

NIKA SCHOONOVER

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EDUCATION

MA in Public Affairs Reporting

University of Illinois Springfield | Springfield, IL

Expected: May 2023

BA in Journalism and Political Science

DePaul University | Chicago, IL

Graduated: Jun 2022

EXPERIENCE

Statehouse Reporting Intern

Capitol News Illinois | Springfield, IL

Jan 2023 - Present

- Follows bills through the legislative process during the 103rd General Assembly to provide in-depth reporting and policy analyses which are picked by nearly every news publication in the state including Crain's Chicago Business, NPR-member stations and local newspapers
- Creates a source network with all the important newsmakers in Springfield, Ill., including state representatives, state senators, press staff and constitutional officers
- Utilizes multimedia skills to supplement reporting including taking photos and creating data visualizations

Editorial Intern

Becker's Healthcare | Remote

Jun 2022 - Dec 2022

- Pitched and reported enterprise stories with a command of AP Style relevant to healthcare leaders that received 25,000+ views and performed at the top of multiple daily newsletters sent out to readers
- Interviewed CNOs, CMOs and other C-Suite executives while tracking newsletter trends to boost readership
- Compiled statistics and research for data-focused stories that helped readers get a clear view of necessary trends within the healthcare industry

Journalism Institute Fellow

POLITICO | Washington, D.C.

Jun 2022

- Reported and wrote a profile on DuPage County's political significance in the 2022 midterms while participating in learning and networking workshops with POLITICO staff
- Interviewed former and hopeful elected officials, political candidates and political science professors
- Utilized open records and research databases to inform reporting on DuPage County

Print Managing Editor

The DePaulia | Chicago, IL

Jun 2021 - Jun 2022

- Managed team of 25 editors for award-winning weekly student-run newspaper
- Spearheaded a special section entitled "The Gender Issue" which won an Honorable Mention at the College Media Association Pinnacle Awards
- Headed print design for 28-page paper published every Monday and won a third-place design award for "Newspaper Front Page" in Associated Collegiate Press Fall 2021 Clips & Clicks contest
- As an editor at the newspaper, The DePaulia won 25 awards, including first place in general excellence for large weekly publications, at the 2022 Illinois College Press Association

Politics Editor

The DePaulia | Chicago, IL

Jun 2020 - Jun 2021

- Led the production of an election blog for 2021 gubernatorial and mayoral races while writing posts and editing 11 other contributors
- Live tweeted presidential debates, covered local political events and wrote politics and policy explainers
- Wrote and reported long-form political pieces that localized national and city-wide news to the DePaul community

HONORS & AWARDS

Public Affairs Reporting Grant

University of Illinois Springfield

Jan 2023

Awarded grant for academic achievement and promise shown in political reporting