

One year community-reporting fellowship

A national
experiment -- to
start May 31, 2008



Help chart the future of local news and community – and be part of a national experiment. Apply for a [Representative Journalism Fellowship](#).

Leonard Witt, holder of the Robert D. Fowler Distinguished Chair in Communication at Kennesaw State University, is leading a one-year trial in the town of Northfield, Minn., (pop. 17,000) 35 miles south of Minneapolis, home of both [Carleton College](#) and [St. Olaf College](#)

The representative journalist will spend a year working with the [LocallyGrownNorthfield.org](#) citizen blogger site to report one in-depth story per week on a critical civic or social issue. The reporting will be an open, transparent process where citizens can offer facts, comments, and perspective as the story develops. The final form of the story will be published in digital and print formats. Often, citizens will convene to discuss the findings of the reporting and participate in public meet-ups to discuss the results and next actions.



This is not an assignment for an order taker. You must be an enterprising, self starter. You must have a willingness to engage with citizens day in and day out. When needed, you will produce work in multiple formats, including print, web, radio, access-TV and other formats. This will increase civic dialog in a highly educated community of 17,000 people and inspire the community to support and sustain your work.

Bringing to this job a magazine-writing sensibility with in-depth reporting experience would be helpful. In the end, we want to talk about Northfield's strengths and weaknesses, its joys and tribulations, its people and its governmental, civic, economic and educational institutions. Part of our inspiration is the Public Journalism Network's Charter Declaration, which says in part:

- *We believe the diversity and fragmentation of society call for new techniques for storytelling and information-sharing to help individual communities define themselves singularly and as part of the whole set of communities;*
- *We believe in the value of studying the dynamics of communities and the complexity of public life;*
- *We believe the best journalism helps people see the world as a whole and helps them take responsibility for what they see.*



Your day-to-day guidance will come from the community and the principals of Locally Grown. As a journalist, however, you will report to one of the nation's most respected daily newspaper editors. You will receive regular guidance from participants in the [Journalism That Matters collaborative](#) and, when requested, from our highly respected national advisory board. The goal is to provide high quality, ethically sound news and information, which will enrich the daily and civic lives of the people of Northfield. Email a letter of interest, resume, clips and references to Leonard Witt, lwitt@kennesaw.edu (770-423-6925). A personal interview will be required at a mutually convenient location. To start by May 31.