

Christopher Paicely

Marketing and Communications, The Surge Institute

Christopher Paicely is all about a good story, and it has guided his journey to the Surge Institute team. Born in Indianapolis, Indiana, Christopher spent most of youth wanting to venture away, chasing hip hop dreams and sweet prosperity. But after becoming a teenage father, dropping out of college and bouncing between jobs, dreams became taunts and life became scrappy day-to-day survival. After a few years spinning his wheels, Christopher took ownership over his future and pursued a career in storytelling. He returned to school, taking six classes per week while working the nightshift driving a forklift.

And, eventually, dreams returned.

In 2010, Christopher graduated from Northwestern University with a Master of Science in Journalism and moved his family to Illinois, where he became an editor for Patch Media. As a journalist, Christopher saw his stories published in AOL News, Huffington Post, Uproxx and Chicago Parent before foraying into a new career. As a public relations consultant, Christopher worked with municipalities, school districts and businesses to help shape their public narrative. His work with Bloom Township High School District 206, positively impacted the way schools in Chicago Heights connect with the communities they serve, provoking a loud and proud authentic dialogue about the education and safety of the students.

His work at Northwestern led him to receive a scholarship from the White House and a trip to Washington D.C. where he shook hands with President Barack Obama. Christopher also holds a BA in International Studies from Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis.

Christopher's passion remains in storytelling, with a specific focus on influencing the national zeitgeist so that people of color take center stage as credible voices. His goal with Surge is to grow the voice of the movement, to share the story and motivate support for the Surge mission through strategic marketing efforts. Christopher lives in the South Suburbs of Chicago with his wife, Jamie, and their three sons.

