

Lasheric Thornton

Detail-oriented • Meticulous • Thoughtful • Resourceful • Collaborative • Engaging

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Experience

Central Valley Journalist at [EdSource](#) • Fresno, CA • May 2023-Present

Provide robust local coverage but through a statewide lens for EdSource, a nonprofit organization covering education across California. Characterized by readers as the “leading voice” of coverage in the Central Valley community, the stories I write are engaging, thorough, informative, and include multiple groups. Many of these “deeply human” stories have been featured in our organization’s podcast episodes.

Engagement Reporter in the Ed Lab at [The Fresno Bee](#), a McClatchy paper • Fresno, CA • April 2022-May 2023

Wrote impactful stories for readers, engaged with the community to be a link between them and the donor-funded Ed Lab of reporters, and produced and strengthened our newsletter that communicated the team’s work

Education & Features Reporter at [The Jackson Sun](#), a Gannett paper • Jackson, TN • Dec. 2018-April 2022

Reported on school systems in more than 13 counties, featured the inspiring stories of citizens, and held officials accountable

2018 Summer Intern with [Pennsylvania Legislative Correspondents’ Association](#) • Harrisburg, PA

Reported for: *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *The Allentown Morning Call*, *Capitolwire.com*, *LNP Media Group*, and *PennLive/The Patriot-News*

Covered the divisive issue of politics yet made stories personal and relatable for readers and acquired the versatility needed to be successful in many fields of journalism by writing about education, social justice, and health

Education

University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS • December 2018

School of Journalism & New Media and the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College

Major: Journalism, Emphasis - News Editorial • Minor: Legal Studies

Awards

California News Publishers Association Journalism Awards 5th Place in Profile Story • July 2024

The CNPA awards journalists for reporting across the state. According to a contest judge, [Therapy dogs changed the culture of mental health in this Central Valley district](#) “tackled an important topic in a unique way” by including students’ perspectives.

California Teachers Association 2022 John Swett Award for Media Excellence • April 2023

The CTA awards journalists who contribute to the public’s understanding and awareness of educational issues. Media professionals and retired journalism instructors selected the educator-nominated entry, [Clovis teachers trying to unionize blame anti-union sentiment for missed deadline](#), for “excellence in education reporting.”

Tennessee Press Association 5th Place Award for Best Education Reporting • Aug. 2021 & 2022

The TPA recognizes excellence in newspaper reporting across the state. The 2021 contest judges said education coverage of Jackson and West Tennessee showed a fascinating picture of the area.

Daughters of American Revolution Award of Excellence for Outstanding Print Media • Sept. 2020

Recognized by the Jackson-Madison County Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution for outstanding work as a Jackson Sun reporter