

**Metcalf Institute Diversity Fellowships in Environmental Reporting
Program Information and Fellowship Agreement**

The Metcalf Institute Diversity Fellowships in Environmental Reporting is a National Science Foundation-funded environmental reporting fellowship program for minority journalists. The program provides a one-month Independent Study in marine and environmental sciences at the University of Rhode Island (URI), including an Environmental Justice Workshop, and a nine-month environment Reporting Assignment to six journalists each year for three years. Metcalf Institute awards fellowships to six minority journalists each year following a competitive selection process and arranges appropriate placements for Fellows with specific news media outlets for the reporting portion of the fellowship.

2006-2007 Program Schedule

September 5-29, 2006: Orientation, Environmental Justice Workshop, Independent Study at the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography with academic mentorship.

October 3, 2006 - June 29, 2007: Reporting Assignments: 38-week (nine-month) environmental reporting assignments for the Fellows at six designated news media outlets with reporting mentorship.

Metcalf Fellows

The Metcalf Diversity Fellows are expected to work fulltime throughout the fellowship period to fulfill the expectations of their mentors at URI, their news media outlets, and Metcalf Institute.

During the Independent Study, the Fellows will pursue topics of interest, interview scientists, participate in research, visit labs, attend lectures and meetings, and set up contacts for use throughout the fellowship. Story ideas may result from these studies. During the Reporting Assignment, fellows will work primarily on environment-based stories, producing a body of work that meets the standards set for the fellows at the news media outlets and by the reporting mentors. Fellows are expected to complete the 10-month program.

Fellows must sign, date and return the Fellowship Agreement to the Metcalf Institute to confirm their participation.

Mentors

Metcalf Institute will identify scientific mentors at the University of Rhode Island who will meet with the Fellows, generally by appointment, during the 4-week Independent Study and assist the Fellows in their studies. Participating news media outlets will identify a reporting mentor with whom the Metcalf Fellow will work throughout the Reporting Assignment. The reporting mentor will facilitate any initial technical training necessary, provide guidance on story development, and communicate with Metcalf staff.

Metcalf Institute

Metcalf Institute will be responsible for paying the stipends to the fellows and will oversee the Fellows' academic and reporting experiences, including maintaining regular communications, filing monthly reports, and organizing program evaluation.

Metcalf will provide a full orientation, an Environmental Justice Workshop, a database of science contacts, and work space and access to telephone and computer resources during the Independent Study. Metcalf will provide a fellowship monitor, who will communicate monthly, or more as needed, with all the fellows, by telephone, email and in person, over the course of the reporting assignment, and who will collect surveys at the beginning and end of the fellowship. Metcalf Institute will provide general administrative support, such as addressing logistical and program-related concerns and conflicts, to the extent that it is able.

Fellowship Stipends

A stipend in the amount of \$2,800 will be provided to Metcalf Fellows each month of the fellowship program. The first payment to each Fellow will be made in the amount of \$1,400 upon arrival in Rhode Island and the second payment in the amount of \$1,400 at the end of the Independent Study period, in late September 2006. The remaining stipends will be paid at the end of each month, from October 2006 to June 2007.

Metcalf Institute will accommodate a news media outlet that requires direct payroll payment to a fellow, providing reimbursement from Metcalf Institute (maximum \$25,200 or nine stipends) to the news media outlet. The Metcalf program provides for Fellows to take five paid vacation days during their 9-month reporting assignment, in addition to major national holidays, to be arranged with media outlet mentors and with notification to Metcalf.

Travel, Housing, and Other Expenses

The Metcalf Institute will reimburse up to \$400 per Fellow for initial travel costs to Rhode Island upon presentation of original receipts.

All cost-of-living expenses, including additional travel, housing, income tax withholding, and health insurance, are the responsibility of the Fellow for the entire 10-month fellowship period. Neither Metcalf Institute nor the designated news media outlets are obligated to provide coverage for these costs, outside of the travel stipend referred to above.

Fellows are responsible for making their own arrangements for housing for the entire fellowship, including both the Independent Study and Reporting Assignment. Metcalf Institute will provide contact information for realtors local to the URI Kingston and Narragansett Bay Campuses, where the Independent Study will be conducted. Once all fellowships are awarded and confirmed, a list of all 2006-07 Fellows with full contact information will be provided to each of the Fellows.

Contact Information

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