

THOMAS R. "RANDY" LILLESTON

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SUMMARY:

Senior-level editor and manager with extensive experience on digital and print platforms. Producer and editor of award-winning journalism for some of the nation's largest and most respected news organizations. Former editor-in-chief of successful digital business news startup. Proven success at building teams, increasing audience size and executing news strategy.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

2017-date: Senior editor of digital content, AARP, Washington

- Liaison between digital team and various "impact teams" that represent AARP's key interests, including work/jobs, caregiving, financial resilience and health.
- Also serve as liaison between digital content team and the AARP Bulletin, helping to plan and choose stories from the print publication to be used on AARP.org.
- Serve as deputy to the senior executive editor of digital content.
- Write, edit and produce digital copy as needed.

2014-2017: Editor-in-chief, Industry Dive, Washington

- Responsible for all aspects of editorial operation for digital business news publishing startup. In three years, company grew from four to 14 daily email newsletters and associated websites. It also launched 16 weekly newsletters and numerous one-off products.
- Hired, trained and supervised rapidly growing editorial staff. Full-time staff grew from five to more than 30 in three years, along with a similar number of freelance writers.
- Responsible for day-to-day oversight of health care and biopharma beats/websites/newsletters.

2008-2014: Supervising editor, digital news, NPR, Washington

- Oversaw teams responsible for home page and dayside breaking news. Helped establish and implement breaking news strategy for NPR's digital products.
- Supervised as many as 13 staffers.
- Site won numerous major national awards during my tenure, including Edward R. Murrow award for best radio network/syndication service website, 2011 and 2010; George Foster Peabody Award, 2010; Editor & Publisher 'EPY' award for best news website, 2012, 2010.

2004-2008: Digital News section and continuous news desk editor/Deputy news editor, USA Today, McLean, VA

- Lead editor and supervisor of News section of USAToday.com from 1-06 until 12-08. Also co-oversaw rewrite/continuous news desk of USA Today from 8-06 until 12-08. The desk served as the centerpiece of USA Today's efforts to integrate its newspaper and digital staffs.
- Supervised approximately a dozen staff.
- Also oversaw home page team of USAToday.com in 2006. From 1/04 until 12/05, oversaw political coverage and wrote breaking news for website.
- Site won award for general excellence from the Online News Association in 2007.

2001-2004: Senior editor, AOL News/Managing editor of local news, AOL Local, Dulles, VA

- In managing editor's post, oversaw the editing and placement of local news feeds for various AOL products and supervised eight contract employees.
- In senior editor's post, edited news articles, built video packages and edited the news Welcome screen.

1999-2001: Senior editor of politics, CNN.com, Washington

- Planned daily political news coverage and helped plan special projects, including CNN.com's coverage of the 2000 election.
- Supervised staff of as many as nine.

EDUCATION:

Bachelor of science, journalism, University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO.

- Co-editor of student newspaper, spring term junior year; sports editor, senior year; vice president of student chapter of Society of Professional Journalists, senior year; vice president of Missouri College Newspaper Association, senior year.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS:

- Experienced with evaluating and monitoring online metrics.
- Basic knowledge of HTML and many widely used digital publishing packages.
- Active on social media platforms, particularly Facebook and Twitter.