

to Jennifer, bcc: me ▾

Dear grantees and friends of NII,

It's been so affirming and gratifying to see all of your hard work unfold as we've embarked on this journey together, since the News Integrity Initiative's inception post-2016 US presidential election. It's surreal to think that since that time, we so quickly coalesced across a wide variety of sectors to ensure quality information to the public and its impact on a healthy democracy here in the States and globally.

As we endure uncertainty about the outcome of the 2020 elections, on top of a global pandemic where the dissemination of vetted, accurate information to the public is critical, your work continues to be of paramount importance. NII is very proud to have been a part of launching your efforts as you continue as leaders in this work beyond NII's support. Despite the unprecedented challenges that lie before us this November, we believe that it is because of your diligent efforts and commitment that we are in a much better place than we were in 2016 - to effectively address these challenges for the benefit and safety of the public.

As NII moves away from its grantmaking intermediary role -- thanks to the visionary founding support of champions like Aine Kerr and Meredith Carden, Craig Newmark Philanthropies, and the Ford Foundation -- we will leverage the Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY's charge to be a leader in change management strategies for newsrooms of all kinds. The School is committed to help the next generation of journalists to thrive, which includes increasing access to capital for media entrepreneurs and providing innovative pathways to a journalism that upholds democratic values around representation and integrity.

The work of NII is evolving to more explicitly utilize a DEI lens in building newsroom competencies for next generation audiences, but also to pull strategic levers in addressing the structural issues around ownership and access to capital, in partnership with other Newmark J-School programs such as the Center for Community Media, its Black Media Initiative and our new Entrepreneurial Journalism Creators Program. The expertise and demand we have cultivated through our more recent NII work, in tandem with what we've learned from our students and alums, all position us to most effectively serve the sector and the public.

In tribute to you and your work, we've written up a [report](#) on the collective impact of our efforts (including [a shorter version](#)). While this doesn't come close to capturing all of your tremendous work as detailed in your grant reports, we were very proud to see a compelling narrative emerge as we stitched together your achievements.

With that said, some of you have requested extensions on your grants and will be submitting reports in 2020-2021. We look forward to sharing these wins as we move forward. As always, I'm easily reachable here should you have any additional questions and concerns.

Yours in service and in gratitude,

Jenny

Jennifer Choi (she/her)

working remotely

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