

# Katherine Knott

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## EDUCATION

Missouri School of Journalism  
Bachelor of Journalism  
May 2016 Graduate

## EXPERIENCE

### **The Daily Progress, Charlottesville, Va, | K-12 Education Reporter**

**Nov. 2018 - Present**

- Covered the Charlottesville and Albemarle County school districts as they worked to close achievement and opportunity gaps, grappled with aging infrastructure amid financial constraints and dealt with the pandemic.
- Developed relationships with sources in and outside the school system, including teachers and parents.
- Filed FOIAs on a regular basis to find story ideas or dig into school board decisions.
- Used social media to connect with sources, live-tweet school board meetings and establish myself as the go-to person for local school news
- Worked with a team of fourth-graders at a city elementary school to start a school newspaper — an effort cut short by the pandemic.
- Created a student advisory board to hear directly from high schoolers about what's happening in their schools
- Spearheaded the newsroom's data collection efforts regarding COVID-19 cases and vaccinations.
- Collaborated with reporters on other beats to cover local government relations with the school system and breaking news.
- Launched a bimonthly newsletter, The Cheat Sheet, to spotlight education stories and connect with readers that was eventually discontinued by the company.

### **The News-Enterprise, Elizabethtown, Ky. | Education Reporter**

**Feb. 2017 - Nov. 2018**

- Reported on area schools, including Kentucky's fourth-largest school district, and the community college on a day-to-day basis in an effort to give readers a nuanced picture of local educational institutions.
- Tackled a wide range of general assignment stories from the county fair to court cases, helping wherever I could.
- Mined data, analyzed budgets and filed open records requests for stories.
- Averaged 10 articles a week and turned out in-depth enterprise stories on a quarterly basis.
- Partnered with other news reporters to cover student walkouts, the 2018 election, the 2017 solar eclipse and the state's pension crisis.
- Engaged readers on social media and through an education-focused newsletter.
- Designed stories online, adding interactive charts, breakout boxes and pull quotes.

### **The Chronicle of Higher Education | Reporting Intern** **Fall 2016**

- Produced posts for the breaking news blog along with long-term enterprise pieces that I pitched myself and tied into the publication's mission.
- Pursued stories about a variety of topics and learned to be a quick study on complex issues such as discipline, faculty unions and sexual assault prevention.
- Traveled to The University of Kansas on a reporting trip to explore what life is like in a liberal bubble, which ran as a cover story for the weekly print publication.

### **The Kansas City Star | Reporting Intern** **Summer 2016**

- Worked on a three-man business desk to cover companies, industries and issues in the Kansas City area. Tasks included turning out daily stories, attending events and working on longer features.
- Found story ideas and assisted in the coverage of the Orlando nightclub shooting.
- Supplemented stories with videos and other multimedia elements.

## Awards & Other Accomplishments

- Member of the Education Writers Association since 2017; attended multiple EWA seminars, including the national conference
- Member of EWA's 2017 New to the Beat Class
- Also member of SPJ and have attended two ONA national conferences
- First-place recipient in breaking news at the 2020 Virginia Press Association Awards for coverage of a racist threat that shuttered Charlottesville schools for several years. In 2020, also received third place for education writing and for in-depth reporting on a story about a key mental health support for at-risk children going away.
- First-place recipient at the 2019 Kentucky Press Association awards for best on-going or extended coverage on the state's pension crisis and how it affected local schools. In 2019, also won first and third place in enterprise or analytical story category for stories on kindergarten readiness and school resource officer following the Parkland shooting.