

Theo Keith
2019 Distinguished Alumni
Class of 2007

Theo Keith is a two-time Emmy award winning investigative journalist with experience covering crisis, government policy and political strategy. He currently works as a political reporter for KMSP-TV (FOX) in Minneapolis-St. Paul, and has also worked as a political reporter for WITI-TV (FOX) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, WAVE-TV (NBC) in Louisville, Kentucky, WISC-TV (CBS), in Madison, Wisconsin, and KMOX/1120 AM and KOMU-TV (NBC), in Jefferson City, Missouri.

He is the recipient of the Regional Edward R. Murrow award, multiple Kentucky and Wisconsin state awards for political and investigative stories, and the National Society of American Business Editors and Writers award.

Theo's passion for news reporting was evident even in middle school. Long before many other schools conceived the idea, Theo hosted a daily live morning news broadcast for Swan Valley Middle School, aired over the school's Channel One television network. Along with his co-anchor, Adam Collison, Theo interviewed a marathon runner from Kenya, a local Middle Eastern store owner after 9/11, and many political leaders from both sides of the aisle. He featured students and teachers in the news, and included up to date information on what was going on at Swan Valley, with careers and sports, and even had a weekly Trivia call down contest.

As a high school student, Theo created the first Swan Valley electronic portfolio, and allowed us to use it for a sample for other students. He narrated educational videos for the Saginaw Intermediate School District, and announced high school basketball games.

Now, as a journalist, he digs deep, reports the facts, and “has forced the government to change” by holding officials accountable.

After graduating as valedictorian of Swan Valley High School, he earned a bachelor degree from the University of Missouri. As an investigative reporter, he specializes in hard-news enterprise stories and has extensive training across political media platforms.

Keith uncovered the scandal surrounding a Milwaukee sheriff's questionable activities that resulted in David Clarke's resignation, after costing taxpayers thousands of dollars for personal travel and expenses. He investigated four inmate deaths that occurred in the same country, “including the dehydration case ruled a homicide.”

Theo embodies the qualities Swan Valley High School instills in its graduates: hard work, integrity, determination, honesty, and a sense of community. It is for these reasons that we recognize Theo Keith as the Swan Valley High School Distinguished Alumnus for 2019.