

Scripps Howard Fund awards grants to four community colleges to support journalism education

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CINCINNATI – The Scripps Howard Fund will provide grants to four community colleges to support journalism education programs.

The recipients include Bellevue Community College, Arizona Western College, Chaffey College and Middlesex College.

These one-time grants are part of the Scripps Howard Fund's commitment to fostering experiential journalism education. By supporting initiatives that create, expand or improve journalism programs, the Fund seeks to empower students from a variety of backgrounds and equip them with the necessary skills to thrive in the media industry. This support is particularly important as journalists from community colleges are not well represented in newsrooms.

Grant Recipients:

Bellevue Community College

[Occupational & Life Skills Bellevue Community College](#), located in Bellevue, Washington, has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Scripps Howard Fund for its innovative course, "Amplifying Disability Voices," which aims to empower students with disabilities and neurodivergence through experiential journalism. Program development begins in Summer 2025. This program will use photojournalism to help participants explore storytelling and challenge ableism by documenting their communities. This first-of-its-kind course will serve 15-18 students per quarter starting in the 2025-26 school year and aims to create a supportive environment that builds essential journalism skills while addressing the lack of representation of disabled voices in media. The grant will fund curriculum development, materials, accessibility services and a public exhibit, with plans to share best practices across community colleges to model inclusive journalism education.

Arizona Western College

[Arizona Western College](#), which has campuses in Southwest Arizona, has received a \$15,000 grant from the Scripps Howard Fund for the KAWC Student Newsroom, a collaborative initiative with KAWC Colorado River Public Media that provides community college students with hands-on journalism experience. Building upon a successful pilot program, this initiative will expand during Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 by enhancing student leadership roles and curriculum integration while increasing student-generated journalism in a recognized news desert. The program will train students in audio journalism, field reporting and digital production, enabling them to produce content for "KAWC's The Hot Spot" podcast and the Arizona Edition weekly public affairs program. The model combines academic coursework with professional newsroom experience and addresses local news gaps by producing around 30 community-focused stories annually. The program aims to create a replicable model for rural community colleges, develop students' journalism skills and document best practices for broader dissemination among other institutions.

Chaffey College

[Chaffey College](#), located in San Bernardino County, California, has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Scripps Howard Fund to support a journalism degree program at the California Institute for Men, aimed at giving incarcerated students a platform to develop their voices and report. This initiative will provide experiential learning opportunities for both incarcerated students and non-incarcerated journalism students, fostering collaboration through the creation of an "inside" reporting team supported by an "outside" team. The grant will facilitate the development of a dedicated website, the hiring of an experienced mentor and the creation of a fellowship for external student reporters to document stories from CIM. The program will aim to share best practices with other institutions while showcasing its outcomes at state-level conferences and through potential publications.

Middlesex College

Middlesex College, located in Edison, New Jersey, will utilize a \$12,000 grant from the Scripps Howard Fund to enhance its journalism program within the Liberal Arts Associates Degree, with the goal of better integrating digital media experiential learning and attracting more students. The initiative will involve a comprehensive curriculum redesign that shifts from print-centered coursework to a focus on digital journalism, encompassing contemporary skills such as multimedia storytelling and social media engagement. Students will produce local news that reflects the diverse cultures of their communities, particularly targeting underserved populations in Middlesex County, which has experienced a significant decline in local news coverage. Through collaborative efforts with industry experts and community partners, the program will elevate journalism education, strengthen newspaper coverage in a news desert and increase student enrollment in the major. Results and insights from pilot projects will be shared with local and statewide organizations to foster more broad collaboration and knowledge sharing in journalism education.

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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.