

All:

I am excited to share that WBRC FOX6 News has located our next news director/leader and we didn't have to look far! Shannon Maze has been promoted from Assistant News Director to News Director effective January 1st.

Shannon joined the WBRC team in March of 2011 as Assistant News Director. She previously worked in Yuma, AZ as News Director at KSWT. Prior to Yuma, she worked both on and off camera in various positions at KTVK in Phoenix, WSPA in Greenville, SC, WTVW and WFIE both in Evansville, IN. Shannon's love of news started at an early age. The TV was tuned to Peter Jennings every night at dinner. It was no surprise that she started her broadcast career at the age of 18. Shannon shared the following with me earlier today, *"There is no place I would rather be and there isn't a better team of journalists anywhere. I am proud of WBRC and the services we provide to our communities. This TV station is a special place. It is special because of the people who work here and the dedication they have to serving our communities. It is an honor to be a leader in this organization. I am grateful for this opportunity."* She follows one of the best in James Finch as he moves onto his new responsibilities as a Raycom Regional News Director on 1/1/16 and had these kind words to say about him, *"You won't find a better leader than James Finch. I am appreciative of the opportunity to learn from him and to be his successor. He has done tremendous work at WBRC. I am thankful that he and Collin have helped prepare me for this opportunity."*

James shared with me the following thoughts about Shannon, *"In late 2010, I got word about a news director in Arizona who might want to join our team. After talking with Shannon on the phone, I knew she would be a strong leader for our department. She was on the job by March 2011, just weeks before two major tornado outbreaks, including the Apr. 27 event. I saw her bond with and help shepherd our staff during a very, very difficult time for the community and our own WBRC family. My support (and my prayers) are with her as she takes on the great privilege of leading a strong team of news professionals who daily serve our community."*

Please join me in congratulating Shannon on this most deserved promotion! I have full confidence she is the right leader to keep our operation on top.

-Collin



**Collin R. Gaston**

Vice President/General Manager

**WBRC FOX6 News**

Birmingham, AL