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Respondent

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Anonymous

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Time to complete

Application Information

1. Name: *

Michelle Stonis

2. GCC Title/Position: *

Assistant Professor of History / Co-Director, Pulitzer Center Campus Consortium

3. Department: *

History / Social Sciences Division

4. Campus: *

Verdugo

Garfield

5. E-mail: *

mstonis@glendale.edu

6. Phone: *

818.240.1000 x3091

7. Dean or Department Head's Name: *

Elizabeth Kronbeck, Chair of Social Sciences

Project Proposal

8. Name of Project/Program: *

GCC's Pulitzer Center Campus Consortium - Travel to Washington Weekend and Campus Event

9. Please select which category best describes your project: *

- Arts & Culture
- Athletics & Fitness
- Career & Work Training
- College Operations & Facilities
- Humanities/Social Sciences
- Science & Technology

10. Amount requested: *

\$5,000

11. What do you propose to do? *

Glendale Community College is the only community college on the West Coast to be a member of the Pulitzer Center Campus Consortium (PCCC). Earlier this academic year, the Board of Trustees voted to approve ongoing funding for the Pulitzer Center Campus Consortium's membership fees. It is incredibly exciting that this initiative has now been institutionalized and widely supported following its initial launch in 2020. However, many of our students, faculty, staff, and community members are unaware of this incredible opportunity at Glendale Community College. Dr. Reut Cohen Schorr and I have learned that the most effective ways for us to build this initiative are through direct marketing to various stakeholders and community members via in-person events, tabling at campus-wide events, and distributing promotional materials. However, a funding gap remains for Professor Stonis' annual travel to Washington, DC, to attend Washington Weekend with our 2026 GCC Pulitzer Center Fellow.

Travel:

I propose traveling to Washington, DC, in October 2026 with our GCC student fellow to attend the Pulitzer Center's Washington Weekend, where students and advisors from around the country convene.

This is also when Pulitzer Center staff and advisors meet to discuss best practices, build relationships, and plan programming for the following year. Washington Weekend also allows advisors to work with Pulitzer Center staff to pre-interview the future Pulitzer Center grantees/fellows who will visit GCC in person, one in the fall and one in the spring, for campus-wide events. For example, I met Tsinami "Sissy" Sakvarlishvili at the 2025 Washington Weekend and encouraged her to come to GCC to inspire our students. On May 18, 2026, she came to GCC to present her Pulitzer Center reporting and captivate our students with her resilience as a Georgian refugee. While the Pulitzer Center covers all fellows' travel expenses, advisors must fund their own way to this very important event.

Board of Trustees Presentation and Campus Event:

After the Washington Weekend event, our GCC Pulitzer Center Fellow will present her reporting and experience in Washington, DC, at two GCC events: the Board of Trustees meeting in November 2026 and a campus-wide event the same month.

12. Who will be involved in the project/program? *

The Pulitzer Center Campus Consortium at GCC is an interdisciplinary collaboration between Dr. Reut Cohen Schorr of Journalism and Professor Michelle Stonis of History/Women's Studies. While Dr. Reut Cohen Schorr is very involved in our Pulitzer Center efforts, she is not currently interested in traveling. The Language Arts and Social Sciences Divisions encourage our work on this initiative. Professor Michelle Stonis is committed to traveling with our student fellow and working at Washington Weekend. Our Pulitzer Center Fellow will also be involved, as she will present her work at GCC and attend Washington Weekend, but all her expenses are already covered under GCC's membership package with the Pulitzer Center.

13. What are the benefits of this project/program to the students, college, and the community? *

GCC students cannot participate in this unique partnership between the Pulitzer Center and Glendale Community College if they don't know about it. This project brings awareness and familiarity with the consortium by creating a memorable, engaging face-to-face opportunity to hear from our GCC student Pulitzer Center fellow and a professional journalist at a community-building event. Free promotional swag benefits students by promoting the opportunity, ensuring that all students are informed about it.

Students who submit proposals to become GCC's annual Pulitzer Center fellow will benefit from individualized outside-the-classroom support from both of us as they prepare their reporting proposals. Neither Dr. Cohen Schorr nor I receive release time or extra pay for this work, but we do it because we love this initiative and believe that our students deserve the best opportunities we can provide for them. The chosen fellow benefits from the personal connections they maintain with us as we mentor them throughout their collaboration with the Pulitzer Center, an achievement that sets them apart as they apply to transfer or enter the workforce.

The College benefits from its consortium membership with the Pulitzer Center, as the affiliation affords unique opportunities to achieve its mission through this prestigious educational partnership. As a current consortium member, GCC's logo appears alongside those of other consortium members across the United States, including the University of Pennsylvania, UC Berkeley, Swarthmore, and Georgetown. One of the GCC's values is that "the college promotes rigor, educational quality, and innovation," which is demonstrated by GCC's participation in the Pulitzer Center consortium.

The community benefits from the consortium, as the College's unique opportunities support intellectual stimulation and enhance the city's reputation. The Pulitzer Center publishes the work of the GCC Pulitzer fellow on their website without a paywall, which can also be picked up by independent news organizations and republished. It is also broadcast during the March Board of Trustees meeting in honor of Women's History Month, as our consortium's reporting focus is on gender. Students of all ages in the community can look forward to attending GCC and receiving the same Pulitzer Center opportunity available primarily at Ivy League Schools, UCs, and costly private colleges—all while receiving the College Promise+.

