2026 CALL
$3,000 Research Grant to Support Innovative
News Audience & News Engagement Studies
Proposals Due: May 1, 2026

After a successful inaugural AEJMC-NED Grant for Innovative Research on the News Audience & News Engagement, all current AEJMC members are invited to submit a proposal for the 2026 $3,000 research grant that encourages the exploration of the news audience and news engagement in <u>new</u> ways in order to answer never before asked theoretical and real-world questions relevant to today's times and the future. Please submit your proposal to paula.poindexter@austin.utexas.edu by the deadline, May 1, 2026.

Grant Proposal Format. Requirements in the <u>maximum</u> five-page grant proposal plus a separate sixth page that only has PI Identification Information:

I.   Title Page: Proposal Title and Executive Summary
II.   Introduction/Purpose, Why Study Qualifies as Innovative in News Audience and News Engagement Research
III.   Brief Methodology Description with Research Questions, Hypotheses, and Data Analysis Plan
IV.   How $3,000 Grant Monies Will Be Spent Conducting Proposed Research (Note: Grant monies can only be used on Research.)
V.   Plan to Present and Publish Research Results
VI.   Up to Five Most Relevant References
VII. PI Identification Page: Name, Title, Department, University, Email Address, Link to Department Page

Winner **of the First $3,000 AEJMC-NED Grant for Innovative Research on the News Audience & News Engagement:** Who is Entrusted to Use Generative AI, and for What? A Conjoint Experiment on News Audiences' Evaluations of Journalists, Submitted by Ruta Kaskeleviciute, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich and Melanie Hirsch, University of Klagenfurt, Austria.

About the Grant Funder Paula M. Poindexter: Past AEJMC President and Founder of News Engagement Day**,** Poindexter is a Professor of Journalism and Media at the University of Texas at Austin. A former TV news reporter and co-producer at Houston's NBC-affiliate TV station and a former manager and executive at the *Los Angeles Times*, Poindexter is the author of the recently published book, *Gen Z, Social Media, and News: Implications for the Future of News Engagement, Journalism, the U.S., and Democracy*. Please email questions to paula.poindexter@austin.utexas.edu.