

Trott Foundation News Fellows Program



Michigan Press Association Foundation
Funded by a grant from the
Trott Foundation

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

All materials must be submitted by:

January 25, 2027 5:00 PM deadline for consideration. This unpaid fellowship opportunity with the MPA is a one-of-a-kind Lansing, MI experience that helps students learn more about the political process. As an MPAF sponsored Fellow, you will have the chance to meet senators, representatives and legislative staff from across the state and become familiar with the basics of the legislative process in action. We are looking for reliable students who are organized, self-motivated, have an interest in politics, and are willing to work hard to get the job done.

Applicants Not Selected:

MPAF sponsors four students for the Fellowship. However, all applicants will be extended an invitation to participate in an online session with the Public Affairs Team to learn more about the legislative process.

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ABOUT:

The Michigan Press Association Foundation seeks Candidates for the 2027 Michigan Trott Foundation News Fellowship.

Fellows and mentors participate in the National Newspaper Association Foundation's News Fellows Program in October in Lansing, MI. The purpose of the program is to develop news skills in young journalists by looking at issues from a community newspaper perspective.

Fellows tackle one issue with implications in America's hometowns. They study with veteran community newspaper journalists to distinguish facts from spin, research an issue, interview key players, and produce a news or interpretive story for publication in hometown media.



REQUIREMENTS:

MPAF as your Sponsor will:

- Pay for a hotel night in an MPA selected hotel near the Capitol in downtown Lansing.
- Pay a travel stipend and local transportation required for program activities.
- Pay for meals.

Fellows must:

- Be committed to producing a story on the selected topic.
- Be a college newspaper editor or reporter with coursework in basic reporting.
- Be able to travel to Lansing, MI March 16-17, 2027.
- Bring a device capable of WIFI connection for research.
- Be interested in hot-button issues, be open minded and able to research many sides of the issue.
- Be willing to give MPA and Michigan Community Newspapers simultaneous but not exclusive publication rights to the work for publication in media.

Qualifications and Responsibilities - We're looking for the following:

- Understanding of political news and current events
- Journalism background and interest in social media are a plus.
- Junior or Senior student pursuing a career in Journalism.
- Interest in political policy issues.
- Strong writing and research skills.
- Ability to represent Michigan Press Association Foundation professionally at events at the Capitol.
- Open to feedback, with strong desire to develop professional skills.
- Effective interpersonal communication skills.

HOW TO APPLY:

- To apply please include your name and "Fellowship" in the subject line of the e-mail.
- Please submit the following to Lisa McGraw at lisa@michiganpress.org:
- A current resume and cover letter including your contact information and your interest and/or experience in a career in journalism.
- Writing sample in a journalistic style, 1 page maximum on the topic "Transparency, what do they have to hide?"
- One letter from faculty, college newspaper advisor or staff of your hometown newspaper.
- Transcript.



JANUARY 25, 2027 5:00 PM DEADLINE