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January 2026

To whom it may concern,

I am a journalism student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, pursuing a degree in journalism and electronic media with a concentration in creative media. I currently serve as copy chief at The Daily Beacon, UT's editorially independent student newspaper, and as an accountability intern at the Knoxville News Sentinel. Through both roles, I contribute to coverage grounded in accuracy, verification and public responsibility, with a focus on producing journalism that is clear, ethical and impactful.

My experience across student and professional newsrooms has shaped me into a more thoughtful and disciplined reporter. At the Knoxville News Sentinel, I work with reporters and editors on accountability-focused coverage, researching, reporting and writing stories while assisting with sourcing, fact-checking and public-records requests. Being part of a newsroom dedicated to transparency and public service has reinforced the importance of precision, persistence and context in every story.

Previously, I served as an editorial intern with Citywire USA in New York City, where I reported on the registered investment advisor (RIA) financial sector. In that role, I conducted interviews, analyzed financial information, and produced stories on tight daily deadlines, learning to translate complex topics into clear and engaging narratives that are both accurate and accessible to a wide audience.

As copy chief at The Daily Beacon, I lead the copy desk, oversee editing workflows and mentor copy editors to ensure stories meet AP style, accuracy and consistency standards before publication. Editing across a wide range of beats has made me a stronger reporter by sharpening my eye for structure, sourcing gaps and clarity, and by reinforcing the value of clean, precise writing from the earliest stages of reporting.

Together, these experiences have strengthened my ability to craft clear, accurate and engaging journalism while deepening my understanding of the responsibility journalists have to their communities. Looking ahead, I hope to pursue investigative work and long-form features that allow me to explore complex topics in depth and tell stories with nuance and context. I am particularly drawn to projects that require patience, careful sourcing and building trust with the people and communities at the heart of the story, and I aim to continue honing the skills necessary to tackle that work thoughtfully and responsibly.

I value being part of a collaborative newsroom community where ideas are shared, feedback is encouraged and journalists work collectively to produce accurate, meaningful coverage. I am eager to grow in newsrooms that prioritize strong storytelling, high standards and teamwork. I am especially enthusiastic about opportunities that allow me to travel and explore new places – I would love to take my reporting beyond familiar settings and tell meaningful stories wherever the work may lead.

Sincerely,
Lauren Holladay