two years of experience as a journalist. She has written on primarily race, poverty and social justice for outlets like Colorlines Magazine and the Santa Fe Reporter. Last year, she published a feature story with Colorlines.com about the Wright Petition, which would reduce the cost of prison phone calls.

Our readership is already an engaged audience in issues of justice, social change and accountability. We have roughly 160,000 Nation Magazine subscribers and about 2 million readers online every month. Our readers are interested in today’s stories of structural inequality and movement victories, and have been for the last 150 years. We are confident that with the support of the Media Consortium’s Media Policy program and the reporting contributions of Leticia Miranda we can animate our readers to further engage with the struggles of the 21st century.

News Taco: NewsTaco 's audience is made up primarily of Latino thought leaders - educated, plugged-in, English dominant, multi-generational Latinos. We've found a deep gap in coverage of tech issues from a Latino point of view, for a predominantly Latino audience. We're interested in participating in this policy program because it would help NewsTaco's readers bridge this gap.

Making Contact: We have always pursued this beat, with entire 29-min editions on a media policy topic, or in segments as part of other issues. We'd like to take this opportunity to have all of our core producers be more literate in the details of media policy. This includes understanding media policy jargon and FCC rulings so we can present them to audiences in a digestible way. 1. Currently we are in pre-production on a radio program on Low Power FM across the US and hope to increase its impact by timing it for the summer before the new license window.
2. We have been researching the issue of phone access/cost to and from people in prison for a possible segment as part of a larger edition which explores communications and connections of families with community members who are in prison.
3. We have been discussing producing a segment on internet privacy as part of a broader discussion of post-911 surveillance/privacy/civil liberties issues (perhaps we could team up with Alice Ollstein from FSRN on this.)
4. Media Consolidation is something we hope to continue to cover in the context of how corporate control and consolidation skews civic discourse on a range of issues, spanning from immigration to domestic drone use. Of course we'd also consider continuing to cover how media corporations and their campaign contributions affect both our electoral system, and in turn our media policy and media eco-system.
5. We hope that the briefings will stimulate more topics/angles to consider.
6. We hope the briefings will be audio taped by the conference call company so our teammembers not directly on the call can listen-in later.
7. Because of our interest in this beat we already registered for the NCMR conference a few months ago, but we've not yet raised funds for the travel. We would also greatly value the capacity grant to cover reporters' time in briefings. Our producers and reporters often remark that they need more time to educate themselves on "wonkier" topics, and yet our demanding production schedule and thin resources often do not allow for that.

InThese Times: In These Times was founded on the conviction that a strong democracy depends on healthy debate. But healthy debate in turn depends on the public’s ability to access truthful information from a variety of voices and perspectives. In 2013 we will see many important developments in key media policy questions, including regulations on media ownership, affordable and egalitarian internet access, net neutrality, and numerous other issues that will impact how the public accesses and consumes information. These developments must be met with honest, independent reporting that scrutinizes media policy in order to serve the public interest; without it, the narrative will be controlled by the mega-conglomerates, which, of course, have their own horse in the race.
Most people, even avid consumers of the news, have little understanding of the extent to which the media they engage with every day is shaped by policy, and what is at stake. This is in part because of the complexity of media policy and because of an increasingly consolidated media landscape. Therefore it is left to the few remaining independent media outlets, like In These Times, not just to publish stories on media policy, but to make people want to actually read them. In reporting on media policy for In These Times in 2012, Ken Rapoza accomplished something that isn’t easy: He made media policy interesting and accessible to readers. Participating in the Media Consortium’s media policy reporting program again will allow him to learn more about the complexities of media policy and to translate those complexities into stories that are at once deeply informative and highly engaging.

Campus Progress: Campus Progress works with and for young people to promote progressive solutions to our pressing political and social challenges. Through our Communications program, we offer a national editorial platform at CampusProgress.org and a leadership pipeline for mentoring, training, and funding budding journalists.

By participating in the Media Policy Reporting and Education Training Project, our organization will able to advance the quality of reporting on media policy issues as they relate to young Americans. Additionally, our Journalism Network, which funds and supports more than 60 campus publications across the country, also provides a unique opportunity to cross-pollenate the compelling media policy education reporting generated by this collaboration.

We hope you consider our strong candidate, Emily Crockett, who has demonstrated an immense talent for reporting, comprehension, and steadfastness. Emily has worked for Campus Progress since 2011, when she dove into on-the-ground reporting at Occupy camps across the country; she has since covered numerous topics, including civil liberties, reproductive health, and student debt. Her work has been featured at Alternet, DCist, and In These Times, and she has made appearances on The Young Turks and Free Speech TV. She is an eager, dedicated reporter-editor who has an interest in learning more about media policy.

We appreciate the Media Consortium's consideration and hope we can participate in this program.

KGNU: I'm currently creating content for KGNU community radio in the Denver/Boulder metro area. KGNU has agreed to air regular media policy reports. There IS NO regular coverage of media policy in the Denver metro area. We do have a political supporter in Chief Deputy Whip Diane Degette - who I've spoken with on media consolidation as part of Free Press' efforts.

I'm already booked at the NCMR and do not need financial support for that. The $1000.00 stipend would make it possible to keep media policy issues in front of the Denver metro citizenry.

I'm particularly interested in using media as a focus or occasion for organizing. As former Production Director for Free Speech TV, I have experience in creating media for change, using storytelling in conjunction with strategic partnerships to further specific campaigns for change.

As Colorado has been home to the cable business, we are centrally located and involved as host state to some of the more egregious media ... hogs.

KGNU has airspace for monthly 4 minute features in the Morning news block, as well as quarterly hour-long programs. We'd be happy to open our studio and office space in Denver and Boulder to community town halls on the subject of media consolidation, digital surveillance, inquiries into ownership and staffing diversity, as well as stories on coverage of womens' issues (the head of the Personhood movement is located here) and critical examinations of how environmental issues are covered in mainstream media - the growth of fracking and the seeming death of the solar industry, as well as water issues are of enourmous concerns here in Colorado.

Am I a member in good standing? I'm not sure. I'm on the email list but if I need to become a member by any formal process please let me know. I attended two Media Consortium meetings when I was working at Free Speech TV.