

Mellon/ACLS 
PUBLIC FELLOWS PROGRAM

Job Title:	Higher Education Program Specialist
Organization:	Solutions Journalism Network
Location:	New York, NY
Start Date:	September 1, 2020

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Every day, the news informs the public about the world's most serious problems. This is vitally important—but it's not enough. Around the globe, people are also making progress against seemingly intractable issues. Too often, these stories are missing from the news. This one-sided approach doesn't capture reality and has resulted in disengagement and despair. Imagine a world where, every day, people are informed not only about problems, but also about the ways in which people and communities are effectively responding to them. This is what solutions journalism is all about. Telling the whole story. Solutions journalism restores trust in news, strengthens participatory democracy, reveals credible avenues for hope, and holds public officials accountable by showing where and how people are doing better. Founded in 2013 by award-winning journalists David Bornstein, Tina Rosenberg and Courtney Martin, SJN is the pioneer and leader of a practice change being embraced by hundreds of newsrooms and thousands of journalists throughout the United States, Europe, Africa and Latin America.

Solutions journalism stories also contain information and insights that make them valuable teaching resources in almost any discipline. SJN partners with university educators to integrate solutions stories into curriculum in disciplines ranging from anthropology, business and social entrepreneurship, environmental studies, public policy and sociology. To date, 75 professors at 51 institutions and in approximately 200 courses have exposed their students to the practice of exploring and analyzing solutions using stories from SJN's Story Tracker and teaching resources from SolutionsU. Learn more at: <https://www.solutionsjournalism.org/>.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Solutions Journalism Network (SJN) is seeking an entrepreneurial individual to expand and advance its groundbreaking work with colleges and universities as a Higher Education Program Specialist. This role will include building a community of practice among educators, catalyzing the development of new curriculum that uses solutions stories to inspire and advance the thinking of students across a wide range of disciplines, developing educational opportunities with partners beyond academia, and fostering new relationships to support the integration of solutions journalism as a tool for higher education.

Reporting to Katharine Noble-Goodman, SJN's University Partnership Manager, the Higher Education Program Specialist will establish a network of educators/ambassadors at 20 institutions whose outreach to their colleagues at both the institutional level and through professional associations and conferences will contribute to a 25 percent increase each year of the fellowship in the number of professors using solutions journalism stories in their teaching. Achieving this goal will mean that approximately 125 professors will be regularly using solutions journalism stories in their teaching by mid-2022, reaching students through approximately 165 courses each year.

Visit <http://www.acls.org/programs/publicfellowscomp> to learn more about the Mellon/ACLS Public Fellows program. This position is *only* available through this program; please do *not* contact the host organization directly.

Key duties and responsibilities:

- Work with educators to help them envision curriculum that exposes their students to new ways journalists are helping communities worldwide to learn from one another and move the needle on important social issues;
- Develop a sustainable strategy for creating and stewarding a community of practice among educators using or wanting to use solutions journalism stories in their teaching;
- Expand and support our network of educators (ambassadors) who promote the practice of integrating solutions stories into curriculum by presenting at conferences, publishing in journals or blogs, and sharing and promoting solutions journalism to their colleagues and peers;
- Work with directors of Centers for Teaching and Learning to develop and deliver workshops that position solutions journalism as a valuable teaching resource;
- Develop innovative programs that help students understand how solutions stories can make them more effective across a wide range of disciplines, including testing a system to connect journalists with educators to speak in their classrooms;
- Respond to opportunities for students and/or administrators to use solutions journalism stories outside the classroom, and support endeavors with the greatest potential impact;
- Uncover partnership opportunities beyond the classroom with educational networks, publishers, and others; and
- Identify new ways SJN can learn from educators, administrators, students and others about how to advance our own thinking, strategic planning and partnerships.

QUALIFICATIONS

- PhD in the humanities or social sciences;
- Understanding of the dynamics of academic institutions and the constraints and motivations of both tenure and non-tenure track faculty;
- Entrepreneurial spirit, ability to inspire and motivate others;
- Ability to be a team player;
- A passion for preparing students to be effective, ethical change-makers and leaders;
- Skill developing engaging course materials and delivering learning content online;
- Comfort giving presentations and leading discussions in large and small group settings;
- Excellent organizational, writing and editing skills, and basic social media competency;
- Some travel is required: We estimate that this individual will travel to partner institutions and to academic conferences two to three times per year.

STIPEND AND BENEFITS

Each 2020 Mellon/ACLS Public Fellow receives an annual stipend of \$70,000, as well as access to employer-based health insurance through the host organization. In addition, ACLS provides funds for relocation and professional development. Fellows receive professional mentoring and participate in career development programming, both in-person and virtually.

APPLICATIONS

- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS online application system (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: March 18, 2020, 9 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time

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