

SIT DOWN WITH A SYCAMORE



Meet Melissa Crash

ISU Degree: 2014 - B.S. in Communications (Electronic Media)

Current Job: Television Anchor, Fox59/CBS4

Meet Emmy-nominated journalist Melissa Crash. You may remember her from your TV screens in the Wabash Valley. This 2014 Indiana State University graduate worked at WTWO and WTHI before returning home to be one of the leading television anchors for Fox59/CBS4 and one of the most recognized faces in the Circle City. Hear more about her journey to living her dream and what advice she has for you.



Q: When you were making your choice on colleges, what stuck out most to you about Indiana State that made you want to enroll?

A: At first, I wasn't sure where I wanted to go to college, but I knew I was staying in Indiana. When I applied to Indiana State, I remember immediately feeling welcomed and part of the Sycamore family. I didn't feel judged based on my testing abilities in high school. The size of the university was also just what I was looking for.

Q: What made your field of study?

A: Well, I knew I wasn't going to pick a field of study where I had to take math classes! Jokes aside, I knew journalism was meant for me when I was in high school. It all started when I joined the Lawrence North High School TV program

called Cat's Eye. Interviewing my fellow classmates and sharing their stories was the highlight of my day. I knew for a fact that I wanted to continue my broadcasting education when I attended Indiana State.

Q: How did Indiana State University prepare you for your career and ultimately life? Whether that be through experiences in the classroom or outside of it?

A: Attending Indiana State was one of the best decisions I've ever made. Early on, I got involved with Sycamore Video, where I could practice my reporting and anchoring skills, but also learn what it takes behind the scenes in the production booth. We helped grow a 1-minute taped show and turned it into a 15+ minute broadcast on campus television. (Shout out to Mr. Jeffrey Perkins!) Terre Haute

has two local TV stations, which is an incredible resource for broadcast journalism students. I took advantage of that for my internship and other work opportunities.

Switching things up and taking classes in the sales and negotiations department also gave me a boost of confidence leading into graduation.

Q: Favorite experiences or memories from college?

A: My favorite memories from college stem from my time as a Zeta Tau Alpha. From sisterhoods, to formals, spending time in the quads, intramurals, and to everything in between. That's where I met my best friends and learned some lifelong lessons. Because of Zeta, I also met my husband, Ben, a member of Pi Kappa Alpha.

And of course, the Bally!

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Q: What is your current job and what do you do?

A: In 2018, I moved back home to Indianapolis to work for WXIN (FOX59) and WTTV (CBS4). I've held several roles on both stations. I am currently the weekday anchor for CBS4 This Morning. I also anchor our noon broadcast.

Q: Tell me about any projects, accomplishments, stories you've covered, etc. that you're proud of.

A: While at WTHI-TV, I was nominated for two Emmy awards for stories on cybersecurity and the ongoing search for a missing woman in Bloomfield, Indiana. I was also nominated for an Associated Press award.

Since working in Indianapolis, I've investigated Indiana school districts with enrollment declines due to the pandemic. I've had the opportunity to visit unique locations across the state for our Destination Indiana series highlighting staycation and day-trip spots.

I received my third Emmy nomination in 2022 for my role in a weekend broadcast for CBS4.

One of my favorite projects was contributing to our Veterans Voices series, where I sat down with a Korean War veteran to share his story. Another highlight was co-hosting the morning broadcast ahead of the Indianapolis 500 from the roof of a building near Gate 1.

Q: If you could go back in time and give college you or any current student any advice, what would it be?

A: I wish I could do it all over again because it was so much fun! My advice for students would be to get involved and be part of something. Find a way to make your mark. You have to set yourself up for success. Know what you want and go for it. Use the resources on campus to benefit your future. Most importantly, enjoy every moment of being at Indiana State, because it's a special place.



Sit Down with a Sycamore proudly highlights Indiana State University alumni who lead their industries, transform their communities, and represent what it means to WEAR BLUE! If you know someone positively impacting their industry, business, or community and proudly represents what it means to be a Sycamore, please email ISU-UniversityCommun@indstate.edu to nominate that person for Sit Down with a Sycamore. *Produced by University Communication, 2023.*