

June 23, 2008

Dear friend of ASNE:

We want you to know of an important new effort among journalists to improve news literacy among teens and younger adolescents. The News Literacy Project has our confidence and endorsement.

This program will systematically address a significant gap in the educational community and is being conceived in a way that is both smart and strategic. Alan Miller's groundwork is significant and commendable. Alan recently left the Los Angeles Times after 21 years as a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter to develop The News Literacy Project with a grant from the Knight Foundation.

This initiative is worth your encouragement and participation. Few middle and high schools currently teach news literacy and the role of an informed citizenry in our democracy.

The project's volunteer news fellows - active and retired journalists - will engage with teachers and students through presentations, workshops, media clubs and student publications as well as games, contests and blogs to encourage social networking around the news and students' own work.

There is ample enthusiasm among journalists who want to give back to their communities. Many Baby Boomers are in career transition. The news industry is in turmoil. This work has the strong potential to strengthen the ranks of the next generation of Americans who can recognize and demand quality journalism.

This project complements the efforts and goals of ASNE's High School Journalism Initiative, and we intend to work in close cooperation. Over the last decade, many proposals have come along; this is one with real potential and a structure that can make it thrive.

Best regards,



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