

# Creative Strategist

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Danville, Virginia

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE** 

# **EDITOR**

## **STAR-TRIBUNE**

06/2023 - present

- Crafted and refined engaging copy, designed visually compelling newspaper pages, and delivered press-ready artwork for the weekly newspaper and monthly magazine, Discover Southside.
- Directed the production of the weekly newspaper, monthly magazine, and special publications, ensuring timely and high-quality output.
- Led a team of 2 full-time and 10 part-time employees, optimizing workflows and boosting productivity.
- Developed and implemented innovative digital content strategies, seamlessly integrating web content with social media to enhance audience engagement and reach.
- Managed newsroom operations and coordinated comprehensive media coverage for community news and events.
- Cultivated and maintained strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders, news sources, and advertisers.

#### MARKETING COORDINATOR

#### **BROOKLYN FI**

09/2022 - 02/2023

- Developed and executed high-impact, outcomes-focused marketing strategies and plans that reinforced the brand and value proposition, driving growth, engagement, retention, and loyalty among institutional and intermediary clients.
- Led and managed a dynamic marketing team, fostering a collaborative environment.
- Implemented cost-saving measures through efficient marketing strategies, creating repeatable and scalable processes.
- Oversaw and optimized the firm's website for brand continuity, enhancing content based on SEO best practices.

# PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING SPECIALIST DANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

10/2016 - 09/2022

- Acted as the Director of Public Relations and Marketing for two years, leading the department and managing all PR and marketing initiatives.
- Developed and executed strategic written messaging and visual communications across all college channels and platforms, including danville.edu, social media, press releases, and internal communications.
- Coordinated procurement for the Office of Public Relations and Marketing, identifying and integrating new communications tools that enhanced departmental efficiency.
- Produced the annual graduation livestream, ensuring a seamless and professional presentation that garnered over 1,000 views annually and positive feedback from the community.

## ASSISTANT EDITOR/REPORTER

### STAR-TRIBUNE

08/2015 - 10/2016

- Authored and edited weekly articles for both print and digital platforms, conceptualizing stories, conducting research, interviewing sources, and selecting or capturing accompanying photographs and artwork
- Ensured compliance with privacy, contempt, and defamation laws, as well as Associated Press writing style, maintaining journalistic integrity and high editorial standards.

## PRODUCER/GRAPHIC DESIGNER

## SHOWCASE MAGAZINE

01/2013 - 07/2014

- Analyzed design briefs to determine requirements and developed compelling illustrations, logos, and other designs using advanced software tools.
- Ensured final graphics and layouts were visually appealing, on-brand, and met the highest quality standards.

## **COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSOCIATE**

### **INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED LEARNING & RESEARCH**

07/2010 - 06/2012

- Managed and maintained social media pages, enhancing engagement and visibility for institutional initiatives.
- Produced and edited video content to promote initiatives and educate the public about institutional activities.
- Created and distributed press kits for grand openings, ribbon cuttings, and other significant events, ensuring comprehensive media coverage.

#### **PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**

Creative and strategic communications professional with over a decade of experience in editorial management, marketing, and public relations. Proven track record in leading high-performing teams, developing innovative content strategies, and enhancing brand engagement across digital and print platforms. Skilled in crafting compelling narratives, optimizing workflows, and fostering strong stakeholder relationships. Award-winning expertise in graphic design, social media marketing, and executive communications. Adept at leveraging diverse technologies to drive audience growth and retention. Passionate about delivering impactful and timely media coverage.

#### **SELECTED SKILLS**

- Brand Awareness
- Executive Communications Coaching
- Social Media Content Marketing
- Photography
- Writing
- Graphic Design

#### SERVICE LEADERSHIP

- Served on the boards of the Danville Museum of Fine Arts & History and the Little Theatre of Danville
- Elected Vice President of Gretna Merchants
  Association in 2017

#### **AWARDS**

# National Council for Marketing & Public Relations

- 2022: Gold Medallion, print advertisement; Silver Medallion, computer-generated illustration
- 2020: District 2 Rising Star Award; Gold Medallion, video shorts – single; Bronze Medallions, excellence in writing and website
- 2019: Gold, Silver, & Bronze medallions, print advertisement
- 2018: Silver Medallion, logo design; Bronze Medallion, wild card
- 2017: Gold Medallion, original photography

## **Averett University**

2012: Communication and Journalism Award

## **TECHNOLOGIES**



#### **CLIFTONSTRENGTHS™**

Strategic • Ideation • Achiever • Activator • Communication

# **EDUCATION**

## **Averett University**

BACHELOR OF ARTS, COMMUNICATION STUDIES & JOURNALISM

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, MARKETING