



Vanessa Ruiz

Director, Cronkite News Borderlands, Professor of Practice

Vanessa Ruiz is the Emmy award winning director of the Borderlands coverage team at Cronkite News, the student-produced, faculty-led news division of Arizona PBS. She also helps lead the Spanish-language newscast, Cronkite Noticias, is an anchor and host for Arizona PBS and a Cronkite School ambassador for diversity and inclusion.

Prior to joining the Cronkite School, Ruiz was the main evening news anchor at KPNXTV, the NBC affiliate in Phoenix. Ruiz became Telemundo International's youngest news anchor, bringing national and international news stories to the homes of 5 million-plus U.S. and Latin American viewers in English & Spanish. Her interviews ranged from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the presidents of Peru, Ecuador and El Salvador.

From 2005 to 2011, she reported for WSVN-FOX Miami. She was then recruited by TV Marti to anchor and report on issues impacting Cuba, the Caribbean and South America. In 2014, Ruiz signed on with KNBC in Los Angeles, covering a news market that spans 41,000 square miles and is the nation's No. 2 news market.

At KPNX in 2015, Ruiz anchored Pope Francis' historic visit to the United States; represented the station during the Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and was the main anchor for Decision 2016, NBC's presidential election coverage. In 2016 and 2017, Ruiz's team won the Rocky Mountain Emmy for Best Evening Newscast. She's also been recognized by The Academy of Television of Arts and Science for special coverage of Sept. 11, received the David Burke Distinguished Journalism Award for exceptional integrity, bravery and originality in reporting and recognized as one of Florida's leading Latinos in journalism.

Ruiz was born in Miami and is of Colombian descent. She graduated with honors from Florida International University with a B.S. in Mass Communication and a minor in International Relations.