REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Census 2010 Data Boot Camp for Journalists
October 26-28, 2009

A three-day workshop sponsored by the McCormick/Tribune Foundation

DEADLINE for receipt of applications: August 17, 2009

The Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research invites application for participants in a three-day workshop that will take place in Ann Arbor during the last week of October, 2009. Participants will be provided with training to understand the importance of census data and how to analyze them for local and national news stories. Upon completion of the workshop, the participants should feel comfortable using census data for reporting purposes and understanding testimony about census operations. Our goal is to encourage intelligent coverage of Census 2010 in the press.

The workshop will be directed by Reynolds Farley, the Dudley Duncan Professor Emeritus; William Frey who holds a joint appointment at the Brookings Institution; Lisa Neidert, Director of Data Services, and Albert Anderson who developed specialized software for the analysis of census data. There will also be presentations by nationally recognized experts on the census and survey methods as well as the participation of Paul Overberg, demographic and computer assisted reporter from USA Today. The Population Studies Center will pay the costs of travel and lodging for participants.

Aims for the workshop include the following:

- Offer presentations on concepts, milestones and controversies associated with the census, providing necessary background for the development of census-based news stories. Contemporary controversies about census taking and sampling will be highlighted.

- Introduce participants to a web-based census/ACS resource (http://www.censusscope.org) with ready-to-use tables, figures, and maps.

- Provide hands-on training in easy to use software, which allows for the extraction and manipulation of census data – both summary tabulations and microdata.

- Guide journalists in the creation of a census-based blog entry. If it is data-based story, the blog entry will include tables and figures produced by the student journalist. If it is a census operations type story, the entry will include timelines, tables, and links to relevant background sources.

- Link participants to an expanded source network, valuable reference materials and a collection of solid story ideas.
The workshop will be held from Monday October 26th through Wednesday October 28th in Ann Arbor. Classes will meet from 8:30 to 5:00 each day.

This workshop will not offer instruction in statistics or formal research methods but the presentations will cover methodological issues that are relevant for reporting purposes.

**Technology**
The workshop will be held in a classroom with wireless capabilities. Participants are encouraged to bring a wifi-enabled PC laptop. For planning purposes, we need to know how many participants will bring a personal laptop.

**Expense Reimbursement**
Successful applicants will be reimbursed for travel and lodging. Participants will not receive a stipend for their participation.

**To Apply:**
Applications will be accepted from journalists from all media – including new media such as bloggers – who would benefit from this workshop. Out of work journalists are encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to applicants who meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Reporters and editors from small news organizations that have not reported on census-based stories in the past;
- New journalists or a journalist that is embarking on a new line of expertise;
- Journalists who have written census-based stories in the past but who feel they need a refresher on census issues and the changing interface to census products;

To apply, send 3 copies of the following to the address below (applications sent by fax will not be accepted):

1. a cover sheet with your name, contact information, and laptop status;
2. a resume;
3. three work samples;
4. a short essay for consideration;
5. a supervisor nomination letter

**Applications should be sent to:**
Population Studies Center
426 Thompson
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248
ATTN: Census2010 Boot Camp

**Direct Questions to:**
Lisa Neidert, Data Services
E-mail: lisan@umich.edu
Phone: (734) 763-2203

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS August 17, 2009. SELECTED APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY Friday, September 11, 2009.**