

Akilah Johnson

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Summary

I am prize-winning journalist with vast experience as a reporter and editor across the media spectrum. During my 15 years in the business, I have consistently delivered poignant visual, audio, and written packages for use online, in print, and on radio and TV. I am adept at conceptualizing, pitching, and coordinating with various departments to create compelling enterprise, analysis, investigative, and long-form pieces. My body of work has led to a healthy social media presence, appearances on MSNBC, NPR, and BBC Radio, and regular guest spots on WGBH's "Greater Boston" and "Under the Radar." Visit www.akilahjohnson.com for more information.

Professional Experience

John S. Knight Journalism Fellowships at Stanford University, Stanford, CA

- **John S. Knight (JSK) Fellow**, Sept. 2018 to present
Exploring ways local and legacy news organizations can improve access and credibility in historically underserved communities. Led team of journalists and computer science students in experiment that combined shoe-leather reporting and technology to connect journalists with historically underrepresented sources and the issues affecting their communities.

Boston Globe, Boston, MA

- **Political, General Assignment, and Immigration Reporter**, Nov. 2010 to present
Work includes a stint on the Spotlight Team and on-the-ground reporting from Ferguson, Mo.; Flint, Mich.; Charleston, S.C.; Haiti; and Cape Verde. Was a key member of election coverage for Boston mayor, Massachusetts governor, and the 2016 presidential primary. Produced in-depth multimedia projects on urban violence, President Obama's legacy, and school choice with teams of photographers, videographers, web developers, and social media managers that led to community dialogues attended by elected officials and gave voice to marginalized communities. Contributing member of the 2014 Pulitzer Prize-winning breaking news coverage of the Boston Marathon bombing. Co-host of GlobeLive, the Globe's live storytelling experience held before an audience of hundreds.
- **Assistant City Editor, Sunday Nights** May 2013 to April 2014
Managed newsroom operations on Sunday nights, leading a team of five reporters and coordinating with the weekend and Metro editors. Assigned and edited stories, helped determine Monday's metro news section, pitched stories to the Page 1 Desk.

Sun-Sentinel, Fort Lauderdale, FL

- **Education Writer**, July 2006 to Oct. 2010
Covered the nation's sixth-largest school district from the classroom to the school board. Regularly analyzed standardized test scores, school budgets, and procurement and construction. Served as first-ever content manager of schools section of sun-sentinel.com and was the primary contributor to the education blog – both while serving as lead education reporter. Increased web traffic and user-generated content on the website, helping to build its reputation as a go-to source for school news.
- **Public Safety Reporter**, Sept. 2003 to July 2006
Covered local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in Broward and Palm Beach counties. Regularly analyzed crime statistics and the social and political impact of public safety. Served as online team leader for the deadly ambush of a sheriff's deputy and covered multiple hurricanes, helping to establish sun-sentinel.com as the community's first source for news.

Education

M.A. in journalism, multimedia studies concentration, University of Miami, May 2010 — Coral Gables, FL

B.S. in communications, Journalism and English double major, University of Miami, May 2001 — Coral Gables, FL

Honors

- 2018 – Pulitzer Prize Finalist, Local Reporting, Spotlight Team Investigation; NABJ Salute to Excellence Award, Newspaper Special Project, "[Boston. Racism. Image. Reality.](#)"
- 2014 – Pulitzer Prize, Breaking News Boston Globe Staff, Boston Marathon bombing
- 2013 – Online News Association, Knight Award for Public Service; Radio Television Digital News Association Unity Award; National Headliner Awards First Place in Journalistic Innovation, "[68 Blocks – life, death, hope](#)"
- 2012 – Casey Medals for Meritorious Journalism Honorable Mention, "[Getting In](#)" school assignment
- 2009 – Online News Association Finalist, Student Journalism, Large Team, "Special Olympics Live"
- 2007 – Society of Newspaper Editors - Florida Chapter, First Place special section "Hip-hop Voices"

