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NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
Medill-Northwestern Journalism Institute

Journalism

www.medillcherubs.org

June 23 - July 19, 2024

Why journalism?

When a high school junior applied to the Institute, she admitted she “wasn’t sold” on a journalism career – even though she already was the top editor of her school newspaper.

However, she knew she wanted to become “a more organized, more coherent and more forceful writer.” Also, she said she wanted to learn more about digital media as well as to experience college living and dorm life “before I make a <four-year> commitment to any university.”

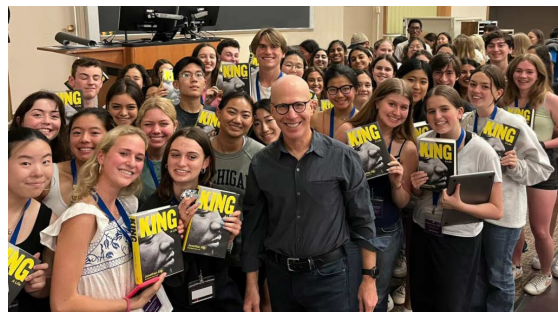
Most students come to the Medill-Northwestern Journalism Institute with similar goals. And most students go home, as she did, wanting a career in journalism and knowing a lot more about life on a college campus.

This summer about 80 high school journalists from around the country and abroad will be immersed in the news media, the world of ideas and college living. The program takes place in a residential college setting – a community of scholars – where students learn by doing and by careful evaluation of their work.

Educational philosophy

The program is designed for students who wish to become better writers and editors for print, online and broadcast. Much of what you learn you can apply to your school newspapers and websites. But the program is broader than a workshop for high school editors. You’ll study journalism from a “professional’s perspective,” learning from top-notch practitioners and distinguished college teachers.

The training you will receive in writing clearly, concisely and accurately will serve you for years to come, no matter what your college major or chosen career. Also, you’ll study with people from around the world. Every year, students came from more than 20 U.S. states and from several countries. Frequently, students form lasting friendships with classmates and teachers.



Jonathan Eig, author of "King: A Life," meets with 2023 students after a lecture. Jonathan is a graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School and a former Institute student.

Course offerings

- Lab sessions to sharpen journalistic skills (such as reporting, writing and editing for print, broadcast and digital media; writing editorials, columns and blogs; taking news and feature photos; and recording audio and video news).
- Seminars with university professors and outstanding journalists to discuss subjects such as ethical considerations, interviewing techniques and investigative reporting.
- Workshops to teach profile writing, resume preparation and magazine publishing and to discuss issues concerning high school journalism, among many other subjects.
- Field trips to various sites in Chicago as well as a Lake Michigan boat ride.
- Discussion sessions to analyze contemporary journalistic issues.
- Special classes to study storytelling forms such as podcasting and video SFQPSUJOH.
- Film showings to review works of and about journalism.
- Weekly one-on-one sessions with teachers to evaluate and analyze writing assignments. (The student-teacher ratio is 10:1.)

What some 2023 students said:

It was a new feeling to be surrounded by students who are all so high-achieving and passionate about the same thing as me.

Celeste Eckstein, Minnesota

The wisdom and guidance provided by awe-inspiring speakers, incredible instructors and my talented peers have been transformative.

Anna Feng, California

Feedback was one of my favorite parts of the program because I wasn't just writing a bunch of assignments. Instead, I was able to take my instructor's comments and put them to use for the next article.

Neeva Patel, New Jersey

I had wanted to do this program since middle school and when I received my acceptance letter, I was never happier and more excited in my life

Alice Tao, Canada

Every student ... was enthusiastic about journalism and brought their own valuable perspective to not only lessons but the community and student environment as well. The caliber of student was far higher than I expected it to be.

Junseo Lee, South Korea

The humor and energy the journalism staff brought into every class and activity gave me so much joy every day.

Lucy McWeeny, Massachusetts

I learned so many valuable things in all of the classes that I hope to take back to my school's publication.

Raju Rawal, Wisconsin

The academic schedule perfectly embodied "work hard, play hard." I learned the most I ever have about any one subject over the course of four weeks but also had a great time outside of the classroom.

Cate Hewitt, California

I feel so grateful to have participated in a program with so many like-minded teens, and I learned so much from every one of them.

Ingrid Smith, Texas

The staff members were unbelievably helpful, caring and dedicated.

Ashley Dong, California

About the Institute

The Medill-Northwestern Journalism Institute is the nation's most prestigious university-based summer program for high school journalists. It was established in 1934 as the "National Institute for High School Journalists" and for many years was known as the "National High School Institute, Journalism Division." Over the years, students often have been called "Cherubs," a tradition that began in the 1930s.

Campus living and fun

While on campus, you will share a Northwestern residence hall with the program's other participants, as well as with faculty and staff. Your meals will be eaten in a University cafeteria located nearby. Meals offer you a wide selection, including vegetarian options, and University dietitians are happy to accommodate special dietary needs. Living, dining and learning together, you will have ample opportunity to get to know your fellow participants and to make lasting friends.

