

2014 ARIN Fellowship Report

Overall it was an amazing program. My expectations were more than met and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I would encourage all interested candidates to make use of this opportunity, make your voice heard and spread the word about ARIN to entire internet community.

*-Kevin Powell
2014 Caribbean Fellow*

Purpose:

ARIN's Fellowship program provides financial support for one individual from each of the three sectors within ARIN's service area (Canada, the Caribbean and North Atlantic Islands, and the United States and Outlying Areas) to attend each ARIN Public Policy and Members Meeting. Priority is given to applicants who will be attending their first ARIN meeting. The purpose of the fellowship program is to broaden education outreach in the community and bring new ideas into the public policy discussions.

Summary:

Since its inception in 2009, the ARIN Fellowship Program has allowed 37 Fellows to attend their first ARIN Meeting and has had a total of 248 qualifying applications.

2014 Data:

2014 Selection Committee: Bill Woodcock, SC Chair; Andrew Dul, John Brancela, and Stephen Middleton.

ARIN 33 (Spring) Chicago Applicants

<i>Canada</i>	<i>Caribbean</i>	<i>USA</i>
3	5	19

ARIN 33 (Spring) Fellow/Mentor Pairings

<i>Region</i>	<i>Fellow</i>	<i>Mentor</i>
Canada	Jose Alvarado	Stacy Hughes
Caribbean	Kevin Powell	John Springer
USA	Brett Henrich	Owen DeLong

ARIN 34 (Fall) Baltimore Applicants

<i>Canada</i>	<i>Caribbean</i>	<i>USA</i>
5	4	19

*ARIN 34 (Fall) Phoenix Fellow/Mentor Pairings**

<i>Region</i>	<i>Fellow</i>	<i>Mentor</i>
Canada	Adam Thompson	Bill Darte
Caribbean	Andre Graham (cancelled due to VISA timing reasons)	N/A
USA	Terry Hoke	Tina Morris
USA (Bmore Local & Extra Fellow)	George Lyle IV	Owen DeLong

Fellows Comments:

“Unclear what [application] the criteria are, no guidance exists for what sort of answers ARIN wants (point form, essay form, ???).” (ARIN staff will address this on the 2015 application form)

“Since I was new to the meeting, I did not know quite what to expect. After attending, I can say that the meeting seems well run, but one more day might be necessary to fit in all of the discussion points.”

“The fact that the programs exists at all is a good thing. I personally was exposed to technical discussions I'd never had access to before. The first-timers' meeting is a beneficial thing as well.”

“The application process was easy and the feedback from staff was quick and so helpful.”

“My mentor was really great. He provided useful clarification and guidance and he ensured that i never felt out of place. He also provided other assistance where my physical mobility and access to the hotel was concerned.”

“ARIN33 far surpassed my expectations based on my readings and research of other meetings. The mentoring program was useful. The actual discussion of policy, though sometimes became difficult to follow all the technical jargon and abbreviations was quite informative after I had to time to apprise myself of the various jargon and terminologies.”

“I think it would be really important to enhance the level of participation of each fellow at the next meeting. There could be a session devoted to theme giving their own insights on a particular topical issue. Fellows seem to be reluctant to participate in policy discussions because they are new so if could find away to give them a space to articulate a response that would enhance the program.”

“Real good job by the ARIN staff. You guys were really helpful and accessible. Great Job to Jud, Sean, Jennifer, my mentor John Springer, the rest of the ARIN advisory council and the board of trustee. Kudos guys!!”

“I really enjoyed being able to participate and work with the ARIN team and members at the event. I have a much better understanding and appreciation for ARIN's role in Internet governance in North America and a much better understanding of the policy development process.”

“Truly the highlight of the trip for me was the ability to speak one-on-one with so many fascinating and knowledgeable individuals. The Field Museum location was absolutely fantastic. 10/10 top marks for the social.”

Mentors:

The Duration, I am not sure if my Mentee was given an option to attend NANOG or not but at the combined meeting flying in for a 1 1/2 day meeting seemed very brief. It would be nice to offer the entire week.

The initial conversation and meeting were a little awkward. An exchange of photos might be nice to aid in spotting each other. I was very lucky, I had a very personable, intelligent Mentee. Once we got past the introductions things went very smoothly and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Staff Recommendations

1. Make the application period two weeks earlier to allow for more time for Fellowship Selection and for Fellow VISA processing. Note that for ARIN 35, we've already adjusted this deadline date earlier.
2. Extend NANOG attendance to all 3 ARIN Fellows during the Fall joint meeting. Note that this would require additional budget to cover the NANOG meeting registration costs and extra hotel nights and stipend.



3. We need to continue to find new avenues to promote the program. If we receive more applications across all sectors in 2015 then in 2016 we would like to double the number of Fellows to 6 per meeting (targeting two per sector when possible, but not required.)