

**The Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights and Economic
Development**

At

St. John's University School of Law

**Supported through a grant from the Ford Foundation's Knowledge, Creativity, and Freedom
Program¹**

Call for Participation

Media Diversity Summit

At

The 2007 National Conference on Media Reform in Memphis, Tennessee

Submission Deadline: October 15, 2006

On April 28-29, 2006, The Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights and Economic Development at St. John's University School of Law ("The Ronald H. Brown Center") held a pathbreaking conference on media diversity called "Rethinking the Discourse on Race: A Symposium on How the Lack of Racial Diversity in the Media Affects Social Justice and Policy." This conference brought together leaders in very diverse fields exploring issues of media and racial justice. The Ronald H. Brown Center plans to continue the dialogue by holding a Media Diversity Summit at the National Conference on Media Reform on **January 12-14, 2007**, in Memphis, Tennessee.

At the National Conference on Media Reform, we want individuals from the faculty at law schools, film/tv production schools, a public policy schools, a journalism schools, local media justice organizations, national media reform organizations, national issue advocacy organizations (e.g., environmental group, etc.), industry, government (federal preferably). Through a grant from the Ford Foundation, we will be able to fund approximately ten individuals with travel, hotel accommodations, and other reasonable expenses. Those selected are required to collectively prepare a report on the experience.

The Ronald H. Brown Center wants to insure that our voices are heard on the important issues of racial diversity in the media at the National Conference on Media Reform.

¹ The Ford Foundation has funded several projects to examine the diversity of the media. In 2002, The Ford Foundation supported "The TeleVisions Project: An Exploratory Project on U.S. Entertainment Television and 'Race.'" Through this project, several scholars explored "the interplay between the entertainment industry, minority-ethnic-oriented advocacy groups, and academic researchers to improve the employment and representation of people of color in the entertainment industry." In 2003, the Foundation sponsored a conference at the Donald McGannon Communication Research Center entitled "Media Diversity and Localism: Meaning, Metrics, and the Public Interest," which inaugurated an important debate over methodologies in assessing and measuring media diversity. The Foundation has also supported the development of ethnic media in the U.S.

Participation Guidelines:

- Letters should not exceed 1500 words in length.
- Include a 250-word biographical sketch of research expertise.
- Include a bibliography of your writing and/or publications on this topic to date.
- **Submission deadline: October 15, 2006.**
- Acceptance notification: November 15, 2006.

We invite scholars of all relevant disciplines, advocates, community organizers, and media and social policy professionals engaged in developing concepts, methods, or data relevant to media diversity and policy to submit a short letter that lays out your interest in attending the conference. These letters should not exceed 1,500 words. Also include a brief biographical sketch of research expertise (no more than 250 words please) and bibliography of your publications to date as attachments. Authors of accepted letters will be invited to participate in the National Media Reform Conference.

Proposals should be submitted *electronically* to the Conference homepage at <http://www.stjohns.edu/racemedia> or via surface mail to:

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