

Dustin C. VandeHoef

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Objective:

Continue to lead communications efforts supporting Iowa's critically important agriculture industry.

Experience:

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – Des Moines, IA

Communications Director

April 2007 to Present

Developed communication strategies and oversaw communications efforts for all aspects of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, including regulatory responsibilities and conservation efforts.

- Led outreach and media relations activities of the Department.
- Coordinated communication activities with a wide variety of partners, such as other state departments, federal agencies, agriculture organizations, state universities and other key partners, including media events, press releases, columns, articles and other outreach materials.
- Iowa Corn I-LEAD Class IV graduate and currently serving as 1st Vice President of the Communications Officers of State Departments of Agriculture (COSDA).
- Supervisor: Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

USDA Rural Development – Des Moines, IA

Special Projects Coordinator

January 2006 to April 2007

Helped manage USDA Rural Development's media outreach to increase public awareness of the agency and inform Iowans how Rural Development's programs could benefit them.

- Received "**HighMark**" award, which is presented to Rural Development's top Public Information Coordinator by USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas Dorr after a nationwide competition.
- Wrote news releases, organized events, contacted media, authored columns and articles, arranged interviews, created and maintained press email list, helped prepare remarks for State Director.
- Supervisor: Mark Reisinger, State Director

Office of U.S. Senator Chuck Grassley – Washington, DC

Deputy Press Secretary

August 2002 to January 2006

Assisted Senator Grassley in communicating with his constituents through earned media on television, radio and newspapers.

- Helped write and distribute a weekly column for Iowa media that highlighted Senator Grassley's work, arranged conference calls with newspaper, radio and TV reporters, advanced Senator's travel schedule by calling all area media, built and maintained press e-mail lists, wrote press releases and other statements for the Senator.
- Supervisor: Jill Kozeny, Chief of Staff

Education:

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Minor in Economics – May 2001

University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA

Graduated Summa Cum Laude with a 3.87 GPA

- Received Purple and Gold Award, which is given to the Political Science student with the highest grade point average, was a Student Leader with the Navigators, Vice President of College Republicans, member of Golden Key Honor Society, and member of the Political Science Society.

Graduated from Sibley-Ocheyedan High School – May 1997

Sibley, IA

References:

Available upon request