# MEDIA STRATEGIES DURING TIMES OF TRANSITION

CCLC SPRING CONFERENCE | SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2018





## **OVERVIEW**

- The media
- Interview tips
- Role of the PIO
- Thoughts for trustees and CEOs
- Q&A



# THE MEDIA

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#### THE NEWS BUSINESS HAS CHANGED



#### **NEWS COVERAGE TRENDS**

- Traditional media diminishing, especially newspapers.
- Local media reporting staff in decline.
- Emergence of new media, blogs, social media, citizen journalists.
- News cycle is 24/7 and immediate.



#### **TYPES OF REPORTERS**

- Broadcast (TV and radio)
- Newspaper (print and online)
- Beat reporter (education, government, etc.
- Investigative reporter
- Citizen journalists (bloggers, social media posters, etc.)

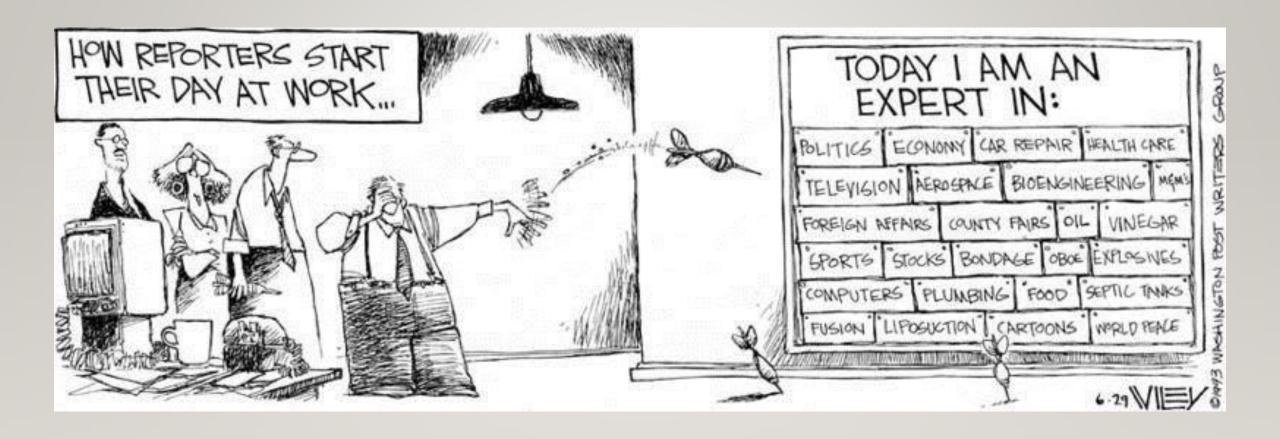


\* Not a reporter

## ANYONE CAN BE A REPORTER







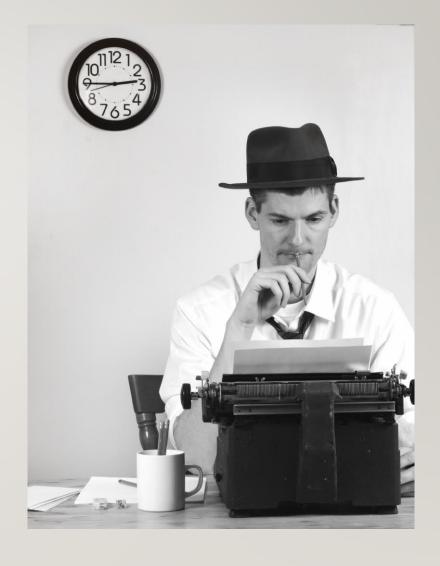
#### **MISCONCEPTIONS**

- You just want to sell papers.
- You just want to boost ratings.
- You're out to get us or have a hidden agenda.
- You made a mistake because you didn't try hard enough.
- It's not realistic or wise to try to kill a story or convince a reporter to not pursue it. This will damage our good relationship and harm the district's reputation.



## **DEADLINES**

- Reporters are ALWAYS on deadline.
- RESPECT the deadline.



# WHY TALK TO A REPORTER?

- Your reputation
- District's reputation
- Public agency = taxpayer dollars
- Opportunity to put you and district in best light possible.



# **INTERVIEW TIPS**

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## IS THIS YOU?

Common reaction when a reporter calls



#### WHEN A REPORTER CALLS

Tell them you'll call back.

Call your PIO.

Develop key messages (3 is best).

## WHEN A REPORTER CALLS, ASK:

- Who is calling and from what media outlet?
- What is the story about?
- Why does the reporter want to talk to you?
- What information is needed: stats, reaction, policy?
- What is the reporter's deadline?



#### BEFORE THE INTERVIEW

#### Are you the right person to be interviewed?

- Chancellor/college president
- Board president
- PIO

#### Do you have the information you need for an interview?

- Key messages
- Stats
- Student/employee confidentiality

## **BEFORE THE INTERVIEW**

**PREPARE** 

**SIMPLIFY** 

**PRACTICE** 

#### **KEY TO A GOOD INTERVIEW**

#### AIM

- Audience
- Intent
- Message



#### **SECS**

- Statement
- Evidence
- Conclusion
- Shut up!

### **INTERVIEW DO'S**

Stay calm

Pivot when necessary

Be aware of your facial expressions and body movements

(TV) Look at the reporter, not the camera

Think about your sound bite

#### **PIVOTS**

What's important to point out is...

You've asked a yes or no question. It would be difficult for me to answer yes or no because...

What I can address is the concern about...

Let me explain what the District is doing...

I don't have the answer, but I can find out for you.

#### **INTERVIEW DON'TS**

- Don't use acronyms and jargon.
- Don't go off the record.
- Don't speculate or guess.
- Don't say "no comment."
- Don't ask to see the story before it runs.



# **ROLE OF THE PIO**

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## HINT

It isn't all press releases or pitches.



#### WHAT DO WE DO?

- Develop and maintain relationship with the media.
- Understand what the media wants.
- Research topics/issues for the facts.
- Protect and enhance your college/district reputation.
- Maintain message control and maintenance.
- Monitor media coverage to assess strategy revision.
- Monitor and interact on social media.
- Develop internal/external communication strategies.



#### THOUGHTS FOR TRUSTEES

- Consult with your PIO before conducting an interview.
- Obtain college/district background on the issue.
- Request and review talking points.
- Practice reciting talking points.
- If you do not feel comfortable, always defer the interview to the PIO.





#### THOUGHTS FOR TRUSTEES

- Never conduct an interview without taking time to gather your thoughts.
- Determine if you are speaking as an individual or a representative of your college/district.
- How are your comments helping maintain or enhance your college/district reputation?



#### THOUGHTS FOR THE CEO

- Rely on your PIO for strategic communications.
- Make sure your supporters know the official college/district position.
- Evaluate who should be the best spokesperson for the issue – many times it is not you.
- Help maintain consistent messaging.





### THOUGHTS FOR THE CEO

- Provide media training to those who respond to requests.
- Work with trustees to ensure they are kept in the loop with updates as needed.
- Keep your eye on the prize your college/district reputation.

## **QUESTIONS?**





