

Dana Hedgpeth's Bio

Dana Hedgpeth is an award-winning Native American journalist with nearly 30 years of experience at *The Washington Post*. Throughout her distinguished career, she has covered a wide range of topics and focused on Native American communities and their often-overlooked history.

She led an intensive 18-month investigation with a 60-person team that was a revelatory reveal that told of how more than 1,000 Native children were sexually abused and 3,100 died at government- and church-run boarding schools. While the federal government's own investigation bypassed sexual abuse, her team delved into the untold stories to hold institutions accountable. Her team found that three times as many students died at these schools as the Department of the Interior had reported.

The groundbreaking series won six major national awards, earned a Pulitzer Prize nomination, and helped prompt historic, first-time formal apologies from both President Biden and a leading Catholic bishops' group.

In addition to her investigative work, Hedgpeth has reported on the Washington region's transportation system, Pentagon spending, local governments, the region's economy, federal courts, crime, and the defense, auto, and hospitality industries – alongside dozens of popular, quirky animal stories.

An enrolled member of North Carolina's Haliwa-Saponi Tribe (the state's second-largest tribe), she is also an active member of the Indigenous Journalists Association. In 2025, she was honored with the Indigenous Journalist–Medill Milestone Achievement Award for her “lasting, positive impact on journalism and Native communities.”

As the only Indigenous journalist in The Post's newsroom and one of the few in mainstream media, she brings a vital, distinct authority to her work. Hedgpeth lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband and two children and participates in competitive powwow dancing as a jingle dress dancer.

Explore her portfolio and learn more at www.danahedgpeth.info

