



Empowering Early Career Women in Communication Education Fellowship ***An AEJMC and Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Program***

Submission Deadline: February 15, 2026

The AEJMC/Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Fellowship for the Empowerment of Early Career Women in Communication Education invites applications for its 2026–27 cohort.

Women comprise the majority of graduates in journalism and mass communication programs yet are more likely than men to leave the academy. This fellowship is designed to support the next generation of women scholars by recruiting, mentoring, training, and empowering up to eight early-career women faculty members—whether on the tenure track or in fixed-term positions—within journalism and mass communication education.

Program Overview

The fellowship supports participants in preparing for tenure, navigating burnout and career stagnation, and enhancing skills and confidence in three core areas: Teaching Pedagogy, Research and Scholarly Productivity, and Professional Freedom & Responsibility (PF&R) Service Contributions.

The program spans one academic year and includes the following components:

- **Two in-person group sessions**
These will be held at the AEJMC Annual Conferences: the opening session at the 2026 conference and the closing session at the 2027 conference.
- **One virtual mid-year session**
A webinar will be held in Spring 2027, designed to provide ongoing connection, resources, and professional development.
- **Mentorship**
Each fellow will be paired with a senior woman mentor and expected to engage in a minimum of two virtual meetings over the course of one semester.

Fellowship Benefits

- Complimentary registration to both AEJMC Annual Conferences (opening and closing sessions)
- Lunch provided during each in-person session
- Travel stipend of \$500–\$700 for each conference
(Note: All additional travel expenses are the responsibility of the fellow or their home institution.)

Fellows will remain at their home institutions during the program year and are expected to participate actively in all program activities. Upon completion, participants will receive:

- **A certificate of completion**
- **Formal recognition as a Kopenhaver Center Fellow**

Eligibility

Applicants must be current members of AEJMC and identify as women in the early stages of their academic careers. An early-career faculty member is defined as a scholar who has earned a Ph.D. but does not yet have tenure. Nominees are preferably on the tenure track, but scholars with no more than five (5) years of teaching experience at a college or university may also be considered. Previous participation in the Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Women Faculty Moving Forward Workshop is encouraged.

Application Process: AEJMC expects the selection process to be competitive. Applications should include the following parts:

Part I. An essay that answers the following questions:

1. Why would this program be valuable to you at this stage of your career?
2. What would you like to learn from the program if you were selected?
3. What do you see as the most pressing issue for early career women scholars in JMC education today, and what ideas do you have for addressing that issue?
4. How do you hope to contribute to the field of communication education during your life, and how will the fellowship help you achieve these goals?

Part II. A vita, maximum of five pages

Vita should include:

- current position, rank and number of years of teaching;
- summary of professional experience;
- leadership positions and significant service contributions to department, university, AEJMC and other academic associations;
- maximum listing of 10 publications, presentations and awards (total of 10 for all three).

Part III. Two letters of recommendation

Applicants must submit **two letters of recommendation** from individuals familiar with their academic and professional work.

Each letter should:

- be written by someone who can speak to your qualifications, character, and potential for growth as a scholar and educator;
- and clearly express support for your participation in the AEJMC/Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Fellowship.

Applicants should send their packets to Lillian Coleman at lillian@aejmc.org. **Submission Deadline is February 15, 2026.**

Notification of selection will be by April 1.