

## **Christopher Mele**

### **The New York Times**

#### **Senior Staff Editor/Weekend Express Team Editor**

**July 2017 to present**

As an assigning editor, I brainstorm story ideas and shepherd them from conception to publication, editing them for clarity, style, SEO-friendly headlines and URLs and customary copy-editing improvements. I oversee the Express Team on the weekends, taking charge of breaking news coverage, overseeing reporters and editors, coordinating with other desks and helping perfect the story's digital footprint. The job requires extraordinary attention to detail in tight time constraints.

#### **Reporter, Express Team**

**March 2016 to July 2017**

The Express Team serves as a police scanner for the world, listening and looking for breaking news and trending topics online. I handled night rewrite across all departments and in a moment's notice, I could be called on to work on an obit, a sports story, news in business or culture or quickly assemble a story in response to breaking news. I was the first to alert the newsroom to the truck attack in Nice, France, for example, and helped get a story swiftly assembled. Emphasis placed on accuracy, immediacy and digital story-telling.

#### **Staff Editor, Metro Copy Desk**

**August 2014 to March 2016**

Responsible for copy editing stories for daily Metro pages and weekly Metropolitan section, ensuring they conformed to New York Times style, had no holes in reporting and comported with the tone and standards that readers of The Times expect. Interacted directly with reporters and assigning editors to smooth out questions and did fact-checking on deadline. Served as night slot editor and as editor of the Neediest Cases Fund for the 2015-16 campaign, which raised nearly \$5 million for seven nonprofits.

#### **Pocono Record, Stroudsburg, Pa.**

##### **Executive Editor**

**December 2009 to August 2014**

Transformed a listless community daily into a hard-charging, enterprising newspaper with the teeth and bite of a watchdog. Provided

leadership in a newsroom bereft of consistent senior management for some time.

As editor, led numerous public service and investigative initiatives; as a manager, oversaw \$1 million budget and shepherded newsroom of 27 through a redesign, downsizing and numerous industry challenges while maintaining high editorial standards; and as a coach, helped younger, less experienced reporters improve their skill sets and drill deeper into stories.

Raised the bar on expectations, with greater emphasis on stories that surprised readers, gave them something to talk about or that looked out for their interests. Ramped up investigative reporting, public records research and stories drawn from data analysis.

Implemented rigorous systems to improve local daily news planning and coverage in two counties. Revamped beats, section fronts and content in print, online and in social media.

In my time there, the Pocono Record won more than 80 journalism honors from the Pennsylvania News Media and the Pennsylvania Associated Press Managing Editors associations. It also won PNA's prestigious Keystone Sweepstakes award every year since 2010 – an unprecedented showing in the history of the newsroom.

**Times Herald-Record, Middletown, N.Y.**

**Sunday/Enterprise Editor**

**July 2008 to December 2009**

Responsible for the Sunday newspaper, a staff of five reporters and newsroom-wide enterprise and investigative initiatives. Infused the Sunday paper with watchdog stories, such as exploring a \$7 million increase in police overtime and a week-long series into deplorable conditions in the region's adult homes. Developed one of the country's most in-depth online public salary databases, which analyzed nearly 40,000 local salaries.

**Southern Orange County Regional Editor/Investigations Editor**

**September 2002 to July 2008**

Managed five-person bureau and initiated numerous newsroom-wide investigations. Pioneered the newspaper's use of database-driven stories

about restaurant inspections, dam and bridge safety, campaign contributions and fatal car crashes.

Edited groundbreaking multi-media and special print supplement on investigation into wrongful murder conviction. Oversaw numerous investigative efforts, including stories into overdose death of a jail inmate and public records audits.

Led year-long public service campaign about teen driving deaths and coverage that forced the state to install guardrails in the median on Route 17. Specialized in coaching young reporters.

**Staff Writer/Senior Reporter for Staff Development and Enterprise  
January 1992 to March 2001**

Wrote enterprise and investigative stories. Promoted to senior reporter to train newsroom and coach reporters. Uncovered the largest voting fraud of its kind in New York at the time, leading to stricter oversight of voter registration rolls.

In a story that took two years, I exposed moonlighting sheriff's deputies cheating on their timecards. The report sparked four investigations, internal reforms, suspensions and led to an indictment and the end of the sheriff's political career. Also uncovered a pattern of questionable use of police dogs at the Orange County Jail that led to their removal.

**The Journal-News, Nyack, N.Y.**

**Staff Writer**

**March 2001 to September 2002**

Covered the region's pharmaceutical industry, workplace issues and business community for the business desk.

**Plattsburgh Press-Republican, Lake Placid, N.Y.**

**Staff Writer**

**October 1988 to December 1991**

Single-handedly wrote two special sections about Adirondack advocacy groups. Covered municipal, school, police beats and spot news.

**Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Saranac Lake, N.Y.**

**Staff Writer**

**November 1986 to October 1988**

Covered municipal, school, police and environmental beats and spot

news.

## **Education**

New York University, Bachelor of Arts in journalism, 1986

## **Awards**

- 2017: Finalist for Breaking News, Large Newsroom, Online Journalism Awards
- 2013: First place for Investigative Reporting, Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association; Truth in Finances Award, Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- 2009: Sigma Delta Chi Award, Online Investigative Reporting
- 2009: Excellence in Criminal Justice Awards, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- 2008: Winner, Investigative category for a small site, Online News Association
- 2007: Honorable Mention, Depth Reporting, New York State Associated Press Association
- 2006: Distinguished Community Service Award of Excellence, The New York Newspaper Publishers Association
- 2000: First Place for Continuing Coverage, The New York State Associated Press Association, First Place for Continuing Coverage
- 1998-99: Certificate for Outstanding Reporting, Investigative Reporters & Editors
- Distinguished Investigative Reporting Award of Excellence, The New York State Newspaper Publishers Association, Honorable Mention, Depth Reporting, New York State Associated Press Association
- 1996-97: Two-time finalist for The Livingston Awards for Young Journalists
- Distinguished State Government Coverage Award of Excellence, The New York Newspaper Publishers Association
- 1994: Second Place for Continuing Coverage, New York State Associated Press Association