Team,

I'm excited to tell you about our new Nightside Executive Producer, Ben Nelson. Ben is a Minnesota native who started as a producer in Rochester and worked his way up to EP in both Iowa and New Mexico. Ben's work has won him an Emmy and a Murrow as well as awards from the New Mexico Broadcasters Association and the Iowa Broadcast News Association.

Ben is thrilled to be returning to his Midwestern roots and to be joining our team at CBS 58/ Telemundo WI. He's ready to hit the ground running with our terrific nightside team and his first day will be February 28. He's new to Milwaukee so I know he'd welcome suggestions on food, neighborhoods to explore and more.
Here is a Q & A with Ben so we can all learn a bit more about him.

--Tell us a bit about yourself. You're a native Midwesterner....

Born and raised! I was born in Minneapolis, and moved a little outside the city when I was young. I went to college in southeastern Minnesota, then spent some time in Seattle for a few years before the Midwest came calling me back! I eventually left again and went to New Mexico, but yet again, I felt the need to come back (you'd think I'd learn), so I'm excited to be moving to Milwaukee!

--What do you like to do on your days off/what are your hobbies?

I like to get outside as much as possible, whether that means walking in the forest, sitting by the lake, or just hanging out at a brewery with a nice patio. I like to visit breweries all over the world and try new styles and flavors. I'm also REALLY into soccer. I don't play much anymore, but I like to be part of supporters' groups. We're the ones behind the goal chanting, spinning our scarves above our heads, and waving the giant flags throughout the entire match! Sorry if you get stuck behind us, but that's all the more reason for you to get up and join us! My favorite teams are Seattle Sounders, Arsenal, and New Mexico United. Music also plays a huge role in my life. I listen to mostly punk and many of the sub-genres that go along with it (folk punk, skate punk, pop punk, etc.), and I love going to shows whenever I can. The lead singer of one of my favorite bands actually owns a music venue/bar/arcade in Cudahy, so I'm excited to be close to that! I collect vinyl records, and even started a record label years back to help small/local bands put out their music on vinyl. Let me know if you have any record store recommendations!

--You recently took a pretty amazing trip; can you share more about that?

I did! After I finished my work in Albuquerque, I took a couple of weeks and drove to the very southern tip of Texas, where my mom lives, then over to New Orleans, all the way over to see my sister in West Virginia, then to my brother's in Minnesota. From there, I hopped a flight to Amsterdam, then a train to Germany, where I spent about a month between Cologne, Dusseldorf, Dortmund, Berlin, and Frankfurt. The next month I spent going to Prague, Vienna, Paris, then up to the UK for some time in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, and Manchester, before wrapping things up back in Amsterdam. It was the most amazing experience of my life! I loved seeing the historic buildings in some of the oldest cities, and I even got to go to several soccer matches in different countries, which

was so incredible! It was sometimes scary being alone and in so many foreign lands, not knowing the customs, etiquette, or language, but it definitely got me out of my comfort zone. It also helped me practice my German language skills, which I've been slowly learning over the past few years, and I got to put it to real-life use on several occasions. It was a life-changing trip that I had been wanting to take for many years, and I'm glad I stopped waiting and just did it this time.

--What started you in TV news and what do you still love about it?

Growing up I'd always like to stay up and watch the 10 o'clock news with my parents, but I'm not sure where/when that actually started. I think I've just always had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge in general, and I felt watching the news helped me know what was going on and I didn't feel like I was missing out. As I got into college, and got even more interested in the news, and realizing I could help people, make a difference in their lives, and try to make the world a better place by working in the news. It was probably very idealistic at the time, but after many years in the business, I see all the time how we do help people, and I love that!

--You will be new to Milwaukee. What have you heard about it or what are you most looking forward to?

I've visited a handful of times, but most of that was 10-15 years ago, so I'm sure a lot has changed. I'm definitely looking forward to exploring the brewery/craft beer scene, and I've heard there are a lot of diverse food options, which is exciting! I know there are some good German restaurants I want to try, which I'm looking forward to. And on the soccer front, Milwaukee is getting a USL team in the coming years, so I certainly would love to be a part of helping set up and grow that community in town, much like I did when New Mexico got a team while I was living there.

--Anything else your new teammates should know about you?

I'm an open book, so please feel free to reach out and ask me anything! I'm interested in learning more about the direction CBS58 is going, and how I can help take us there. I'm excited to get started, and looking forward to exploring all the city has to offer.