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[The News Literacy Project Kicks Off DC Expansion with an Event Featuring Gwen Ifill](#)

Amid the torrent of media messages in today's digital world, it is important that young people be literate, so they can become critical consumers of what they see and hear. As part of its innovative effort to help students sort fact from fiction, the News Literacy Project (NLP) will launch its Washington, DC, expansion at E.L. Haynes Public Charter School with an event on Sept. 6 featuring journalist Gwen Ifill.

It will be held on E.L. Haynes' campus at 4501 Kansas Ave. NW, at 9:30-10:30 am.

The program also will include Federal Communications Commissioner Michael J. Copps, a strong proponent of news literacy, and Greg Farmer, vice president of Government Affairs for Qualcomm Incorporated, the lead sponsor of NLP's DC expansion.

"Our goal should be that every American possesses the skills to discern news from infotainment, fact from opinion, and trustworthy information sources from untrustworthy," Copps told members of the National Newspaper Association last month. "Happily, there is good work being done on the literacy front. One example is the News Literacy Project."

The News Literacy Project (www.thenewsliteracyproject.org) is moving into the district with the support of Qualcomm, the world leader in 3G and next-generation mobile technologies. Qualcomm has a longstanding commitment to education and connecting students with opportunities for learning.

"This collaboration is significant to Qualcomm as education is an issue of national importance, as well as to our business," said Farmer. "As a country, we are educating the next generation of scientists, inventors, engineers, and entrepreneurs. With increased access to educational content

and new portals to learning and information, students need the analytical tools to recognize news and information that will make them well-informed.”

NLP brings seasoned journalists into middle school and high school classrooms, where they give students the critical-thinking tools to appreciate the value of quality news coverage and to encourage them to consume and create credible information across all media and platforms.

At E.L. Haynes, one of Washington’s most highly regarded charter schools, NLP will work with teacher Eliza Ford to introduce the project’s original curriculum to two eighth-grade classes and about 50 students.

“NLP will provide our students with the critical thinking and analytical skills they need to be successful in college and in life,” said Jennifer C. Niles, E.L. Haynes’ founder and head of school. “Participation in this project will help E.L. Haynes fulfill our mission.”

The News Literacy Project

The News Literacy Project is based in Bethesda, MD, and headed by Alan C. Miller, a Pulitzer Prize-winning former reporter with the Los Angeles Times. The board is chaired by John S. Carroll, former editor of the LA and The Baltimore Sun. Leslie Hill, a former member of the Dow Jones Board, is the vice chair.

The 2011-2012 school year will mark NLP’s third full year in classrooms. The project expects to work with about 35 English, government, history and humanities teachers to reach more than 2,000 students in at least 20 schools in New York City, Chicago, Bethesda, Md., and Washington, D.C. It is continuing to partner with Walt Whitman High School and Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School in Montgomery County, Md.

Twenty news organizations participate in the project and it has more than 185 journalists enrolled in its online directory, including broadcast correspondents, authors of best-selling books and winners of journalism’s highest honors. Since 2009, nearly 100 journalist fellows have made more than 250 presentations in classrooms, conferences, workshops and other NLP programs.

For more information about The News Literacy Project, its funders and programs, go to (www.thenewsliteracyproject.org).

Gwen Ifill is the moderator and managing editor of “Washington Week” and senior correspondent for the “PBS NewsHour.” The author of the 2009 best-seller *The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama*, she has covered six presidential campaigns and moderated the vice presidential debates in 2004 and 2008. She is also a member of NLP’s board.

E.L. Haynes Public Charter School

E.L. Haynes strives to ensure that each E.L. Haynes student of every race, socioeconomic status, and home language will reach high levels of academic achievement and be prepared to succeed at the college of his or her choice. Washington’s first year-round public school is moving

steadily toward this goal through its program based on nationally recognized best practices for advancing student achievement. Over the last five years, E.L. Haynes has experienced a 44% growth in the number of students scoring proficient and advanced in math. Those students who have been with E.L. Haynes the longest perform particularly well. This past year, 75% of the school's 8th graders were proficient or advanced in reading; and 90% were proficient or advanced in math.

Founded in 2004, E.L. Haynes enrolled 600 students from pre-school through 8th grade in the 2010-2011 school year. It will add a grade each year and will have its first graduating seniors in the 2014-2015 school year.

The school is named for Dr. Euphemia Lofton Haynes, the first African-American woman to receive a doctorate in mathematics. She was a teacher in the District of Columbia's school system for 47 years and was the first woman to serve as president of the District of Columbia Board of Education.

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