

# Rebekah Zemansky Higginbotham

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## EDUCATION

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Master's of Journalism & Mass Communication May 2011  
Walter Cronkite School of Journalism & Mass Communication, Arizona State University, Phoenix, Ariz.

Bachelor of Arts May 2007  
University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kan.  
Political Science and International Studies, with minor in African & African-American Studies  
Global Awareness Program, Honors Program & Pi Sigma Alpha Member

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Chronicler: SRPMIC, Scottsdale, Ariz. May – December 2021  
Designed and carried out a review of the impact of COVID-19 on SRPMIC government and community through interviews and primary source material collection.

Reporter: The New York Times, New York City, N.Y. Jan. 2013 - April 2020  
Reporter & photographer: Freelance January 2013 to present  
Breaking news and press event coverage in metro Phoenix, depth reporting and background records research for individuals and court cases. Reporting in-depth on metro Phoenix, Arizona state, southwest U.S. and U.S.-Mexico border issues. Producing stories, photos, video and interactive media for the following outlets: BBC, ProPublica, The Daily Beast, Shutterstock, The Journalism Institute on Children and Families and The Tucson Sentinel.

Content Consultant: NMIEL Lab, ASU Sept. 2015 - May 2016  
Managed a student team developing border stories for multimedia material collection in fieldwork and development of 360 virtual reality content.

Book assistant: Kristin Gilger, Phoenix, Ariz. 2019  
Book assistant: Terry Greene Sterling, Phoenix, Ariz. Dec. 2014 - Sept. 2017  
Book assistant: Fernanda Santos, Phoenix, Ariz. Aug. 2013 - Aug. 2017  
Book assistant: Bill Murphy, Jr., Phoenix, Ariz. 2014  
In depth subject research, locating and contacting sources, interviews, transcription, social media and website support, content reviews and narrative feedback on pitch and manuscript drafts.

Web Producer: RightThisMinute, Phoenix Oct. 2011 - June 2012  
Writing website copy, source scraping and organizing according to Search Engine Optimization best practices. Reformatting and publishing broadcast content nightly for satellite uplink and website publication. Managed overnight breaking news review and publication.

Reporter: Cronkite News Service, Phoenix, Ariz. Aug. 2010 - May 2011  
Reporter & Carnegie-Knight Fellow: News21, Phoenix, Ariz. May - July 2010  
Produced daily text stories augmented with media; developed feature stories and depth projects including photos, video and other media content. Stories published on Cronkite News site and by state publications including The Arizona Republic, Arizona Capitol Times, Arizona Daily Star and the East Valley Tribune.

Teaching Assistant / Research Assistant: Arizona State University, Phoenix, Ariz. Aug. 2009 – May 2011  
Administered, taught and tutored the introduction to grammar class. Carried out research for academic research projects.

Representative: Sunflower Broadband, Lawrence, Kan. Sept. 2007 to Oct. 2008  
Aiding subscribers with a very wide variety of technical, service, and billing questions in a calm, reassuring manner while extracting accurate on site information about topics from service malfunctions to equipment setup.

Clerk: The UPS Store, Lawrence, Kan. Spring 2006 to Fall 2007  
Parcel procedure includes rating and processing packages for shipping by separate systems of UPS or USPS and packing boxes to UPS standards for shipping. Also processing diverse range of print jobs and document finishing.

Student hourly: Office of the University Registrar, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kan. May 2003 to March 2006  
Aiding students with enrollment, insurance verification, and transcript processing and delivery. Developing and administering training program for new hires. Managed and maintained student information databases.

Concessions, Floor, Usher, Box/Cashier: Southwind Theatres, Lawrence, Kan. Summer 2001- Fall 2003  
Obtained stocking and food preparation skills. Obtained crowd management experience (including drills for emergency situations). Retail experience in food services and in ticket sales.

Clerical: Target, Lawrence, Kan. Summer 2001  
Maintained employee schedules and store records while answering calls from customers and coworkers. Learned to work with a wide variety of coworkers and customers.

Referee: Kaw Valley Soccer, Lawrence Parks & Rec, USD497, Lawrence, Kan. 1997 - 2000  
Obtained certification through Fédération Internationale de Football Association and refereed matches for players from the under 6 league through high school C matches. Managed officiating teams and kept game records.

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**REFERENCES: PERSONAL / PROFESSIONAL**

Lauren Gilger Teer, Host/Producer: KJZZ News Phoenix  
[Laurengilger@gmail.com](mailto:Laurengilger@gmail.com) and [lgilger@kjzz.org](mailto:lgilger@kjzz.org) 602.561.7038

Chrystal Kanyuck-Abel, Disaster Preparedness Advocate at Government of the British Virgin Islands  
[ckanyuck@gmail.com](mailto:ckanyuck@gmail.com) 284.543.5830

Kristin Gilger, Associate Dean at ASU's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism & Mass Communications  
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Eric Rosenwald  
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**REFERENCES: PROFESSIONAL**

Aaron Studebaker, Manager of Business Development at SRPMIC  
[Aaron.Studebaker@srpmic-nsn.gov](mailto:Aaron.Studebaker@srpmic-nsn.gov) 480.685.0621

Dylan Smith, Reporter, editor, publisher at The Tucson Sentinel  
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