

2015 ARIN Fellowship Report

“My experience absolutely exceeded my expectations. From the planning before the conference, the recommendation to join the PPML mail list, Participating in NANOG and ARIN, the view to community involvement, encouraged interaction with all ARIN Team and members, the socials and overall transparency was amazing and appreciated.”

*- Leah Symekher
2015 US Fellow; President, SFBay Area ISOC Chapter*

Purpose:

ARIN’s Fellowship program began in 2009 with the goal of bringing new voices into ARIN’s Policy Development Process and for those new voices to take back and introduce “ARIN” to their wider communities.

This year the program was modified to:

- provide financial support for up to five (5) individuals 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.
- provide the option for all Fellows selected for the October ARIN meeting to also attend the NANOG meeting, with ARIN covering the NANOG registration fee and additional days of hotel and stipends. [8 of our 9 fellows took advantage of this add-on]
- open selection to consider applicants who have attended past meetings and demonstrated strong participation and/or engagement with their local community. Note that priority may still be given to applicants who will be attending their first ARIN meeting.

Summary:

Since its inception in 2009, the ARIN Fellowship Program has allowed 51 Fellows to attend an ARIN Meeting and has had a total of 304 qualifying applications. **We continue to look for new avenues to promote the program.**

We have set a goal to increase the number of eligible applications by 10% over the previous high for each meeting.

2015 Data:

2015 Selection Committee: Bill Sandiford, Chair; Tina Morris, John Kuhn, and John Sweeting.

ARIN 35 (April) San Francisco Applicants

Canada	Caribbean	USA
5	8	11

ARIN 35 (April) Fellow/Mentor Pairings

<i>Region</i>	<i>Fellow</i>	<i>Mentor</i>
Canada	Jon Aitchison Andrew Trudgeon	Kevin Blumberg John Springer
Caribbean	Andre Graham	Rob Seastrom
USA	Stephen Ives Michael Schloh	Andrew Dul Milton Mueller

ARIN 36 (October) Montreal Applicants

<i>Canada</i>	<i>Caribbean</i>	<i>USA</i>
5	12	17

ARIN 36 (October) Montreal Fellow/Mentor Pairings*

<i>Region</i>	<i>Fellow</i>	<i>Mentor</i>
Canada	Glenn McKnight Gary Molenkamp	Rob Seastrom David Farmer
Caribbean	Jose R. de la Cruz Jason Hynds Roosevelt L. Lewars Daryl E Wade	Leif Sawyer Leslie Nobile Tina Morris Charlie Liu
USA	Marvin Arnold Mike Hammett Leah Symekher	Brandon Ross John Springer Cathy Aronson

Fellows Comments:

RE: extension to cover NANOG... "I think it was very important for both, having not attended a Nanog before. It was a good balance of operations and governance. I would strongly suggest continuing the practice whenever possible."

Fellows should be acquainted with each other from the initial on-set. So everyone gets an idea of each other's background and they would be more comfortable as a group and not be a loner.

For me, the first strength is was the travel/financial assistance. Once at the venue, having the opportunity to attend the NANOG meeting is another big plus. And last, but not least, my mentor. The mentoring program is essential for newcomers to an ARIN meeting.

My expectations were exceeded as all participants were very open and friendly so there was no need for anyone to feel left out. The ARIN staff made the environment healthy for learning even though the discussions were at times intense.

I believe the program could be improved with 2 simple changes. 1) a brief "meet the fellows event" in person at the conference, as discussed above. 2) the ARIN community is acronym heavy and it can be time consuming for a first timer to understand it all. A one to two pager that that briefly summarized relevant language and high level policy debates, would be a useful inclusion in the ARIN policy booklet that we received at the beginning of the week.

Staff Recommendations:

1. Ensure the Board appoints the Selection Committee as soon as possible in the year as we are moving the Fellow application deadline up to early February in order to provide more time to arrange travel to the April ARIN meetings.
2. Implementing some survey suggestions: We will look for ways to introduce the fellows to one another and to the attendees at large early on. The newly expanded First Timers orientation program should help and we will create an email alias and subscribe all the fellows to facilitate easier communications amongst that group.
3. Grow the pool of available mentors: This year we asked for community volunteers to serve as Fellow mentors on the meeting registration form. We used two and they were pleased with the experience, as were their fellows with them. We will continue to use the meeting registration form and will explore targeted outreach to the community as another method to cultivate additional mentors outside of our Advisory Council.