

WYOMING SCHOOL FOUNDATION

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Myra “Miki” Penelope Turner

Wyoming High School Class of 1976
Professor and Award-Winning Photojournalist & Author

Education & Background

Wyoming High School Activities: Art Club 10-12, Band 9-12, COE 12, GAA 9, Basketball 10-12, Hockey 10, Intramurals 9-12, Softball 10, Track 9

Hampton Institute: BA Mass Media Arts 1980

Boston University: MS Journalism/Afro-American Studies 1982

Maynard Institute for Journalism Education, UC Berkeley: Fellowship 1989

USC Annenberg: Master of Communication Management 2018

Life Achievements

Myra “Miki” Turner spent more than 40 years as a journalist/photojournalist and is currently a fulltime professor at the University of Southern California’s Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. She is one of the pioneering female sports journalists who helped elevate the coverage of female athletes. As a sports columnist at the Oakland Tribune, she became the first Black female to write a regularly featured sports column at a major daily newspaper.

Miki has also worked at ESPN as a producer and writer, at MSNBC as a columnist, AOL as an on-air personality, the NFL Network as a producer, and as the West Coast senior writer for Jet magazine and Ebony.com. Her work has been published in more than 100 magazines and newspapers, and her photography has been exhibited around the world. She was honored with the Black Women in Film Network Behind the Lens Award for her work in journalism.

As a professor, Turner was the 2022 National Association of Black Journalists Educator of the Year, honored for her work in and out of the classroom in increasing opportunities for students of color to attend USC graduate programs. She was also the 2023 USC Black Alumni Association Barbara Soloman Staff and Faculty honoree, and a 2021 ESC Faculty Mentoring Award winner. Turner founded the Minority Serving Institutions Conference event, which brought hundreds of potential HBCU students to USC to explore graduate programs. Additionally, she founded the Annenberg Cross-Cultural Student Association, an organization that works to increase cultural awareness and acceptance among students; and a mentoring program that pairs incoming students with faculty mentors.

Miki Turner is the author of two books – the best-selling *journey to the woman I’ve come to love* and *tomorrow*. Most recently, she joined the executive board of the Black Students of California United, a state-supported organization that works to prepare black students for higher education opportunities.

Miki’s mantra comes from her undergraduate alma mater: “let your life do the singing”.