

# DAVID JESSE

Ypsilanti, Michigan  
david\_jesse@taylor.edu

David Jesse has spent the last two decades investigating and reporting how internal systems and organizations' cultures affect the people that public-service entities are supposedly serving. His data reporting skills combine with a deep network of sources and an ability to ferret out public records to allow him to consistently publish exclusive, impactful journalism that drives the conversation around higher education across the country. His reporting has led to the resignations of university presidents while setting the agenda for policy discussions at the national and state level. He was named the top education reporter in the country in 2018 by his peers in the Education Writers Association.

## EXPERIENCE

**Senior Writer, The Chronicle of Higher Education** (Washington, D.C.) *March 2023 to present*

- Covers leadership issues at institutions across the country, focusing on presidents and boards.

**Higher education reporter, Detroit Free Press** (Detroit, Mich.) *Feb. 2011 to March 2023*

- Covered higher education across the state of Michigan, focusing on the state's 15 public universities

**Adjunct Professor of Journalism, Taylor University** (Upland, Ind.) *Feb. 2021 to present*

- Taught Advanced News Writing and Media and Society classes

**Digital journalist, AnnArbor.com** (Ann Arbor, Mich.) *July 2009-Feb. 2011*

- Covered K-12 education in Washtenaw County, focusing on the Ann Arbor Public School District before switching to cover higher education in Washtenaw County, focusing on the University of Michigan

**Education reporter, The Ann Arbor News** (Ann Arbor, Mich.) *September 2005-July 2009*

- Covered K-12 education in Washtenaw and Livingston counties, focusing on the Ann Arbor Public School District

**County government/political reporter, The Times Herald** (Port Huron, Mich.) *August 2003-September 2005*

- Reported on government in international region struggling with chronic economic stress

**City hall reporter, The Holland Sentinel** (Holland, Mich.) *November 2001 – August 2003*

- Covered city hall in a changing, socially active small city

**Managing editor, The Sentinel-Standard** (Ionia, Mich.) *Spring 1999 – November 2001*

- Top editorial position at a 6-day/week paper in town known for being the home of multiple state prisons. Responsibilities included managing staff of four reporters and several stringers at, paginating paper, managing newsroom budget and coordinating special sections with advertising support.

### **Reporter and page designer, *The Pioneer* (Big Rapids, Mich.) 1998 – 1999**

- Covered agriculture, K-12 and higher education, police, courts and local government in a small rural Michigan college town.

### **Sports reporter, *The Times-Republic* (Watseka, Ill.) 1997 – 1998**

- Covered all high school sports across Iroquois County

## **REACTION TO WORK**

- “Impressive amounts of research and reporting ... The reporter really digs deep in every way — research, records requests, interviews with sources — owns the material and then lays it all out for the reader.” – Education Writers Association award judge on Jesse’s work.
- “Really terrific, and probably very satisfying, denouement to your excellent and relentless reporting on U-M and its institutional investments. That this very complicated story obviously made a lasting impression on the voting public is perhaps the best compliment that can be given to your work.” – reader email after Michigan voters defeated two incumbent University of Michigan regents, in part because of their stance on U-M’s endowment.
- “I know your inbox is likely flooded with emails right now, but I just wanted to say that I thought your campus sexual assault story was incredible. It is seriously the best piece I've read about campus sexual assault thus far, and I've read quite a few.” – Michigan State University sophomore after 2015 article on sexual assaults at MSU.
- “This series, and this article in particular, represent terrific reporting. Data packed, intimate, and utterly important content and themes that tell a story of who we are and where we are going as a state. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I’ll do my part to build upon your good work.” – head of Michigan Association of State Universities on rural education stories.
- “Jesse's writing is gripping, and the care, time and knowledge put into this project is clear.” - Award judge in Michigan APME contest
- “One big reason I subscribe to @freep is precisely that they have a full time higher ed reporter, @reporterdavidj, who does this work. We are a complex and important sector and need this kind of coverage!” University of Michigan Professor on Twitter responding to investigative story on Adrian College.

## **FELLOWSHIPS**

### **Higher Education Reporting Fellow**

Institute for Citizens and Scholars:

Academic year 2022-23

### **Spencer Education Journalism Fellowship**

Columbia University School of Journalism:

Academic year 2020-2021

## **Education Reporting Fellow**

Education Reporters Association: 2016

Education Reporters Association: 2019

## **EDUCATION**

### **Bachelor of Arts in English Writing**

Cornerstone University – Grand Rapids, Mich.

## **AWARDS**

### **More than 30 state and national awards, including:**

2013: **Michigan EMMY**: Human Interest - Program/Special

2013: **Casey Award runner-up**: Video - Short form

2013; **National Association of Black Journalists**: Finalist, Online Project: Feature

2014: **Associated Press Sports Editors**: Explanatory writing in the over 175,000 category – Second place

2015: **Michigan APME**: Investigative story – First place

2015: **Michigan APME**: Sports coverage – First place

2015: **Michigan APME**: Sustained sports coverage –Second place

2015: **Best of Gannett**: Watchdog journalism - Second place

2018: **Education Writers Association**: Ronald Moskowitz Prize for Outstanding Beat Reporting for best education reporter in the country.

2018: **Education Writers Association**: Best education beat reporter – Medium-sized news organization

2018: **Education Writers Association**: Single topics news – finalist

2019: **News Leaders Association Awards**: Local Accountability Reporting - Finalist

2019: **New York Society of CPA's Excellence in Financial Journalism**: Local News – First Place

2020: **Michigan APME**: Best sports story - second place

2020: **Michigan Press Association**: Government/Education news - third place

2021: **Michigan APME**: Enterprise reporting - first place

2021: **Michigan APME**: Best sports story - third place

2021: **Society of Professional Journalists - Detroit chapter**: Reporter of the Year - finalist

2021: **Society of Professional Journalists - Detroit chapter**: Education reporting - first place

2021: **Society of Professional Journalists - Detroit chapter**: Education reporting - third place

2021: **Society of Professional Journalists - Detroit chapter**: Explanatory reporting - fourth place

2021: **Best of Gannett**: Local reporting - finalist