



JOHN JAY COLLEGE
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
CENTER ON MEDIA, CRIME & JUSTICE



NEW YORK COMMUNITY MEDIA ALLIANCE

12 NEW YORK AREA JOURNALISTS CHOSEN AS IMMIGRATION REPORTING FELLOWS AT JOHN JAY COLLEGE

New York (May 1, 2008) --- Twelve journalists from leading ethnic and community newspapers in the New York region have won Media Fellowships at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY) to explore the impact of current immigration policies on the nation's criminal justice system.

They will participate in a special conference and fellowship program at John Jay College June 2-4, sponsored by John Jay's Center on Media, Crime and Justice and the New York Community Media Alliance.

In the first program of its type anywhere in the nation, the journalists will work on a wide range of reporting projects including the problems of youth violence in new immigrant communities, the impact of current policies on the children of deportees, immigration consulting scams, and the growing debate over whether local authorities should enforce federal immigration laws against undocumented migrants. The three best published stories arising from these projects will be awarded \$1,000 stipends.

The New York conference, "Immigration, Crime and Justice: Where Do We Go from Here? (Reporting The Full Story)," represents the second half of a unique effort to provide access, training and research information to ethnic media journalists who are often ignored by mainstream policymakers. The first part of the program was organized by the Institute for Justice and Journalism (IJJ) at the University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication, which selected a separate group of 12 ethnic media journalists from around the nation for a program on immigration and border security in Tucson, Arizona March 16-23.

Both sets of media fellows will come together in New York for a three-day conference featuring leading authorities, academics and policy makers, and a special field reporting visit to the city of White Plains, New York. Among those scheduled to address the conference are U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee; and New Haven Mayor John DeStefano.

"The results of this program will be felt immediately, in stories and articles produced by the Fellows, and in years to come, through the increased expertise, confidence and knowledge that journalists will be able to bring to this key national issue," said Stephen Handelman, Director of the Center on Media, Crime and Justice at John Jay College.

“Given the mission-driven and advocacy nature of many ethnic and community newspapers, providing the reporters with access to experts on law enforcement issues, both from the perspective of police and of the communities, promotes nuanced reporting into the communities affected, empowering them to advocate for their rights,” commented Juana Ponce de León, executive director of New York Community Media Alliance. “This is what responsible media should be doing.”

The 12 New York-based Fellows reflect New York’s vibrant ethnic community journalism. They include writers representing Polish, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Irish, Arabic and Latino publications.

The Center on Media, Crime & Justice at John Jay, founded in 2006 and managed by working journalists, operates programs, seminars and workshops aimed at raising the quality of criminal justice journalism around the nation and overseas. The New York Community Media Alliance (formerly known as IPA-NY) is the only association of ethnic and community publications in New York City, and provides technical assistance, training, networking opportunities, and advocacy for its members.

The New York conference is supported with a generous grant from the Open Society Institute.

A list of the 12 New York fellows is available online at <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/cmj/>

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