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Helping journalists combat misinformation

Paul Cheung, Knight Foundation [web@knightfoundation.org]

Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 4:39 PM
To: [Steve Johnston](#)

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KNIGHT FOUNDATION

JOURNALISM

Dear Sarah,

We are facing an unprecedented amount of misinformation as Americans cast their ballots to determine who our next president will be. In fact, recent polling from Gallup and Knight Foundation found that 8 in 10 Americans share concerns that misinformation will sway the election's outcome.

Mis- and disinformation are not new, and they will be around long after the votes are counted. But if left unchecked, falsehoods will continue to spread and undermine our democracy. That's why Knight is announcing today nearly [\\$3 million to fund projects that provide tools and training for journalists](#) to become more resilient in dealing with misinformation.

The Knight-supported [projects will work to position journalists to develop resilience](#) against misinformation, and connect them with experts who can provide the necessary training, tools and other resources to adapt to the ever-increasing threat of false information.

Those projects include:

- **First Draft (\$1.2M)** to deliver training programs and collaborative reporting projects for journalists to help them navigate and halt the spread of misinformation and disinformation online.
- **Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School (\$800,000)** to equip news executives with knowledge and frameworks to address media manipulation and disinformation by supporting a training program.
- **Duke University (\$700,000)** to expand the availability of fact-check journalism by using automation to provide instant notifications of fact-checks during live events, as well as developing TV Kitchen, a speech to text tool that will help

journalists more easily monitor broadcast and cable television election coverage.

- **Rochester Institute of Technology (\$200,000)** to equip journalists with an effective tool and best practices to detect "deepfake" or altered photos and videos.

These grants complement Knight's [\\$50 million investment](#) in new scholarship and independent research to better understand these challenges and inform solutions.

The fight against misinformation is more important than ever. [Click here](#) to learn more about our investments in this space.

Best,

Paul Cheung
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