

## 2011-2012 Grant Recipient

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### Wanjiru Mbure Northeast Media Literacy Conference Pedagogy Travel Grant

I am writing to apply for a Pedagogy Travel Grant to support travel to The 10th Annual Northeast Media Literacy Conference to be held on Friday, March 16, 2012 at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Connecticut. The conference is a great opportunity for media educators such as myself to gain useful information and pedagogical tools for use in the classroom. Among the topics discussed in the conference are:

- Media Literacy Research- What it Shows, What it Doesn't, and What is Needed!
- Helping Students Understand Their Pop Culture Choices through the Mass Media
- International Perspectives on Digital/Media Literacy

These topics are relevant because they provide up to date questions that all media educators must engage in to be able to (a) effectively understand media use patterns and media literacy needs, and (b) successfully design and implement curriculum components that coincide with student media use and allow students to develop the media literacy skills.

I am particularly interested in this conference because I will be teaching Media Criticism (COM 207) and a special topics class on New Media in the upcoming academic year. Among the course objectives I have lined up for both courses is for students to acquire media literacy skills to enable them to become more active and assertive consumers of media, both old and new. The Northeast Media Literacy Conference will offer several workshops that address media literacy pedagogy. Among them are:

- Storify and News Curation: Teaching and Learning about Digital Storytelling Utilizing Online Tools
- Web 2.0 Tools to Enhance Media and News Literacy for the 21st Century
- Integrating Critical Thinking and Communications Skills in the Media Literacy Classroom
- Teaching News Literacy in Times of War
- Technology Tools to Enhance Learning in the Content Areas

The workshops outlined above address key issues such as the changing skill set for media literacy in the 21st century and the use of technology in the media literacy classroom. A benefit of attendance at the conference is to be able to learn about innovative classroom approaches to media literacy. For example, in the technological tools workshop, I would be able to learn about different technological tools, which I can implement in the upcoming semester or successive semesters. I plan to share the knowledge gained from attendance with my colleagues in the communication department during our departmental meeting. I also plan to submit to "Class Notes" blog. Another potential outlet is to share my experience during the New Faculty Teaching Seminar.

With the fast-changing media landscape, it is paramount that media educators remain up to date with current trends in media, and more importantly, that they are well-equipped to teach students and help them acquire the media literacy skills necessary for life in the digital age. It is my hope that the skills, tools, and classroom best practices I will take away from the Northeast Media Literacy Conference will enhance my preparation to teach these courses and consequently the classroom experience of our outstanding Stonehill students. Thank you for your consideration.

Budget: Requested Amount: \$200  
Conference Registration: \$95  
Travel Cost to Conference Site: \$100