



YOU INVENT IT. WE FUND IT. \$25 MILLION.

The Knight News Challenge, a contest by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, has earmarked \$25 million over five years for digital innovation in community news.

As much as \$5 million will be given away this year to support smart, innovative solutions to inform and inspire communities. Projects can range from election coverage and crime statistics to little league scores and road conditions. The contest is open to anybody anywhere in the world.

Knight Foundation recognizes first-year winners Lisa Williams and Benjamin Melançon, who are participating in DrupalCon 2008. Join them in a Knight-sponsored panel to discuss opportunities for funding (see schedule).

WINNER: LISA WILLIAMS, \$222,000



Who: Williams is the founder of Placeblogger, the largest live site of local weblogs and of H2Otown, a nationally recognized citizen journalism site for Watertown, Mass.

Project: To make it easier for people to find hyperlocal news and information about their city or neighborhood through promotion of "universal geotagging" in blogs.

Goals: "Placeblogger wants to make it so simple to know what's fresh, interesting and compelling about where you are right now, you'll wonder how you ever lived without it."

WINNER: BENJAMIN MELANÇON, \$15,000



Who: Melançon, co-founder of Agaric Design Collective, is a web developer using open-source software. He promotes and supports several nonprofit organizations, especially public interest news sources.

Project: Blogging about "Related Items," a module for the community-oriented and open-source content management system, Drupal, which enables people to quickly and easily connect any item (news, idea, group, event) to any other content they consider related.

2008 winners will be announced at the Editor & Publisher / MediaWeek Interactive Media Conference in Las Vegas, May 14-15.

KNIGHT NEWS CHALLENGE: A CATALYST FOR INNOVATION IN DIGITAL MEDIA

www.newschallenge.org