### National University of Ireland, Galway

M.A. candidate, Public Advocacy and Activism (ABT)

B.A., Emerson College, Boston, MA

Writing, Literature, & Publishing, cum laude

## **Communications & Development Consultant,** 2007-present *Independent, freelance, worldwide*

- Strategic communications and development support for nonprofits, community organizations, and small businesses.
- Services include program development and evaluation; copywriting, research, editing, and proofing; management of websites, newsletters, and social media; development and submission of grants and white papers; production & hosting of live and online events and meetings.

### Research Associate, i2i Institute, 2015 – 2016

Social-change oriented research & evaluation firm, Taos, NM

• Contributed research, strategy, writing, and editing to papers and projects for major American foundations, international advocacy networks, and local, grassroots nonprofits.

## **Development Associate,** Taos Health Systems, 2009-2011 *Regional nonprofit health system, Taos, NM*

- Secured and/or managed over \$20 million in federal, state, and private grants; helped create and manage signature hospital events and programs.
- Focused on rural policy, particularly community development, access to care, food security, and youth.

# **Legal/Administrative Assistant,** Virtue, Najjar & Brown, PC, 2008-2009 *Three-partner law firm, Santa Fe, NM*

• Edited briefs, contracts, and legislation; drafted documents; attended/summarized hearings; handled internal and external communications; managed schedules and deadlines; and tracked relevant legislation.

## **Organizer/Canvasser,** Environment America & Work for Progress, 2008 *National progressive social change organization, Washington, DC*

 Field organizer and door-to-door canvasser in DC and northern VA, focusing on renewable energy and environmental advocacy. Included electoral canvassing.

#### **HUMAN SKILLS**

Highly organized self-starter

Excellent interpersonal & digital communicator

Comfortable public speaker & meeting facilitator

Flexible team player with a sense of humor and a positive attitude

Writer and editor, technical and creative

Curious & eager analytical thinker

Research experience, qualitative & quantitative

Some Spanish – basic conversation, good reading comprehension

#### **DIGITAL SKILLS**

Both PC and Mac literate

Proficient in MS office suite, Adobe InDesign and Photoshop

Extensive cross-platform social media experience

Experienced user of a variety of task management and database tools

Basic HTML and SEO

Quick to learn new software/programs

I am pleased to offer references and work samples upon request. ritaoconnell.com • linkedin.com/in/ritaoconnell