

# Knight News Challenge Fact Sheet

## What

The Knight News Challenge is a \$25 million, five-year contest launched by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. It rewards ideas and projects that use digital news or information to inform and inspire geographic communities.

## Why

Knight Foundation created this initiative to explore new ways of using digital media to accomplish what newspapers did so well in the 20th century: Provide news and information to help citizens know about and participate actively in their communities.

## Winners

Among this year's winners are those seeing to reduce the digital divide between rich and poor and between developed and under-developed communities. Several winners are creating tools that make it easier to enter the digital conversation. Winners were chosen from among approximately 3,000 applicants. Their projects inform, empower and engage citizens.

## Applications

Applications for the 2009 Knight News Challenge may be submitted at [www.newschallenge.org](http://www.newschallenge.org) starting Sept. 1. Winners are selected after a review process that includes recommendations by a panel of experts in digital media.

## About Knight Foundation

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation promotes journalism excellence worldwide and invests in the vitality of the U.S. communities where the Knight brothers owned newspapers. Since 1950, the foundation has granted more than \$400 million to advance journalism quality and freedom of expression. Knight Foundation supports ideas and projects that create transformational change.

## Questions

For more information about the Knight News Challenge contact Marc Fest, Knight Foundation vice president of communications, at [fest@knightfoundation.org](mailto:fest@knightfoundation.org) or visit [www.newschallenge.org](http://www.newschallenge.org).