The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Doctoral Fellowship on Philanthropy, Media and Democracy is a doctoral fellowship being offered by the Center for Strategic Philanthropy and Civil Society and the DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy in the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University. There has long been a dearth of research and writing on the media’s coverage of foundations, nonprofits, and individual donors – and in particular their impact on society, policy, and democracy. Likewise, there is virtually no thoughtful research and writing on how mainstream and new media discourse might best explore the role, successes, and shortcomings of the philanthropic enterprise. In a separate but related development, journalists and struggling media enterprises are increasingly turning to private donors to provide an alternative business model for news gathering and analysis.

This fellowship is designed to further research and inform practice on questions at the intersection of the media, philanthropy, and democracy in the United States. The fellowship is aimed at producing a new generation of scholars who conduct original research on any important questions related to philanthropy and the media and to translate their findings for media and philanthropy, policymakers, and scholars.

The term of this fellowship will be 1 to 3 years, beginning September 2017 through May. Qualified applicants who are interested in the fellowship should first apply for admission to the Ph.D. Program in Public Policy of the Sanford School of Public Policy. The deadline for entry into the Ph.D. program is December 2016.

Ph.D. candidates who are interested in the fellowship position must submit a letter of application stating the reasons for their interest, along with a CV, a recent writing sample, and three letters of reference. These materials should be submitted by email to Professor Joel L. Fleishman, Director of the Center for Strategic Philanthropy and Civil Society. Applications for the fellowship received by February 1, 2017 will be assured full consideration.

The amount for a full-academic year fellowship for the 2017-18 year is projected to be $24,090.50, comprising a stipend for living expenses of $22,920 and fees of $1,170.50. The grant supporting the fellowship is funded by the Knight Foundation.

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