

## **Oral History – Laura Harris**

by Maddi Hurd, Tory Josey, Megan Martinez, and Sean Riedel



Laura Harris is a journalist who currently works as a weekday morning co-anchor at NBC 5 in Dallas-Fort Worth.

After growing up in Atlanta, Georgia, Harris attended Georgia Southern University where she studied sports management and minored in business administration. Though Harris said she considered law school, her love for sports and communication led her to work as an intern at CNN Sports and Turner Sports.

Following graduation, Harris moved to a small Georgia town before working in Charleston, South Carolina as a morning anchor. Harris also worked in Tampa, Florida as a morning reporter and later as anchor for the station's 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. newscasts. Harris joined NBC 5 in August 2018 as a weekend anchor and reporter.

Harris noted her career growth during her time in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Now, as a weekday morning anchor, Harris said that she noticed that more and more people recognize her. She said, "We love when people talk to us, and they love what they see."

Harris said that she strives to do her best work possible, not only for women in journalism, but for everyone.

"For me, I just want to make sure that I'm doing good work for everyone--not just for women," Harris said. "I want little boys and girls who are watching TV to say, 'That's kind of cool. I want to do that too.'"

While Harris mentioned that she has not consciously been faced with discrimination in the newsroom, she stated that NBC 5 has fostered an environment of equality for her and others in the workplace. "Everybody matters," she said.

However, Harris also discussed the most negative parts of her career as a broadcast journalist, naming undue criticism from individuals online as the most trying aspect of her position.

"You just have to have a really short memory," she said. "The sun will come up tomorrow, and we're going to do this all over again. It's going to be okay."

Despite the numerous negative stories she must report on a day to day basis, Harris said she still finds positivity in the world. Her station reports on individuals in the community who have done extraordinary work during a segment called "Something Good" in order to add happiness for the viewers. Harris said this has given her hope for a brighter future.

"You also want to inspire," she said.

Harris works with NBC 5 to improve childhood literacy through a program called "Reading with You."

"You know, the objective for us is to teach kids that readers are leaders," she said. "There are people who do amazing things in life no matter what. I mean your job could be a bus driver, or a custodian, but Lord only knows you need to know how to read."

Harris said that future journalists and those just beginning their careers must find their purpose, asking themselves what they want to become. "We need everybody to be themselves," she said.

Through her work, Harris said she sees one major purpose in her work as a journalist. "I want to make people smile," she said. "I want to make people see we still live in an amazing place, and there are still such great people around you."