Like the Kellogg Foundation, we believe we can achieve enormous power by harnessing the authentic voices of minority youth to tell stories of their communities through journalism. We will bring to life critical issues around health care and public health. In so doing, we believe we not only can stimulate constructive discussion of important issues, we can pave the way for student journalists to make a successful careers and significant contributions to the direction of our society in the future.

Working together as a management team, Dr. Reed Tuckson and USA TODAY reporter Jayne O’Donnell propose to lead a new multimedia health journalism training program for high school students. The program would launch in cooperation with the journalism departments at Howard University and Morgan State University – ranked first and second among all U.S. colleges in the number of black journalism graduates. It would be designed to be easily replicable in the areas where Kellogg targets its giving.

The program will bring to bear an unparalleled and diverse team of healthcare journalists, journalism educators and healthcare experts.

These include:

Dr. Tuckson, whose 40 years of health experience, includes serving Washington, D.C.’s Public Health Commissioner as its homicide rate peaked in the late 1980s during the crack cocaine epidemic;

Award-winning journalist Jayne O’Donnell, who has covered public health and health care for more than a quarter century—22 years at USA Today alone;

Yanick Rice-Lamb, head of Howard’s journalism department. She co-founded the online health magazine FierceforBlackWomen.com and has worked for prominent media outlets including *The New York Times*; and

Jacqueline Jones, chair of Morgan State’s journalism department and formerly of publications including *The Washington Post.*

Our model is to identify and work with eight to 10 students in each city for a full year and to bring to light the disparities in healthcare outcomes resulting from overlooked or ignored diseases and illnesses, including depression and anxiety, and from gun violence, whether at the hands of residents or law enforcement. We will also aim to teach the students to tap the human tragedy and incomprehensible sense of loss for those who have to say goodbye to their children, whatever the cause.

This storytelling project will train these teenaged journalists in the skills of investigating and reporting. They will learn to interview o in their communities, including public health workers, police officers, young mothers and doctors and use a multimedia approach to report on what they find. They will do work that can foster better understanding and communication among the groups and, hopefully, channel some of the urban tension into concrete recommendations for action on health and safety.

The young journalists would meet role models in the community and, by interviewing younger children, they would become role models themselves.

The program will includeon-campus and in-the-field training in writing, video and podcasts. Their multimedia journalism would appear on a new website dedicated to the project and in many cases on usatoday.com. In addition, we envision the new site being a resource for other reporters seeking to learn what life is truly like in minority communities, much as newsdeeply.com or org? (which started as Syriadeeply.org) does for war-torn countries around the globe.

We will measure our progress through reach both by print circulation, online clicks and social media sharing. We will evaluate the degree to which the solution-oriented storytelling precipitates action and change in the communities. We will also track the impact on the students themselves by assessing their plans for high school graduation and college as the outset, during and after their participation in the program.

We are requesting $xxx,xxx for the project, which will be coordinated through Tuckson Health Connections to:

Support the journalism departments of Howard University and Morgan State University to identify, host and help train our deserving high school candidates;

To compensate Jayne O’Donnell for development of the curriculum, as well as her hands-on instruction and recruitment of high-profile experts in smartphone photo and video shooting and editing, policy and other legal research, and podcasting; and

To cover the cost of Tuckson Health Connections’ administrative assistant to conduct project management. **Dr. Tuckson’s time is being donated to the project as an in-kind contribution.**