

# IRE College Curriculum Toolkit Task Force Meeting Report | February 17, 2023

---

## Timeline/Update

- Fall 2022 – worked with IRE staff/intern to build MSI contact list
  - List continues growing; will be used for other IRE purposes
- Nov. 2022 – worked to craft Google Form survey for distribution
- Dec. 2022 – survey sent (with intro email) to 350 MSI (Minority Serving Institution) contacts
- Jan. 2022 – survey sent again to same contacts with reminder email and participation incentive
  - Two random respondents will receive digital copies of “Numbers in the Newsroom”
- Feb. 2022 – survey finished

## Survey Takeaways - <https://bit.ly/3ShPeoJ>

- Seven respondents from five institutions:
  - Professor/Associate Professor – Department Head/Chair
  - Arkansas, California, New York, South Carolina, District of Columbia
  - One of seven respondents was an IRE member
  - All full-time faculty
  - Four teaching in-person; three hybrid
  - Courses Include: Media Writing, Public Affairs Reporting, Multimedia Reporting, Media Ethics, Investigative Reporting, Digital News Production, TV News Production, Sports Writing, Writing for TV & Radio
  - No respondents use NICAR Courses
  - Two respondents use the Investigative Reporters Handbook
  - One respondent uses other IRE tips/tools
- Respondents wanted more resources in the following areas most:
  - Data analysis (7)
  - Process reporting (7)
  - Digital sleuthing (6)
  - Structuring an investigation (6)
  - Data visualization (5)
  - FOIA and open records (5)
  - Backgrounding (5)
  - Diversity, equity and inclusion (5)
- Respondents were also interested in the following most:
  - Topical expert on-demand videos (7)
  - IRE’s Data Bootcamp for Educators (7)
  - Guest speakers (6)

## Discussion/Next Steps

- The task force and staff discussed the small number of survey respondents, but also noted respondents were unaware of existing IRE/NICAR programs for educators – like NICAR Courses.
- At this time, the group recommends delaying the creation of a full tool kit – instead moving forward with the following:
  - Toolkit chair and staff liaison will meet with the IRE executive director following the #NICAR23 Conference to discuss:
    - More outreach/marketing of the organization’s current teaching-related offerings for MSI educators
    - On-demand videos for some of the topics outlined in the survey
    - Timeline for revisiting a broader toolkit rollout – possibly in 2024 – who will develop it and how it could be funded
- IRE Director of Diversity & Inclusion reached out to survey respondents following the task force meeting to provide details about applying for IRE’s Data Bootcamp for Educators.