## SKILLS

# DUCATION

### Rita D. O'Connell • 443-244-380





#### Communications & Development Consultant, Independent, 2007-present

Nationwide

- Communications and development support for nonprofits, changemakers, artists, and small businesses, specializing in strategy development, content creation, and community engagement
- Have developed communications strategies and materials for dozens of organizations, programs, and campaigns, focusing on increased clarity of voice and vision to deepen relationships with stakeholders and community
- Services include copywriting, research, editing, proofing, and management for websites, newsletters, and social media; grants and white papers; marketing, advertising, and PR; live and online events and meetings; etcetera
- Across sectors, have raised and managed millions of dollars in federal, state, local, and private grant funds, as well as
  developing and managing successful crowdfunding and direct fundraising campaigns

#### Communications & Community Manager, Wisdom 2.0, 2011-2015

San Francisco, CA

- Oversaw external and internal communications; also acted as customer service lead, live-in editor, front-of-house
  and registration manager, and assorted-odd-jobs-doer for the premier conference exploring how to live mindfully
  and compassionately in the modern world
- During tenure, helped Wisdom 2.0 expand from one annual 300-person event to an international sensation, with events from San Francisco to Dublin to Singapore, engaging tens of thousands of people in person and online

#### Development Associate, Taos Health Systems, 2009-2011

Taos, NM

- Grant writing and range of development work for regional nonprofit health system. Helped secure and/or manage more than \$20 million in federal, state, and private grants; helped create and manage signature hospital events and programs; assisted with successful redesign of corporate identity
- General writing and editing duties (web content management, white papers, press releases, newsletters, contracts, etc.); event planning and organizing; assisted with marketing and PR
- Rural policy specialist, particularly regarding community development, health, food security, and youth; member of 2010 National Rural Youth Assembly and the Southwest Rural Policy Network

#### Program Director/Youth Programs Coordinator, SOMOS (Literary Society), 2009-2012

Taos, NM

- Developed and managed programs, relationships, and clients, including support for writers
- Grantwriting, general support, and material development, including successful rebranding of organization
- Managed annual youth mentorship program, serving all county junior and senior high schools; developed and piloted a successful Writers in the Schools program

#### Legal/Administrative Assistant, Virtue, Najjar & Brown, PC, 2008-2009

Santa Fe, NM

- Edited briefs, contracts, and legislation; drafted documents; attended/summarized hearings; handled internal and external communications; managed schedules and deadlines for three-partner firm
- Tracked and reported on bills for clients during legislative sessions

Highly-organized self-starter; excellent interpersonal and digital communications skills; experienced event planner and organizer; curious and eager analytical thinker, with quantitative and qualitative research experience; concise and precise writer/editor, Chicago and AP fluent; PC and Mac literate; 80 WPM typing; proficient in Microsoft Office suite, Adobe InDesign and Photoshop; extensive cross-platform social media experience; experienced user of NVivo, Raiser's Edge, Wordpress, Google Drive, Dropbox, Hootsuite, Asana, Basecamp, Trello, Eventbrite, and more; quick to learn new software/programs; basic HTML and SEO; flexible team player with a sense of humor and a positive attitude.

Emerson College Boston, MA

Class of 2007, cum laude

B.A. in Writing, Literature, & Publishing

-concentrations: nonfiction writing, copyediting, political communication

I am pleased to provide references and work samples upon request.