

Written by Mary Turck, TC Daily Planet  
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"For us on the North side, we are always pissed off at the media because they say crap about the north side," said Debra Stone. "I never thought of myself as a journalist until I was accepted into this media skills class. I was hung up on the fact that a journalist gets a MA degree from Medill and Columbia and you have to have all of these credentials and get accepted into this small, elite little group."

*The fall cohort of Media Skills Fellows, funded by the Bush Foundation, completed ten weeks of intensive learning on November 14, with the ripple effects already spreading out into various Twin Cities communities. The fellowship program focused on improving media skills with the specific goal of using these skills for better communication in/about/on behalf of each participant's community. This article is one of [several articles introducing the fall cohort of Media Skills Fellows](#) and what they learned and accomplished.*

Stone is a member and a board member of the Major Taylor Bicycle Club of Minnesota, board member of The Givens Foundation for African American Literature and founding member of Northside Arts Collective and the Northside Writing Group.

She said that during the Media Skills Fellowship, she learned that, "I don't have to be submerged into this elite little group of people who don't know anything about my community and say they are doing unbiased reporting."

Instead, she is doing reporting and blogging about her community. During the ten-week fellowship, she told stories of [women of color who bike in the Twin Cities](#) and of a [bicycle/film-making journey of exploration by students at St. Paul's High School for the Recording Arts](#)

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[Debra Stone, a Minneapolis city council member, discusses her work on the council and her role in the community.](#)