



📞 402-238-9657

✉ leonadunn55@gmail.com

📍 Chicagoland Area

SKILLS

- * Proficient in Adobe Suite
- * Workshop Presenter
- * Avid | iMovie | iNews | Edius |
- * Vertical Social Video Editor

EDUCATION

M.Ed – Secondary English / Language Arts
DePaul University

Master of Arts in Public Affairs & Broadcast Journalism
American University

Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications
Tennessee State University

SERVICE

National Association of Black Journalist Chicago Chapter

- Executive Secretary 2025
- Events, Bylaws, Membership committee work

Washington Chapter

- Interim Secretary 2020
- Urban Journalism Workshop Coordinator

TSU Student Chapter

- President 2018
- Filed the non-profit business paperwork and recruited startup team, managed committee's

Leona Towner

Multimedia Journalist | Award Winning Author

www.leonatowner.com

EXPERIENCE

City Bureau, Chicago, IL

May 2025 – August 2025

Civic Fellow

Completed a 16-week competitive fellowship that focused on Chicago youth third space creation and strengthening long form reporting skills.

News Nation, Chicago, IL

September 2021 – April 2023

Assignment Editor

Led team coverage of daytime and overnight breaking news assignments, collected public tips, sourced and produced digital elements that visually strengthened on-air stories.

WZZM-13, Grand Rapids, MI

August 2020 – March 2021

Multimedia Journalist

One man banned sourcing, interviewing, shooting, editing and producing on-air packaged segments remotely out of a top 50 market station during the pandemic.

Wrote accompanying web and digital stories.

Fox News Network, Washington D.C

November 2019 – August 2020

Guest Greeter/ Jr. Booker

Organized and rotated high profile guest throughout the network station. Booked guest travel accommodations, greeted, and prepped guest contributors via pre-interviews. Sourced and produced topical and repeated guest segments.

NABJ Short Course, Greensboro, NC

March 2018

Selected Participant

- Awarded Best News Writer out of cohort 1/30
- Selected as entertainment reporter for 5./30 student newscast slots

WTKN Radio, Dickson, TN

May 2018 – August 2018

Intern

Covered local government meetings, criminal trials, and local features via web stories for a rural community in a news desert.

Produced traffic and local live music segments on a radio show.

PUBLICATIONS

Towner, L. (2024). 23 and on TV: How to be a MMJ day-to-day. Christian Faith Publishing.

*NABJ 2024 Outstanding Book Award