

Dear contest judge,

As I write this, Caitlin Anderson is taking some much-deserved PTO, which means I get to cover for her. Which means the pressure is on.

Matching Caitlin's diligence, fearlessness and efficiency is a tall task. Caitlin is never one to watch a meeting, dump the major talking points into a story, and call it a day. Instead, she takes time to gain a deeper understanding by reaching out and getting to know the newsmakers and the world they influence. Spend a couple hours in the newsroom with her and you'll hear these conversations, and see the dedication she brings to the profession she entered a little more than a year ago.

Covering a wide variety of important topics means that uncomfortable conversations are inevitable, and Caitlin does not shy away from such encounters. One of her first tasks as a reporter for the Sun Current was to write about a cadre of Qanon adherents who popped up as local political candidates last year. It can be a disturbing prospect to have a conversation with someone who is unmoored from reality, but Caitlin did not hesitate.

In covering the affluent and highly demanding first-ring suburb of Edina, Caitlin has adroitly covered a vast breadth of topics, whether it's the vibrant local restaurant scene, vaccine roll-outs or the city's fraught history of race relations. In an age when reporters are asked to do a lot of everything, this kind of versatility is critical.

That diversity of skill extends to Caitlin's abilities as a photographer. She came in with no experience in photojournalism, but you wouldn't know it. My theory is that she's so good because she just cares. Photography is not an afterthought to Caitlin, because nothing is. She demonstrates the same thorough approach in laying out her own crisp paper every week, too.

Having demonstrated this level of dedication, Caitlin is off to a promising start in an industry that is lucky to have her. The field of journalism can show its appreciation by presenting her with the Dave Pyle New Journalist Award.

Sincerely,

Andrew Wig  
Managing Editor  
Sun Current