Just 12 miles north of Chicago, the Evanston campus stretches for a mile along Lake Michigan's western shore and offers you jogging trails, a beautiful private beach and a state-of-the-art fitness and athletic facility.



Ashley Dong

Institute students Celeste Eckstein and Fiona Zhou celebrate with ice cream after submitting their articles and while working on a project for broadcast club.

Admission requirements

To apply to the Institute, you must:

- Rank academically in the top quarter of your high school class.
- Submit a current high school transcript and letter of recommendation.
- Submit results of the PSAT, SAT, ACT and/or other standardized tests, if available.
- Complete your junior year of high school in May or June of 2024.
- Meet a high standard of character, dependability and intelligence.
- Give specific evidence of background and/or special ability in journalism.

Admission is competitive; decisions are based on ability and merit.



Andrew Geraci

Program staff members (bottom row from left): Cole Reynolds, Carlin McCarthy, Mary Lou Song, Mugsey Geraci (K-9), Karen Springen, Dr. Ava Greenwell. (Top row from left): Juliet Allan, Nicole Markus, Elyssa Cherney, Roger Boye, J.A. Adande, John Kupetz, Joe Grimm, Marjorie Geraci.

Faculty

Professor Roger Boye is director of the Medill-Northwestern Journalism Institute. For nearly 20 years he was assistant dean of Northwestern's Medill School, one of the nation's most distinguished journalism programs. He has taught in the program since the 1970s.

The program's full-time teachers have rich and varied backgrounds in journalism. Lecturers include journalists from the media in Chicago and elsewhere, as well as Northwestern faculty members. Past guest speakers have included television journalists, newspaper editors, columnists and award-winning reporters.



Marjorie Geraci

John White, Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist, demonstrates camera technique with student Ashley Dong.

Application deadline

Applications, recommendations and transcripts must be received by 4 p.m. on March 11, 2024. Decision letters will be mailed to applicants on or before March 27, 2024. Students are strongly encouraged to submit three samples of their work, such as stories published in high school newspapers (see list of items at bottom of application form). **The Institute does not accept applications by fax or email.**

Fees

The basic fee for this program is \$5,000. The cost includes tuition, room, board, field trips and group events. Any additional expenses are at your discretion.

Scholarships and financial aid

The Institute has about \$100,000 available for scholarships and financial aid. If you wish to apply for assistance, you should complete and return the financial aid page of the application form. Grants are made on the basis of financial need and academic achievement.

In addition to grants made directly from the Institute's budget, these special awards will be available:

Joan Beck Journalism Scholarship

Norma Kinsel–Linda Foley Cherub Scholarship

Mary Lou Song Cherub Alumni Scholarship

Diane Granat Yalowitz Memorial Fund Scholarship

Jeffrey Zucker Medill Cherub Scholarship

For more information

If you are admitted to the Institute, you will receive information about housing arrangements, when to arrive on campus, what to bring and transportation to Evanston. To receive additional copies of this folder, contact:

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Northwestern University
Medill School
1845 Sheridan Road
Evanston, IL 60208-2101**

Phone: 847-491-2069

Email: r-boye@northwestern.edu

marjorie.geraci@northwestern.edu

Web: www.medillcherubs.org

Note: All applicants are strongly encouraged to review the website prepared by students at: www.medillcherubs.o5H.

Typical daily schedule

9 am

Attend lecture by Northwestern professor

9:45 am

Write editorials

11:45 am

Lunch

1 pm

Discuss reporting with multimedia journalist

2 pm

Conduct interviews for feature articles

6 pm

Dinner

7 pm

Write television news scripts to go with video

Northwestern University does not discriminate or permit discrimination by any member of its community against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, parental status, marital status, age, disability, citizenship status, veteran status, genetic information, reproductive health decision making, or any other classification protected by law in matters of admissions, employment, housing, or services or in the educational programs or activities it operates.

Individuals who feel they have been discriminated against on the basis of any of these classes should contact the Director of the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance, 1800 Sherman Avenue, Suite 4-500, Evanston, IL 60201; TitleIXCoordinator@northwestern.edu; phone 847-467-6165.

Harassment, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is based on any of these characteristics is a form of discrimination. This includes harassing conduct affecting tangible job benefits, interfering unreasonably with an individual's academic or work performance, or creating what a reasonable person would perceive is an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. Prohibited sex discrimination includes sexual harassment and sexual violence.

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Northwestern University reserves the right to change without notice any statement in this folder concerning, but not limited to, rules, policies, tuition, fees, curricula, and courses.



Carlin McCarthy

Students strike a pose at the anchor desk in the WMAQ-TV/NBC Chicago newsroom.

"Every instructor and fellow cherub treated me with a level of kindness, respect and camaraderie that is unparalleled to any other environment I've been in. Thank you for the knowledge, the friendships and for fueling my passion for the art of journalism."

Dalton Hanna, California Institute student

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