

Karla Leal

Represented by The NWT Group
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Experience

General Assignment Reporter/Fill-in Anchor, WSNS, Chicago, IL **August 2013 – Present**

- Extensive live breaking news experience, reporting in the field and anchoring (at the scene or on set) covering natural disasters, shootings, politics, immigration, plane crashes, massive protests and other news topics.
- Enterprising and reporting lead stories regularly for Telemundo Chicago's afternoon & evening weekday newscasts.
- Avid bilingual interviewer (aiming for sound in Spanish,) strong writer and compelling storyteller, adjusting rapidly for short or extended live segments or for tapped pieces.
- Cultivating and maintaining a high degree of trust with sources while extending my network of contacts in the Chicagoland area, in prior markets, in other areas here in the U.S., and in some cases abroad.
- Communicating regularly with videographers, show & web producers, assignment managers, and others involved in our product to guarantee the best news content.
- Working in synergy with our sister station NBC 5 Chicago, contributing interviews and other news elements regularly, and presenting live news reports in English, sometimes, during their evening newscasts.
- As a fill-in news anchor: Engaging the audience by focusing on each story's relevance while accurately portraying the facts, and by handling breaking news with a calm and trustworthy demeanor. Taking on all anchor tasks (on and off camera) for short or extended periods of time.
- Providing news materials to Telemundo Network shows "Al Rojo Vivo" and "Noticiero Telemundo," and filling in as midwest news correspondent occasionally.
- Producing, and uploading news content to our website & our social media platforms (photos, articles & videos).
- Constantly active in our station's promotions & service projects, speaking engagements, local parades, the company's running club, and mentoring journalism students.

Main Anchor/Reporter, Social Media Manager, Weather Forecaster **October 2009 – August 2013** **NEYE Telemundo Austin/KEYE, Austin, TX**

- Launched and anchored Telemundo Austin's local newscasts at 5p.m. and 10p.m Monday through Friday.
- Anchored, wrote, and co-produced special live 'on location' ½ hour show franchises "El Poder de Saber" and "My Hometown."

- Gathered, compiled, wrote, edited, co-produced & reported daily news contents live, on set, or on location.
- Enterprised, produced, and reported general or special assignments in Spanish and English for both TV affiliates.
- Generated all the news content for Immigration and Circuit of the Americas Racing (F1) news beats, via live reports, news packages, on set interviews, and online content.
- Enterprised, launched, and wrote the first Spanish language TV transmission of the “Chuy’s Children Giving to Children” Thanksgiving Parade in 2010 (it has continued since), anchored the parade every year while in Austin.
- Produced and uploaded news content (w/ photos, audio & videos) for our website & social media platforms.
- Prepared and presented ‘on set’ and ‘on location’ live weather forecasts for our shows using Weather Central.
- Remained constantly active in station promotions, speaking engagements, and involved in community service projects & as a presenter of journalism workshops.

Independent Multimedia Journalism Trainer

October 2011 – August 2013

Trained fellow journalists & students in the communication field, in the areas of digital storytelling, social media and on camera or online performance.

Main Anchor and Reporter, KKEY, Telemundo, Bakersfield, CA **October 2006 – September 2009**

Weather Anchor/Reporter/Fill-in Anchor **December 2005 – October 2006**

Bilingual Traffic Reporter, Clear Channel, Airwatch Radio, San Diego, CA **Fall 2005**

“Latina Spirit” Show Host, CAN-TV, Chicago, IL **November 2004 – August 2005**

Internships

NAHJ Convention, Fort Worth, TX **June 2005**

WSNS, Telemundo, Chicago, IL **Spring 2005**

KFMB, San Diego, CA **Summer 2004**

WLS, Chicago, IL **Spring 2004**

Education

Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, IL **June 2005**

Bachelor of Arts, Journalism: Broadcast Journalism concentration

Southwest College, Chula Vista, CA **December 2011**

A.A., Transfer Studies with Honors

Northwestern Center of the Arts, Tijuana, Mexico

September 2011

A.A., Theatre Arts: Acting concentration

San Diego School of Broadcasting, San Diego, CA

September 2000

Certificate: Spanish Radio & TV Announcing

Honors and Affiliations

- F.B.I Citizens Academy Graduate, Spring 2016
- International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) Fellowship Recipient: Multimedia Reporting, 2011 & 2012
- Covering Drug Trafficking online course at UT Knight Center for Journalists, 2011
- Texas Associated Press Broadcasters award for reporting series “Emprendedores de la recession,” 2009
- Named Austin, Texas’ Favorite Spanish Language News Anchor by “Ahora Sí” readers, 2009
- Institute of the Americas (IOA) Fellowship Recipient. Seminar: Migration of HIV/AIDS, Summer 2008
- Winner of Kern Press Club Award, for Best Light Feature TV Reporting, 2008 & 2009
- Emmy nominations for “El Arte de la Charrería” reporting series in 2008 & “El Sueño Mexicano” series, 2007
- APTRA Academy, Anchoring and Reporting Mentor, 2007
- National Association of Hispanic Journalists, Member, June 2004-Present

No Whining Talent