Scripps, News Literacy Project kick off public awareness campaign in lead-up to National News Literacy Week

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CINCINNATI — At a time when Americans’ trust in mass media edges downward, the News Literacy Project is partnering with The E.W. Scripps Company (NASDAQ: SSP) to launch a national public awareness campaign on the importance of news literacy and the role of the free press in American democracy.

The campaign, which is now running across Scripps’ local broadcast stations and national media businesses and with other journalism media partners, promotes news literacy as a fundamental life skill for America to have an educated and empowered populace.

With “double-check your facts” as its tagline, the campaign culminates in National News Literacy Week, Jan. 27-31.

“Our democracy faces a significant threat from disinformation, and the solution is news literacy — the ability for the American people to discern fact from opinion and journalism from advertising or even propaganda,” said Scripps President and CEO Adam Symson. “Scripps and our partners at the News Literacy Project are launching National News Literacy Week to bring much-needed awareness to this critical skill. By encouraging an open dialogue about this topic with our audiences as well as with students and educators, we hope to equip the public with tools and resources they need to be informed and engaged citizens.”

“News literacy education helps young people become active participants in their communities,” said Alan C. Miller, NLP’s founder and CEO. “This generation is inheriting the most challenging and complex information landscape in human history, and it is incumbent upon us to ensure they know how to navigate it effectively. And once they’re taught, they develop critical-thinking skills and habits of mind that will last them a lifetime and benefit the communities where they live.”

Throughout National News Literacy Week, Scripps’ local television stations and its multiplatform news brand Newsy will air stories related to the topic of news literacy. All of Scripps’ local and national brands are running the multiplatform advertising campaign, which invites the public to test their news literacy knowledge through “The Easiest Quiz of All Time” — a short test emphasizing the importance of double-checking facts even when they are believed to be well known.

Across the nation, Scripps journalists are working directly with high schools in their communities to produce original pieces of student journalism and are teaching them about the standards and principles journalists use to identify, research and produce a story. The stories, which focus on issues of importance to local audiences in each market, will premiere throughout the week on-air.
and online across Scripps’ stations; a selection will be available at the campaign landing page, NewsLiteracyWeek.org.

During National News Literacy Week, the public will have access to lessons from the News Literacy Project’s e-learning platform, the Checkology® virtual classroom, at NewsLiteracyWeek.org. Each day’s lessons and resources will focus on a different theme:

- Monday, Jan. 27 — Navigating the information landscape
- Tuesday, Jan. 28 — Identifying standards-based journalism
- Wednesday, Jan. 29 — Understanding bias – your own and others’
- Thursday, Jan. 30 — Journalists as democracy’s watchdog
- Friday, Jan. 31 — Recognizing misinformation

Adults and teens alike can test their news literacy knowledge by downloading Informable, NLP’s free mobile app, which was created to assess and improve users’ ability to distinguish between news and other types of information. They can practice four distinct news literacy skills, using real-world examples in a gamelike format.

National News Literacy Week is part of Scripps’ partnership with NLP to help the next generation of news consumers learn to separate credible information from misinformation in today’s complex media landscape. To learn more, visit NewsLiteracyWeek.org and follow #NewsLiteracyWeek on social media.

Journalists who are interested in covering news literacy can connect with NLP to learn more about its Newsroom to Classroom program and NewsLitCamps® — one-day professional development events for educators, hosted by news organizations and taught by journalists and NLP. For more information contact cmccarthy@newslit.org.

Print, digital and broadcast assets are also available to news outlets interested in participating in the public awareness campaign by contacting Kari.Wethington@scripps.com.

About Scripps
The E.W. Scripps Company (NASDAQ: SSP) advances understanding of the world through journalism. As the nation’s fourth-largest independent TV station owner, Scripps operates 60 television stations in 42 markets. Scripps empowers the next generation of news consumers with its multiplatform news network Newsy and reaches growing audiences through broadcast networks including Bounce and Court TV. Shaping the future of storytelling through digital audio, Scripps owns top podcast company Stitcher and Triton, the global leader in technology and measurement services. Scripps runs an award-winning investigative reporting newsroom in Washington, D.C., and is the longtime steward of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Founded in 1878, Scripps has held for decades to the motto “Give light and the people will find their own way.”

About NLP
Founded in 2008, the News Literacy Project is a nonpartisan national education nonprofit that provides educators with tools and resources to teach their students how to navigate today’s complex information landscape, learn to judge the credibility of information for themselves, and become engaged and informed participants in civic life.

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