



WHY ATTEND AIJI?

The American Indian Journalism Institute is an academic, scholarship and internship program for college students run and funded by the Freedom Forum, a foundation which promotes employment diversity in America's newsrooms.

American Indian students often do not consider journalism as a career option, in part because many of their schools lack student newspapers and journalism classes, the most common routes to journalism careers. About 300 Native Americans work at daily newspapers — out of more than 55,000 daily-newspaper journalists nationwide.

Without Native Americans on staff, newspapers can produce stereotypical and erroneous coverage of Indian issues and Indian people. Having even one Native American in a newsroom makes a newspaper more aware of Indians in its community, and more sensitive and intelligent when reporting stories about them.

AIJI provides a unique opportunity for Indian students to learn about journalism and consider it as a career, which will help improve newsroom diversity around the country.



“The American Indian Journalism Institute offers Natives the best starting ground of any journalism program in the country. The scarcity of Native journalists ... went unaddressed until the Freedom Forum started AIJI.”

Jodi Rave Lee
Lee Enterprises

About the Freedom Forum:

The Freedom Forum, based in Washington, D.C., is a nonpartisan foundation dedicated to free press, free speech and free spirit for all people. The foundation focuses on three priorities: the Newseum, the First Amendment and newsroom diversity.

The Freedom Forum funds the operations of the Newseum, an interactive museum of news in Washington, D.C.; the First Amendment Center; and the Diversity Institute. The First Amendment Center and the Diversity Institute are housed in the John Seigenthaler Center in Nashville, Tenn. The First Amendment Center also has offices in Washington and the Diversity Institute has offices and programs at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

The Freedom Forum was established in 1991 under the direction of Founder Al Neuharth as successor to a foundation started in 1935 by newspaper publisher Frank E. Gannett. The Freedom Forum is not affiliated with Gannett Co. Its work is supported by income from an endowment of diversified assets.



freedomforum.org/diversity

Start your career path at the AMERICAN INDIAN JOURNALISM INSTITUTE



An academic, scholarship and internship program run by the Freedom Forum at The University of South Dakota. AIJI is the premier journalism training and newsroom internship program for Native American college students.



STUDY JOURNALISM AT AIJI: LEARN, PRACTICE, SUCCEED

THE PROGRAM

For three weeks in June, Native American students will learn the craft of journalism through one of several journalism courses taught at the Freedom Forum's Al Neuharth Media Center, on The University of South Dakota's Vermillion campus. Accepted students will be placed in an appropriate course based on their experience, interests and previous coursework.



"The American Indian Journalism Institute is producing a cadre of well-trained, young Native people who can raise the voice of Indian Country."

Wilma Mankiller
Former principal chief of the Cherokee Nation

Applications are welcome from any Native American college student hoping to become a journalist. Students attend AIJI for free and receive other financial assistance, including room and board during the program and a scholarship/stipend upon completion of the program. AIJI students also may be eligible for college credit.

After successful completion of the program, top AIJI graduates are hired for six-week paid internships as reporters, copy editors, photographers or multi-media journalists with daily newspapers and with The Associated Press.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants must submit:

- An application, available online at freedomforum.org/diversity
- A written essay (500-750 word minimum recommended) about the applicant. The essay will be read for content and to determine the applicant's ability to think and to express thoughts and ideas cogently. The essay should be autobiographical, with emphasis on interest in journalism and what the applicant hopes to accomplish through AIJI.
- A color headshot — hard copy sent by mail or jpeg sent by e-mail to aiji@freedomforum.org
- Two letters of recommendation, preferably from teachers, work supervisors, former employers or members of the journalism community. (No letters from relatives.)
- A copy of your most recent college transcript.
- A résumé or year-by-year listing of education and work history.
- Four to six work samples of any writing/editing/photo/Web experience or classroom work.

Applications must be received no later than **February 1**.

AIJI is an alcohol-free and drug-free program. From the program's start until graduation, AIJI students are prohibited from any use of alcohol or illegal drugs. Violators will be expelled.

INFORMATION

For more information, or to submit an application, call or write:

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"Newspapers need more Native journalists. If stories throughout history had had Indian voices saying 'There is another side to this story,' the history books would be very different."

Mark Trahan
Editorial page editor,
Seattle Post-Intelligencer