**Kristin Aschenbrenner**

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605-939-1403

**Education**

**DePaul University Graduated Dec. 2004**

Masters of Education, graduated Magna Cum Laude

**Drake University Graduated June 2002**

Bachelors in History, graduated with honors

**Work Experience**

**The Nature Conservancy August 2014-Present**

**External Affairs Manager**

* Oversaw the development of the Chapter’s first climate change action plan
* Manages the IWILL coalition made up of over 100 membership groups advocating for the passage of the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund
* Currently leading the national organizations efforts on the Conservation Reserve Program in the Farm Bill in addition to lobbying on other federal priorities

**Safe School Certification Program (Bullying Prevention) September 2012-August 2014**

**Program Specialist**

* Helped develop rubric, training guides, best practices, and other guides to help schools successfully achieve certification
* Worked with Learning Support Consultants and grant schools within four area education agencies
* Oversaw a coalition of allied organizations including representatives from education, non-profits, and state agencies who have a stake in bulling prevention

**David’s Bridal July 2011-August 2012**

**Service Supervisor**

* Hired and managed a staff of 9-14 consultants and customer service representatives as part of the management team
* Contributed to store excellence: store exceeded sales goals most quarters
* Implemented sustainable workplace organization and operational efficiency systems

**South Dakota Advocacy Network for Women January 2011- March 2011**

**Lobbyist**

* Supported, opposed, or monitored over 45 bills during the three month South Dakota legislative session as a lobbyist in Pierre
* Partnered with legislators from both parties to either pass or shut down bills that affect women
* Coordinated between and represented 21 organizations in addition to individual members of the Advocacy Network

**Equality South Dakota September 2010- December 2010**

**Consultant**

* Created a resource guide and trained members of the media on how to cover Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and
* Transgender (LGBT) issues
* Ran an issue advocacy campaign on the repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, including the development of successful
* talking points and action plans
* Authored all communications to members, including fundraising letters and email blasts

**Repower America July 2009-August 2010**

**Regional Field Director**

* Managed the largest Repower event in the state, coordinating with Norbeck Uni and the Sierra Club to host Will Steger at SDSMT with 160 attendees
* Garnered support from community and state-wide leaders through direct contact
* Collected the most handwritten letters in the summer of 2010 resulting in a statewide award

**Rapid Valley Elementary School August 2007-June 2009**

**Upper Primary Multiage Teacher**

* Team taught in the only multiage program in the state
* Vast majority of students in our class graduated at or above grade level in reading

**Past Experience:**

Naperville Community School District, Naperville, IL Substitute teacher August 2006-June 2007

Johnson Elementary, Warrenville, IL, Teacher August 2004-June 2006.

 **Additional Leadership Experience**

**Young Democrats of America (YDA) November 2009-2014**

**Chair, State Presidents Association (Nov 2009-Nov 2011)**

**Vice President of the National Organization (August 2011-August 2013)**

* First woman to ever be elected chair of the State Presidents Organization
* Helped establish and run the High School Leadership Academy which trained hundreds of high schoolers in Democratic politics
* Coordinate with national political leaders and staffers to accomplish goals

**South Dakota Young Democrats April 2009-May 2011**

**Founding State President**

* Raised over $20,000 and hired a full time executive director (SD and CA are the only YDA chapters to have executive directors)
* Our chapters generated over 25,000 knocks and dials (attempted voter contacts) during the 2010 campaign season which was the highest number of any targeted YDA state
* Coordinated nearly 10% of all 2010 knocks and dials in South Dakota for all Democratic candidates

**South Dakota Democratic Party Executive Board April 2009-May 2011**

**Member**

* Successfully led campaign to amend the state party constitution to add a Young Dems representative to the executive board.

**Obama for America Rapid City 2008**

**Volunteer Field Organizer**

* Coordinated a 4,000 piece lit drop on Get Out the Vote weekend
* Led a volunteer trip to Montana to canvass
* Coordinated with the statewide Native Vote Coalition

**Select Honors and Awards**

* Key Note Speaker “*The Building Capacity Workshop”* for engineering education, National Academy for Engineering, March 2015
* Graduated and received full scholarship, **New Organizing Institute LGBT Boot Camp 2010**, cutting edge new-media leadership training
* **2011 Francis Perkins Woman of the Year Award**, Young Democrats of America
* **Kentucky Colonel**, appointed in 2010, a special honor individually granted by the Governor of Kentucky
* Selected **Emcee of McGovern Day Dinner 2009**.