

KEOM 88.5FM Mesquite Schools Radio – Success Stories, Comments, & Quotes

"I took the KEOM broadcasting class in high school during my 2007-2008 senior year and interned the following summer. Looking back, I'm shocked at how special of an opportunity we all had working with such patient and incredible teachers. Practicing writing traffic and weather reports, speaking in a broadcast voice and learning how to properly time out the music blocks perfectly prepared me for my career in television news. All of those things I have done on a daily basis throughout my career. I have worked as an anchor and reporter in various news markets and I'm currently a news reporter/fill-in anchor at WPTV NewsChannel 5 in West Palm Beach, Florida. I will forever be grateful to KEOM for giving me the hands-on experience I needed to achieve my dreams." – Alanna Quillen- WPTV

"KEOM provided the tools for me to become more confident in my writing and announcing to establish a career in sports journalism. Whether it's writing a quick press release, formulating a witty post or providing voice work for our social media, there is something I do each day at my job that I can credit back to my high school program." – Jeremy Villanueva – Assistant Information Director Southland Conference

"KEOM taught me how to communicate in different forms: over the air, in my writing and day-to-day with professionals. These skills helped me feel like I was a step ahead entering college and allowed me to continue pushing myself and enhancing what I had learned in high school as I pursued a career in sports communications." – Jeremy Villanueva – Assistant Information Director Southland Conference

"During my time at KEOM, I interviewed NBA professional Quincy Acy, Miami Dolphins wide receiver Jakeem Grant and soon-to-be NFL draftee Malik Jefferson, producing packages heard to thousands in our community and beyond. This was just a few of the special moments 88.5 provided that helped me begin a career in sports journalism that you wouldn't get anywhere else in high school." – Jeremy Villanueva – Assistant Information Director Southland Conference

"When I joined the KEOM class my junior year, I had never considered a career in broadcasting, a few short months after, I committed to the University of Massachusetts to play softball, and to pursue a degree in Sport Management. I had always thought that I wanted to be a legal representative for professional athletes, and I knew that KEOM would improve my public speaking and writing skills if this is what I continued to strive towards. What I didn't realize was I would fall in love with broadcasting.

Today I am entering my senior year at UMass, still pursuing a degree in Sport Management. While I don't have a full-time job lined up yet, my hopes are to combine my new knowledge of the different business aspects of sport, and my skills gained from four years in broadcasting." – Maddie Sadler – Poteet Class of 2015 - Senior at University of Massachusetts

"As a little kid, I knew I wanted to be in the radio business and when the opportunity arose to learn at KEOM, I jumped at it. There is no doubt that my time at KEOM gave me the intangibles to sustain a long career in the radio business as an on-air host. After nearly 20 years, I left the radio business to start my own voice over company but had I not taken the steps to get into KEOM in the first place, I would not be where I am today." – Greg Gibbins – Poteet Class of 1996

“The foundation of my entire career was forged in that tiny room at West Mesquite High School. KEOM’s amazing faculty taught me how to write concisely, how to communicate clearly to mass audiences, and how to groove to disco. Seriously, it’s because of KEOM that I was able to thrive professionally in radio, television and print news, and later in public relations and marketing. Today, I’m on the social media team at one of the world’s largest companies, and every day I rely on lessons learned in that tiny room so many years ago.

I also annoy my wife and daughter with loud sing-alongs to Earth, Wind and Fire. I blame that on KEOM, too.” - James Pecht

“KEOM is where I found my voice, the voice I have used to make myself heard in the sea of white noise and I chose to participate in the KEOM program because I wanted to do something different, and challenging. Something that wasn't just an after school activity, but that made a difference in my community and taught me both technical and interpersonal skills that I would not have learned elsewhere in High School.” - Amanda Morones – Executive Producer The Phillip DeFranco Show

“KEOM was the first step I took in my young life that made me realize what I wanted to pursue for career as an adult. From the KEOM switchboard, to interning at local radio stations, to my tv/film career at UT Austin, to working for Team Coco and Conan O'Brien and now being an Executive Producer for The Philip DeFranco Show in Los Angeles - I wouldn't have found my path so early on without taking the chance and auditioning for the KEOM program.” - Amanda Morones – Executive Producer The Phillip DeFranco Show

“My time at KEOM solidified my love of radio, communications and marketing. Before I started at KEOM I wasn’t sure what path I would take after high school but KEOM ignited something new in me and started me on a path to a degree in mass communications. It also opened new doors for me with a position at another local radio station and then a spot as the co-host of a weekly show in Waco while I was in college. The knowledge and experience I gained while at KEOM will last a lifetime and I continue to draw upon the experience on a regular basis. I am currently the manager of Rich Media for the Dallas County Community College District.” – Jonathan Blundell – Rich Media

“My experience as a radio DJ at KEOM set me on a path to success in the communications field. The class taught me how to write, speak and present myself as a professional, and the confidence I developed from being a voice on the radio station has played a vital role in where I am today. Only eight years after being a student DJ, I am working for the Mesquite ISD Communications Department as a Communications Coordinator/Public Information Officer, with a BA in Communications and masters in journalism under my belt. I owe so much to the KEOM program and instruction - it gave me the clarity and skills I needed to pursue a career in communications.” – Angela Roe – Communications Coordinator/Public Information Officer MISD

“KEOM was the best program I have ever had the opportunity to be a part of because it gave me so much confidence in my public speaking. Having KEOM on my resume and college application led to many exciting doors opening for me in both college and in my career. As a collegiate athlete, the new-found confidence helped me to become a team captain and being chosen as a member on many committees for the entire athletic department. As far as my career, I definitely get to dial into my radio personality as the ARD Vice Chair/Department Head for Special Education at Poteet High School

on a daily basis, whether it be with parents, students or other staff members. I will always be so thankful for the KEOM staff who taught me to believe in myself and that I could do anything I put my mind to. KEOM changed my life for the better and allowed me to gain my confidence, so that I could chase my dreams.” - Heather Beaty – ARD Vice Chair/SPED Department Head- Poteet High School

“Having the opportunity to be a KEOM student DJ was one of the best experiences of my high school career. It was a class that undoubtedly contributed to my current successes. I loved it so much that I applied to be the summer intern and was thrilled to be selected. I even received a scholarship from KEOM to pursue my career in communications at Texas State University. Although I changed my major to Education, the skill set gained from being in radio would be beneficial in any field of study. Not only did I learn the ins and outs of the radio world, I gained self-confidence, learned to be comfortable speaking in front of others, and had a lot of fun along the way! I would highly recommend taking this class to anyone interested.” – Ashlee Baker – Texas State University

“KEOM was the seed that sprouted a budding career for me. I branched out into my college station at 88.1 then to iHeart Media, TTWN and even helped me develop a voice that got me to 35,000 subscribers on YouTube. If I hadn't started it all at KEOM, I have no idea where I would be.” - Zach Killian - Host/Producer of The Local Lounge on FM 88.5 KEOM- Creator and Host of Wow Such Gaming

"I am Ryan Castle, and I am currently a sports play by play broadcaster for the Sportsgram Network and for KEOM radio and a teacher in the Mesquite ISD. Being the sports intern at KEOM my senior year of high school gave me a chance to hone my skills as an on air personality in a safe environment and allowed me to learn the technical aspects of the industry. Getting the chance to work alongside Steve Glenn and Ed Johnson has been incredibly beneficial to my evolution as a play by play voice and seeing their professionalism and passion for sports broadcasting has played a major part in the success I've experienced in the radio industry." – Ryan Castle - MISD