

James W. Johnson
Lincoln, Neb. • (402) 525-5291
lincolnnewsguy@yahoo.com • www.jimwjohanson.com

Education

Bemidji State University — Bemidji, Minn. Graduated May 1989; Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communication, with an emphasis in print journalism. Additional studies in anthropology and photography.

Experience

Lincoln Journal Star — Lincoln, Neb. News Editor (August 2001-Present): Supervising 10-12 copy editors and three graphic artists for a 76,000 circulation daily in Nebraska's capital city. Personnel, scheduling and production issues along with editing, design and graphics duties. Newsroom editorial system troubleshooter.

St. Petersburg Times — St. Petersburg, Fla.

- North Suncoast News Editor (November 2000-August 2001): Coordinated and planned production of four daily regional editions serving Pasco, Hernando and Citrus counties with an average daily circulation of nearly 100,000.

- Copy Editor/Page Designer (April 1998-November 2000): Edited, wrote headlines and cutlines and designed sections for the Times' regional editions. The Times is heavily zoned, requiring fast and accurate work while meeting numerous deadlines.

News-Press — Fort Myers, Fla. Assistant News Editor (May 1997-April 1998): Edited and designed zoned local pages and 1A for a 100,000 circulation daily. Jointly supervised a universal copy desk with one other assistant news editor and a night production editor.

Spokesman-Review — Spokane, Wash. Copy Editor/Page Designer (December 1994-April 1997): Edited copy, wrote headlines and designed regional sections and inside wire pages for a 150,000 circulation daily.

Grand Forks Herald — Grand Forks, N.D. Copy Editor/Page Designer (May 1990-November 1994): Edited and designed Page 1 for a 40,000 circulation daily. Supervised night copy desk. Edited and designed weekly Discover section (science, travel and technology). Edited local and wire copy, photos and graphics. Designed various other news pages and special sections as needed.

The Pioneer — Bemidji, Minn. Staff Writer (May 1989-May 1990): General assignment reporter/photographer, with some copy editing, for an 8,000 circulation daily newspaper.

Ojibwe News — Bemidji, Minn. Editor (July 1988-April 1989): News and feature story writing, wire editing, layout and design for a 2,000 circulation independently owned weekly Native American newspaper.

Northern Student — Bemidji State University, Bemidji, Minn.

- Editor (September 1987-May 1988): Writing, editing and layout. Also handled business and advertising accounts. Overall supervision of editors and staff
- Managing Editor (March-May 1987): Writing, editing and layout of news pages and supervision of staff writers.

Valley Journal — Halstad, Minn. Reporter/Photographer (August-October 1984): News, sports and feature writing, photography and layout for a small twice-weekly rural community newspaper.

White Earth Tribal Council — White Earth, Minn. Public Relations Officer (April-June 1984): News, feature and public information reporting, photography, copy editing for the tribe's monthly newspaper.

Northern Student — Bemidji State University

- Photography Editor (September 1983-May 1984 & March-June 1983): Photography, darkroom work, supervision of staff photographers and news writing.
- Photographer/Staff Writer (December 1982-March 1983): Northern Student. Photography, darkroom work and news writing.

Other Activities

- Participated in the Poynter Institute's 2006 Leadership Academy.
- Since 1994, I have attended the annual conferences of the Native American Journalists Association (and every five years, the UNITY Minority Journalists conferences) where I serve as a design and editing mentor on student newspaper projects, training Native American youth interested in journalism careers.
- Since 2002, I have served as a mentor and teacher at the annual Native American Student Media Workshop held at the Crazy Horse Memorial in South Dakota and sponsored by the Freedom Forum and Gannett.

Skills, knowledge and talents

- Systems and platforms: Mac OS 9 & X, Windows 2000 and XP, Harris pagination, ACT Editorial, SII/Coyote editorial and pagination.
- Software: Highly proficient with Quark Xpress, Quark CopyDesk, Adobe Photoshop, Macromedia Freehand, MS Word and Adobe Acrobat. Some experience with Adobe InDesign and Illustrator.
- Was instrumental in the conversion of the Journal Star from Harris to Quark/ACT. Ported all of the design elements and text styles from Harris to Quark libraries and stylesheets. Assisted in training of newsroom staff in the use of the systems. Continue to be the go-to person for questions and problems with PC and Mac newsroom applications.

References available upon request