

Emily Hedegard

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February 10, 2025

RE: New York Times Reporter Fellow, Local Investigations

Dear Dean Baquet,

I hope this letter finds you well. In March 2024, I learned about the Local Investigations Fellowship through the Illinois Answers Project. I am writing to express my strong interest in the program.

With nearly half a decade of experience in local journalism, I am confident that my background aligns with the fellowship's mission. I have spent four years writing for local newspapers, including a year at *The Portland Press Herald*, Maine's daily newspaper, and another year reporting investigative stories for *The Maine Monitor*. In both roles, I have published over 50 articles. Additionally, I have spent four years running and writing for my university's student paper, *The Bolt*.

As *The Bolt's* Editor-in-Chief, I created an environment where students could freely write in-depth stories by developing a handbook and NDA for all staff. I introduced multimedia to our site, publishing podcasts and news videos about transgender violence, immigration, and new scientific research. During my time in a leadership role, *The Bolt's* viewership increased 500%. My enclosed resume provides further details on my experience and qualifications, including my work as an investigative writer, reference checker, and staff writer for various organizations.

As the editor of a small college newspaper, I honed my ability to write in-depth news stories with limited time, resources, and guidance. I understand how crucial local-level journalism, specifically in-depth investigative journalism, is to maintaining our democracy. I take pride in holding those in power accountable with the understanding that journalism isn't just about uncovering truth—it's about creating space for people to speak, demand change, and be heard.

I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss my application further in an interview. Please feel free to contact me at (207) 123-4567 or ehedegard@gmail.org to schedule a convenient time.

Sincerely,

Emily Hedegard

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Resume Attached