

REBECCA GRIESBACH

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SKILLS

Certified Solutions
Journalism Trainer

Data Analysis:
Advanced Excel, SQL, R

Data Visualization:
Tableau, Datawrapper,
Flourish, Adobe Illustrator

AWARDS

2024 and 2025 Alabama Press
Association Award for Best Local
Education Reporting

2022 EWA [Finalist for
Collaborations](#)

2022 National [Headliner Finalist](#)

2021 [Pulitzer Prize for Public
Service](#), 2020 [IRE Philip Meyer
Journalism Award](#), and 2020
[Sigma Delta Chi Public Service
Award](#), *The New York Times*

2019 SPJ Region 3 [Mark of
Excellence](#), *Breaking News*

2019 Holle Award for [Excellence
in Media Writing](#)

INVOLVEMENT

Education Writers Association

Investigative Reporters & Editors

Online News Association

Society of Professional Journalists

University of Alabama Media
Planning Board member

EDUCATION

M.A., Gender and Race Studies
The University of Alabama, 2021

B.A., Communication and
Information Sciences
The University of Alabama, 2019

EXPERIENCE

Data Reporter, AL.com

JULY 2025 - PRESENT | BIRMINGHAM, AL

– Assists journalists across the newsroom with data analysis and visualization; uses R/R Markdown to streamline data reporting workflows and documentation

Statewide Education Reporter, AL.com

OCTOBER 2024 - PRESENT | BIRMINGHAM, AL

– Leads the newsroom's K-12 education coverage, with a focus on policies, laws and trends that impact Alabama's schools and children

– Regularly requests public records from state offices and local institutions

– Received a \$10,000 [national reporting fellowship](#) from the Education Writers Association to pursue a project on barriers facing immigrant college students; spoke at EWA's Data Caucus and NAHJ's national conference about immigration coverage

– My coverage of [college DEI changes](#) and [school district retaliation tactics](#) led to three sources being named key plaintiffs on two separate federal lawsuits, including a [class-action case](#) against the U.S. Education Department

Opportunity Gaps Reporter, AL.com/Report for America

JUNE 2021 - OCTOBER 2024 | BIRMINGHAM, AL

– Built a beat focused on education equity as a founding member of AL.com's Education Lab; generated more than 1.5 million page views annually

– Collaborated with the Hechinger Report, the Associated Press, and other education teams to produce nationally recognized, solutions-oriented news packages on [literacy](#), [teacher shortages](#) and [community college retention](#) efforts

– Broke news on national education stories, including the [controversial ousting](#) of Alabama's top pre-K official and the passage of multiple laws targeting DEI policies

– Co-taught a weekly [audio reporting course](#) to Birmingham high schoolers

Freelance Journalist, The New York Times

APRIL 2020 - MAY 2021 | REMOTE

– Worked with a team to create and maintain a Pulitzer-winning database of Covid-19 cases and deaths in U.S. correctional facilities; contributed reporting and data analysis to more than 40 articles and earned three front-page bylines

– Created the team's jails database, which supported investigations into [concealed coronavirus deaths](#) and incarcerated people who [died while awaiting trial](#) or parole

Editor-in-Chief, The Crimson White

MAY 2020 - MAY 2021 | TUSCALOOSA, AL

Previous roles (2017-2020): News Editor, Managing Editor, Reporter and Designer

– Led student newspaper's digital transition during the pandemic, including launch of award-winning newsletter and digital special editions; managed staff of 50+

– Worked with alumni to [launch a nonprofit](#) to support newsroom diversity efforts