14. How does this project/program support the College's Institutional Strategic Plan? *

View ISP at <https://www.glendale.edu/home/showpublisheddocument/68172>

This project supports several aspects of the College's Institutional Strategic Plan, such as "improving the effectiveness of external and internal communication about the value of...GCC programs" since we are the only community college on the West Coast with this incredible opportunity for students (C.4). The work of the GCC Pulitzer Center Campus Consortium also "lowers the costs associated with being a student" since GCC's fellow obtains noteworthy college experiences and transfer-worthy accomplishments: individualized GCC faculty support, a Pulitzer Center mentorship, published work by the Pulitzer Center, and two all-expense paid trips (to an international reporting location of their choosing and Washington, DC) (D.6). Funding GCC's Pulitzer Center Campus Consortium demonstrates an "invest[ment] in innovation" that supports "student engagement, learning, and retention" (E.2).

15. Timeline for the project/program. *

October 2025

Travel to Washington Weekend with GCC's Pulitzer Center Fellow

November 2025

GCC's Pulitzer Center Fellow presents her reporting to the Board of Trustees at their monthly meeting

GCC's Pulitzer Center Fellow presents her reporting to the campus community at a public event

El Vaquero article recognizing the Glendale College Foundation and GCC's Pulitzer Fellow in Washington, DC

Send a press release to local media outlets about GCC's Pulitzer Fellow in Washington, DC

16. How do you propose to use the funds requested? Please include specific budget information. *

Travel to Washington, DC (October 2026) (Exact Washington Weekend Dates TBD)

\$800 Basic round-trip airfare with 1 checked bag (LAX > DCA > LAX) for Michelle Stonis

\$1,350 Hotel

\$460 Meals (\$92 per day per US General Services Administration for District of Columbia x 5 days)

\$390 Ground transportation (e.g., rideshare from/to airport, Pulitzer events around the city, etc.)

Total Cost = \$3,000

Events

\$350 Laminated sandwich board posters for the event x 4 sandwich boards (one side)

\$350 Laminated sandwich board posters for the GCC PCCC x 4 sandwich boards (one side)

\$500 Hosted food and drinks for attendees (e.g., pizza, chips, and bottled sodas/water)

\$800 Giveaway swag (e.g., branded pencils, reporter notebooks, branded tote bags)

Total Cost = \$2,000

17. Please list any other sources of funding you have applied for and include dollar amounts if already awarded. *

No other funding sources for 2026-2027 have been applied for. The Pulitzer Center Campus Consortium initiative was only recently added under program review and, to our knowledge, does not have a bank account or ongoing funding for events or travel.

18. How will the Foundation's support be recognized? *

The Foundation's award will be recognized in several El Vaquero student newspaper articles throughout 2026-2027. I will also attempt to have local news outlets cover the story, such as LAist 89.3, the Glendale News-Press, and the Los Angeles Times. The Foundation's support will also be recognized in all introductions for all 2026-2027 GCC Pulitzer Center Campus Consortium events, on a sign in the 2nd Floor Sierra Vista Pulitzer Center Campus Consortium display case, on all printed materials, including sandwich board posters, on campus TV screen ads, on Instagram at @gccjournalists, in our promotional videos, and on our GCC webpage at bit.ly/GCCPulitzer.

19. How do you plan to evaluate this project's success? *

The project will be deemed successful if the relationships and knowledge gleaned at Washington Weekend further support the success of our Pulitzer Center Campus Consortium. Finding our two guest speakers for 2026-2027 to visit our campus in the fall and spring at this event will be of the utmost importance. Additionally, meeting the newly hired Pulitzer Center University Relations Director will be imperative, as will building a rapport with her so that she values and prioritizes our community college in the Pulitzer Center's college strategic plan.

20. If your project/program is successful, how will it inform your practice moving forward? *

Bringing home new ideas and strategic initiatives from Washington Weekend to implement at our campus will inform our practice moving forward as we continue to implement best practices to increase the impact of GCC's Pulitzer Center Campus Consortium in our community.

The GCC Pulitzer Center Campus Consortium isn't only about a fellowship. It's about encouraging, empowering, and equipping students to tell stories. As the GCC Pulitzer Center Campus Consortium initiative continues to grow, our previous successes will support our efforts to reach more students through our educational events. While only one student can become the GCC Pulitzer Center Fellow each academic year, our campus consortium can expand to serve, support, and inspire more students to undertake research and writing, such as submitting a collaborative, multi-author reporting article to a student-run academic journal or publishing in our campus publications.

21. Please provide a 2 – 3 sentence summary of your project proposal. *

I propose traveling to Washington, DC, in October 2026 with our GCC student fellow to attend the Pulitzer Center's Washington Weekend, where students and advisors from around the country convene. After the Washington Weekend event, our GCC Pulitzer Center Fellow will present her reporting and experience in Washington, DC, at two GCC events: the Board of Trustees meeting in November 2026 and a campus-wide event the same month.

Signature and Acknowledgments

22. I hereby acknowledge/certify: *

- My Dean or department head is aware of this application and has authorized its submission.
- If my proposal involves the hiring of temporary/contracted professionals, I will obtain approval from Human Resources before proceeding and will provide documentation to the Foundation that the hiring/contracting has been reviewed and approved.
- If my proposal involves conference and/or other travel, I will complete the GCC travel approval process and adhere to GCC travel guidelines.