

MEGANFORGRAVE

meganeforgrave@gmail.com | 515.229.1705 | 118 Water St. #122, Des Moines, IA 50309

EXPERIENCE

THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION, Director of Communications | August 2010-Present

- Oversee and implement all communications and marketing initiatives for international hunger-fighting non-profit known as the “Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture,” founded by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr. Norman Borlaug.
- Develop advertising, branding and promotional strategies and materials | Direct all media outreach and public relations and serve as spokesperson | Conceptualize, write, edit, and produce content year-round for print, video, websites and presentations | Coordinate high-level events and special projects including round-the-clock management of World Food Prize weeklong symposium drawing over 1,500 people from 65 countries | Enhance and build external partnerships | Hire and direct freelancers, mentor interns | Research and create exhibit content | Manage websites and social media channels | Develop communications budget and analyze opportunities and results.
- Exceptional interpersonal and communication skills | Passionate and creative with a diligent work ethic | Collaborative | Detail-oriented | Able to juggle numerous high-level demands, prioritize and work under deadlines.

THE IOWA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS, Director of Communications | August 2008-August 2010

- Managed internal and external communications for statewide education organization, its affiliate foundation and partner entities | Developed expertise in crisis communications management during a serious legislative and media investigation, working closely on sensitive information with leadership, the board, members, media and attorneys.
- General responsibilities included marketing, media and public relations, writing, editing, graphic design, website, video direction, event coordination, and legislative briefings, as well as supervising one employee and freelancers.

THE DES MOINES REGISTER, Reporter | May 2003-August 2008

- Lead Education Reporter, Des Moines Public Schools, May 2006-August 2008: Covered Iowa’s largest school district of 31,000 students as well as related statewide education issues | Wrote daily stories ranging from breaking news to trends and features | Organized metro-wide projects with a team of colleagues | Covered general assignment news.
- Education Reporter, Suburban Schools, November 2003-May 2006: Covered seven suburban school districts, three state universities, and Iowa’s teacher licensure board | Sought out and analyzed education trends for the daily newspaper and website | Reported on breaking news and enterprise stories on state and national issues.
- Community Reporter, May-November 2003: Hired as one of two reporters to launch the new Des Moines Register community sections published three times per week. Covered two cities, built our presence in communities, and covered key boards, issues and events.

EDUCATION

DRAKE UNIVERSITY, Des Moines, Iowa | September 1999-May 2003

- B.A. in Journalism, Cum Laude | News Editorial/Internet Major | Political Science Concentration | Spanish Minor
- Study Abroad in Salamanca, Spain, Spring 2001

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Drake University Alumni Executive Roundtable, 2014
- Downtown Des Moines Chamber Member and World Food Prize Representative, 2010-Present
- Des Moines Downtown Chamber Culture Crawl Planning Committee Member, 2014 and 2012
- Des Moines Arts Festival Volunteer, 2013, 2004, 2003
- Everybody Wins! Elementary School Volunteer Reader, 2009-2011
- Drake University Delta Gamma Alumnae Officer, 2006-2011
- Iglesia de las Americas, Volunteer Interpreter and Donor, 2004-08