

# Karen Rivedal

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## Professional summary

Communications writer now covering education research in academia; former journalist with 26 years' experience in daily newspaper beats including business, higher education, K-12 education, law enforcement, courts, science, state and local governments, features and politics.

## Education

### **BACHELOR'S DEGREE | MAY 1991 | WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY**

- Major: Communications
- Minor: Biology

## Experience

### **UNIVERSITY RELATIONS SPECIALIST | WISCONSIN CENTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION | UW-MADISON | JUNE 2018-CURRENTLY | MADISON, WI**

I write and edit stories and other content for internal and external audiences designed to inform and showcase the work of faculty and academic staff researchers at WCER, a nationally renowned research center within the top-ranked School of Education at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

### **K-12 EDUCATION REPORTER/SUNDAY LOCAL EDITOR/RELIGION REPORTER | WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL | APRIL 2017-MAY 2018 | MADISON, WI**

- I covered in-depth stories about secondary education, mainly in the Madison School District, with a mini-beat of religion. On Sundays, I was the local section editor, reading and editing local stories for A1 and a three-page local section, designing pages and supervising one reporter. -@KarenRivedal

### **METRO REPORTER/SUNDAY LOCAL EDITOR | WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL | AUGUST 2015-MARCH 2017 | MADISON, WI**

- I covered city, police and county issues focused on quality of life and accountability concerns, writing in-depth stories about what makes the Madison area and its people unique. On Sundays, I was the local section editor, reading and editing local stories, designing pages and supervising one reporter.

### **BUSINESS REPORTER | WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL | MARCH 2009-AUGUST 2015 | MADISON, WI**

- In-depth coverage of business beats including housing, building contractors, insurance, manufacturing and auto dealers. My former real estate blog: facebook.com/PropertyTrax

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE REPORTER | WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL | JULY 2006-FEBRUARY 2009 | MADISON, WI**

- In-depth coverage of Madison police and Dane County Sheriff's office, with trend stories involving state agencies for corrections, courts and statewide policing issues.

**FREELANCE WRITER | UW-WHITEWATER | JANUARY 2008-JULY 2008 | WHITEWATER, WI**

- Occasional pieces for the university's alumni magazine, including profiles, undergraduate research and donors.

**HIGHER EDUCATION REPORTER | WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL | 2002-2006 | MADISON, WI**

- Daily and in-depth coverage of UW-Madison, the 26-campus University of Wisconsin System, technical and private colleges.

**FREELANCE WRITER | BOSTON GLOBE | 2005 | BOSTON, MA**

- Three features on national higher education trends including for the Globe's weekend education section.

**REPORTER | CHICAGO TRIBUNE | 2001-2002 | CHICAGO, IL**

- Completed one-year general assignment contract. Turned down second-year GA contract to find something more permanent.

**CITY HALL REPORTER | FLORIDA TIMES-UNION | 1998-2001 | JACKSONVILLE, FL**

- Covered 19-member City Council in consolidated government covering 841 square miles and serving 730,000 people.

**PROJECT WRITER/ POLITICAL REPORTER/ CITY REPORTER | NORTHWEST HERALD | 1993-1997 | CRYSTAL LAKE, IL**

- Wrote, edited packages for Sunday front page. Covered 1996 Republican and Democratic national conventions.

**REPORTER | NEWS-TRIBUNE | 1991-1993 | LA SALLE, IL**

- Duties included: politics and city government.

**REPORTER | WINONA DAILY NEWS | 1988-1989 | WINONA, MN**

- Took one year off college to work full time. City/county issues.

## **Recognition**

### **NATIONAL AWARDS**

- 2005 Education Writers Association, special citation, higher education news.
- 2004 Iris Molotsky Award for Excellence in Coverage of Higher Education, American Association of University Professors.
- 2002 Education Writers Association, special citation, higher education news.

## STATE AWARDS

- **Gold awards (first place)** - Coverage of single news topic/event including breaking news, Carolyn Nosal murder, 2016 Milwaukee Press Club.
- **Third place** – Enterprise/interpretive reporting, prison hospice. 2009 Wisconsin Newspaper Association
- **Second place** – Series news, sex offenders. 2007 Milwaukee Press Club.
- **Second place** – Beat coverage, police beat. 2006 Milwaukee Press Club.
- **Second place** – Enterprise/interpretive reporting, stem-cell science. 2004 Wisconsin Newspaper Association.
- **Second place** -- Government reporting, 2000 Florida Press Club.
- **Second place** -- Government reporting, 1998 Florida Press Club.
- **First place** -- Business/agriculture, 1997 Illinois Press Association.
- **Third place** -- Investigative reporting, 1997 Illinois Press Association.
- **Second place** -- Features, 1995 Illinois Associated Press.
- **Second place** -- Education, 1995 Illinois Press Association.
- **First place** -- Features, 1994 Suburban Newspapers Association.
- **First place** -- Original columns, 1992 Illinois Press Association.
- **First place** -- News story, 1992 Illinois Press Association.

## References

**Heather LaRoi** – Strategic communications manager, University Relations, University of Wisconsin System. 608-265-3195. [hlaroi@uwsa.edu](mailto:hlaroi@uwsa.edu)

**Anjuman Ali** – Topic editor, Washington Post. 202-257-4778. [Anjuman.ali@washpost.com](mailto:Anjuman.ali@washpost.com)

**Bob Van Enkenvoort** -- Communications coordinator (and my former WSJ supervisor), Pulaski Community School District, [920-606-3053](tel:920-606-3053) (cell) and [920-822-6802](tel:920-822-6802) (work).  
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