

Biography of Tiffany O'Donnell, television anchor

Tiffany O'Donnell considers herself a professional storyteller. She started “training” for her current news anchor position as a six-year-old, reading stories in front of the hallway mirror. Born in St. Louis, Tiffany grew up in Bettendorf after moving there as a small child.

A former Miss Iowa, Tiffany began her broadcasting career in Des Moines in 1992, and after being a stay-at-home mom for several years joined FOX News at Nine in 2001 to become the first anchor on Central Iowa's only 9 pm newscast.

In her more than a dozen years of television news experience, Iowans have turned to Tiffany for no-nonsense reporting on major news events ranging from the floods of '93 to the tragedy of 9/11 to the current presidential race. She's interviewed world, national, and local leaders including presidential hopeful John Kerry, Alma Powell — the wife of Secretary of State Colin Powell — and CEOs of major corporations.

In May of this year, the Associated Press honored Tiffany for her enthralling report on Internet predators. During the investigation, Tiffany posed as a 14-year-old girl in a teen chat room. With the help of the police department, she showed how quickly a predator can turn “harmless chats” into sexual encounters; in just a few minutes online, she had already been called by one of the men in the chat room — straight to a phone police had set up for the sting.

Tiffany is also received an Associated Press award for a live town hall meeting she hosted following the attacks of 9/11. The panel of guests included members of religious organizations, mental health professionals, representatives of the police and fire departments, and local students. The panel took questions, concerns, and public comment on what the nation had experienced, helping the community join together and come to grips with what had happened.

In addition to her career, Tiffany enjoys doing work for charities, including the American Heart Association, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and the Alzheimer's Association. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Iowa Children's Museum in Coralville and the Ethics in Journalism panel hosted annually by the Society for Professional Journalists at the University of Iowa.

A graduate of DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana Tiffany earned a B.A. in French and Communications. She and her husband, Michael, have two daughters, two golden retrievers and an adorable cat.