I am extremely excited and honored to announce that I have accepted the position of News Director at <a href="Eyewitness News - BakersfieldNow">Eyewitness News - BakersfieldNow</a>.

11 years ago I first set foot in this building as a lost little intern with absolutely no idea what I was doing. A few months later I was hired as a prompter operator, and suddenly had a slight idea what I was doing. Since then, I've had the opportunity to turn that slight idea into a successful career.

Somewhere along the way, my job became a passion. I fell in love with this building, the people I've worked with, and the work we're doing here. I think my general manager put it best when she described journalism as something that gets into your blood, and becomes a part of who you are. I know it has for me.

I have quite a swirl of emotions going right now, but the prevalent one is gratitude. I owe my success to a lot of people. Co-workers, past and present, who have made coming to work every day something I look forward to. Former news directors who took a chance on me and gave me the opportunities to succeed. Mentors who taught me how to do this job effectively, and improve myself every day. My family, especially my parents and in-laws, who have provided a tremendous amount of support so I could pursue my goals.

But most of all I'm grateful for <u>Leah</u>, Aidan & Madeline. I may have a passion for my work, but at the end of the day, you're the real reason I'm doing this. Thank you.