

# Scripps Howard Fund selects USC for open-source investigative journalism grant

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**CINCINNATI** – The Scripps Howard Fund is investing up to \$300,000 to support the next generation of investigative journalists and to help innovate journalism education.

The Fund is partnering with the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism to teach college students open-source investigative journalism, a way to use publicly available information to investigate.

[Open-source investigative journalism](#) is an emerging method of using publicly available information – text, video, records, etc. – to investigate stories. Open-source reporting has yielded investigative journalism such as an [in-depth look](#) at the Jan. 6 insurrection by The New York Times, a 2021 [Scripps Howard Awards](#) finalist. Much like data reporting, open-source investigative journalism is likely to have a major impact on future reporting and storytelling, yet many journalists and non-journalists using these techniques are self-taught or have learned these skills in online forums.

The Fund selected USC Annenberg from 15 applicants for the four-year grant of up to \$300,000, which will help launch the program by the 2024-25 school year. Under the leadership of Mark Schoofs and Kevin Reyes at USC Annenberg, the grant will help:

- Create curricula to develop diverse and dynamic students.
- Offer scholarships for graduate students with need.
- Create boot camps, which will teach the fundamentals of open-source investigative reporting to students nationwide.
- Encourage an emerging partnership with the USC Information Sciences Institute to create reporting tools, which will be made available to benefit journalism schools and newsrooms across the country.

The program at USC Annenberg will provide students with hands-on, real-world reporting experience from professors and students will have the opportunity to collaborate with different news organizations across the country including: the Los Angeles Times; the Associated Press; Reuters; The Guardian US; Wired magazine; Blacklight, the investigative arm of The Amsterdam News; and ProPublica.

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## About the Scripps Howard Fund

The [Scripps Howard Fund](#), a public charity established by [The E.W. Scripps Company](#) (NASDAQ: SSP), is dedicated to creating informed and engaged communities through journalism education, childhood literacy and local causes. At the crossroads of the classroom and the newsroom, the Fund is a leader in supporting journalism through scholarships, internships, minority recruitment and development and First Amendment causes. The Scripps Howard Awards stand as one of the industry's top honors for outstanding journalism. The Fund's annual "If You Give a Child a Book ..." childhood literacy campaign has distributed thousands of new books to children in need across the nation. The Fund partners with Scripps brands to create awareness of local issues and support organizations that build thriving communities. The Scripps Howard Fund administers funding for the Scripps Howard Foundation, a private foundation established in 1962 to advance charitable causes important to The E.W. Scripps Company and the Scripps and Howard families.