

Contact

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(LinkedIn)

Top Skills

Agriculture
Agronomy
Research

Whitney Place

Minnesota State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency
St Paul, Minnesota, United States

Summary

Public policy professional working at the intersection of agriculture, food systems, and the environment. Experienced in stakeholder engagement, legislative affairs, and organizational project management.

Experience

USDA Farm Production and Conservation

Minnesota State Executive Director
January 2022 - Present (1 year 8 months)
St Paul, Minnesota, United States

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

11 years 4 months

Assistant Commissioner

September 2018 - Present (5 years)
St. Paul

Oversee the MDA Laboratory, Pesticide & Fertilizer Management, and Plant Protection Divisions and previously oversaw the Agricultural Marketing & Development Division. Administer Minnesota's agricultural statutes through rule writing, program development and implementation, enforcement actions, and federal and local policy coordination.

Director of Government Affairs

February 2016 - September 2018 (2 years 8 months)
Greater Minneapolis-St. Paul Area

Represented the Department and the Board of Animal Health at the Minnesota Legislature. Served as a liaison between MDA, the Board, the Governor's Office, and the Minnesota Legislature to move forward policy and budget goals.

Assistant to the Commissioner

July 2015 - February 2016 (8 months)
Greater Minneapolis-St. Paul Area

Managed correspondence and scheduling for the commissioner of agriculture.

Outreach Coordinator, MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

June 2013 - July 2015 (2 years 2 months)

St. Paul, MN

Coordinated communication and outreach efforts with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Watershed Districts, local organizations and local media including radio and print. Assisted in establishing four pilot watersheds to develop the program. Administered the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program Advisory Committee.

Student Intern

May 2012 - June 2013 (1 year 2 months)

Saint Paul, Minnesota

Administered advisory committee which made recommendations on the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program.

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

Policy Intern

January 2012 - May 2012 (5 months)

Saint Paul, MN

Prepared briefings about legislative hearings, bills, events, and issues for the Governor's policy team.

National Farmers Union (USA)

Government Relations Intern

January 2011 - May 2011 (5 months)

Washington, D.C.

Prepared briefings for government relations staff and organized events including national convention and annual fly-in.

University of Minnesota

Oat Breeding Lab Assistant

January 2008 - January 2011 (3 years 1 month)

Saint Paul, Minnesota

Conducted research on oat crosses for genotypic improvement with a focus on disease resistance.

Education

Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Master of Science: Science, Technology and Environmental Policy, Agricultural and Environmental Policy · (2011 - 2013)

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Bachelor of Science: Applied Plant Science, Agronomy, Agroecology · (2006 - 2010)