

# Tab 3

# JAMES LIBRESCO

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*My reporting has prompted million-dollar policy changes, uncovered previously undisclosed information with legal ramifications, and ignited community reckonings.*

## JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

### **Editor in Chief** | *Theogony (ACHS Student Newspaper) (Aug. 2022 - Present)*

- Led Theogony as an editor, writer, and mentor, producing high-impact city and statewide stories. Became the leading source of education news and a top source for city politics news in Alexandria.
- Tripled online readership in less than one school year. Increased social media engagement by 700%.
- Mentored younger reporters and produced 10+ national award-winning stories.
- Reporting directly led to million-dollar budget changes, sparked discourse on school district culture of silence, and uncovered public policy errors with legal ramifications.
- Spearheaded advocacy campaign against administrative censorship. Garnered support of 1,000+ community members. Secured endorsements from 5+ local elected representatives and 5+ national organizations. 12+ media appearances, including in national publications.

### **Freelance Reporter** | *Alexandria Times, Alexandria Gazette Packet, Connection Newspapers, Etc. (Feb. 2024 - Present)*

- Covered elections, divisive city issues, and education for professional publications.
- 10+ articles featured in professional papers, including 7+ front-page stories.
- Work published in dozens of publications.
- Personal election projection model used by Alexandria Gazette Packet to make local race calls.

### **Production, Strategy Intern** | *We Can Do Hard Things: The Podcast (July 2024 - Sept. 2024)*

- Helped produce podcast recordings for an audience of more than 1 million weekly listeners.
- Live-monitored recordings for cuts and promotional clips. Prepared hosts for recordings, including with Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.
- Researched and pitched three episodes planned for 2025.

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Moderator** | *WEBA Conversations with Candidates*

- Moderated city council candidate forum, conducting live, in-depth interview with local candidate and engaging the audience.

### **Panelist** | *Agenda: Alexandria*

- Represented Theogony on Agenda: Alexandria, a prestigious local policy forum. First ever youth participant.

### **Attendee** | *National High School Journalism Conference*

- Attended the National High School Journalism Conference, networking with fellow student journalists from around the country and learning new skills and approaches.

## AWARDS & HONORS

### **Virginia Student Journalist of the Year Award**

- Recognized by the Virginia High School League as the top student journalist in Virginia and the Journalism Education Association as among the top student journalists in the state for excellence in reporting and writing; editing, leadership, and team-building; web & social media; design; broadcast journalism; photojournalism; law, ethics, and news literacy; marketing and audience engagement; and commitment to diversity.

### **Harry F. Byrd, Jr. Leadership Award**

- Recognized as the top young leader in journalism and civic engagement in Virginia's 8th Congressional District. Awarded \$25,000 with the recipients from each other congressional district in Virginia.

### **Best of School Newspapers Online (SNO) Awards**

- Personally won five Best of SNO awards for impactful reporting. (More than 3,000 student media sites are housed by SNO.)
- Produced five additional Best of SNO award-winning stories as an editor/uncredited co-writer.

### **SNO Distinguished Sites Award**

- Led Theogony to its first-ever designation as a SNO Distinguished Site. Ensured more than 100 requirements were met.

### **Other SNO Awards**

- Secured the following SNO awards for Theogony: Site Excellence, Excellence in Writing, Story Page Excellence, Audience Engagement, Continuous Coverage, Multimedia.

## **SKILLS**

### **Proficient in:**

- Adobe InDesign
- Canva Design
- Microsoft Office 365
- Google Suite

## **LANGUAGES**

- English (Fluent)
- Spanish (Conversational)