

KERRY ARNDT

(b)(6)

Proactive communicator with 15+ years of experience in congressional communications, media relations, and news production—including public affairs programming—paired with a Masters of Public Administration (MPA) with a focus on government.

EXPERIENCE

MARCH 2019 TO PRESENT | WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, U.S. HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Manage communications strategy for largest committee (by membership) in U.S. Congress, with an emphasis on committee-specific policy, committee-led investigations, and substantial legislation.
- Staff, advise, and brief Chairman daily, including via written memos and emails.
- Collaborate with committee's professional staff, as well as House leadership, other members of Democratic caucus, including the Chairman's personal office, on the communications agenda and messaging materials.
- Prepare and distribute messaging materials and speak before Members of Congress and other communications staff on items within the committee's jurisdiction.
- Maintain numerous national and trade reporter relationships, speaking on- and off-the-record to communicate the committee's priorities. Also coordinate regular Chair and staff background briefings for members of the media.
- Assist committee members' personal office staff to execute on proactive messaging in their home districts.
- Maintain working knowledge of issues, agencies, and programs within the Committee's jurisdiction.
- Plan, manage, and execute media conferences in-person, by phone, and virtually; take lead role coordinating Member offices and external organizations. Also coordinate events, op-eds, and press releases.
- Directly manage a Press Secretary, Digital Director, and rotating intern, providing final approval on all messaging materials, including graphics, videos, press releases, and social media content.
- Managed two separate hiring processes involving more than 100 applicants, running a robust application process and counseling the committee staff director on titles and salaries.
- Approve and review budget decisions for committee communications assets.
- Executed a website redesign and implemented a new email marketing platform for committee materials, and spearheaded introduction of committee newsletter.
- Introduced new weekly document to streamline talking points.

APRIL 2015 TO MARCH 2019 | WASHINGTON, D.C.

PRESS SECRETARY, U.S. SENATOR PATTY MURRAY (D-WA)

- Press Secretary for the Senate Assistant Minority Leader and senior senator from Washington state.
- Regularly staffed, briefed, and traveled with Senator in both D.C. and Washington state, including via written memos and emails.
- Maintained working knowledge of issues, agencies, and programs with federal nexus, as well as uniquely Pacific Northwest issues.
- Maintained numerous reporter/editorial board relationships, speaking on- and off-the-record to drive senator's agenda.
- Wrote and prepared communications materials targeted to Washington state and spoke regularly on background to help state and local reporters accurately cover complex federal issues and policies.
- Directly managed a Deputy Press Secretary and worked collaboratively with staff of 90+, including seven-member communications team, to drive narratives, positively affect legislative outcomes, and navigate contentious and/or complicated issues of federal significance.
- Crafted talking points for senator and senator's staff with communication to constituents and advocacy groups.
- Prepared and edited written congressional testimony for U.S. Senate hearings, including hearings for committees on Appropriations and Veterans Affairs.
- On near-daily basis, wrote, edited, and pitched written materials, such as op-eds, press releases, statements, and floor speeches.
- Ensured consistency of voice, message, and style throughout all communications.
- Worked with external organizations to plan, manage, and execute press conferences and events.
- Regularly coordinated the senator's media interviews and video recordings.

OCTOBER 2013 TO APRIL 2015 | WASHINGTON, D.C.

PRESS SECRETARY, U.S. REP. PETER DEFAZIO (D-OR)

- Responsible for managing all press inquiries, and writing statements, talking points, op-eds, newsletters.
- Managed all social media for the congressman, including Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- Developed and maintained professional relationships with members of the media, including national and local outlets.
- Ensured congressman's objectives and issues were portrayed accurately and favorably in the press.
- Long-term duties included developing strategic messaging and creating opportunities for earned media.
- Designed, wrote, and produced newsletter to describe congressman's legislative accomplishments and priorities.
- Used journalism experience to prepare myself and others in the office to anticipate media questions in regular briefings.
- Promoted to become a shared employee (Deputy Communications Director for Minority Staff) when congressman became Ranking Member on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. Assisted with messaging for committee-related issues, with emphasis on social media and website management.

- Also assisted in member services and supervised committee press assistant to rapidly respond during committee hearings.
- Traveled with congressman for in-district media events on transportation issues.

MARCH 2007 TO OCTOBER 2013 | PORTLAND, OR
NEWS PRODUCER, KGW-TV

- Responsible for daily production of evening newscast. Duties included coordinating a staff of producers, writers, reporters, and photographers; played a key role in newsroom editorial decision-making during daily meetings.
- Responsible for communicating changes during newscast and providing direction to on-air talent via IFB as well as director.
- As producer, wrote or oversaw all copy written and delivered during newscast.
- Regularly communicated with reporters throughout the day to provide counsel on stories, both in terms of content and format.
- Synthesized complex issues for public consumption while conducting research and informational interviews.
- Operated under tight deadlines and in a stressful environment, with the ability to maintain effective communication to ensure a clean on-air product.
- Played a leading role in launching a new, hour-long broadcast.

SEPTEMBER 2008 TO OCTOBER 2013 | PORTLAND, OR
SPECIAL PROJECTS PRODUCER/PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM PRODUCER, KGW-TV

- Produced dozens of editions of Oregon's leading public affairs program, featuring extended interviews with Members of Congress, governors, as well as county, city, and community leaders.
- Conducted research and pre-show interviews to prepare on-air host.
- Produced content requiring in-depth knowledge of current issues in politics and policy.
- Produced gubernatorial, congressional, and mayoral debates, as well as election coverage.

NOVEMBER 2012 TO MAY 2013 | PORTLAND, OR
COMMUNICATIONS/POLICY INTERN, OREGON UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

- As part of graduate program internship, worked with Oregon University System to prepare for 2013 Oregon Legislative Session.
- Wrote legislative briefs, talking points, and press releases.
- Incorporated MPA coursework, which focused on public policy analysis, strategic planning, public finance, analytic methods, and organizational development.
- Attended legislative sessions in Salem.

MAY 2004 TO MARCH 2007 | TUCSON, AZ
NEWS PRODUCER, KVOA-TV

- Responsible for daily production of an early evening newscast. Daily duties included directing a staff of producers, writers, reporters, and photographers; played a key role in newsroom editorial decision-making during daily meetings.
- Synthesized complex issues for public consumption while conducting research and informational interviews.
- Operated under tight deadlines with the flexibility to make last minute changes, while maintaining effective communication to ensure a clean on-air product.

- Oversaw the intern program, coordinating schedules and hires for several newsroom interns and helping gain professional experience.

EDUCATION

MAY 2013

MASTERS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MPA), PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Hatfield School of Government

- Core classes include administrative ethics and values, administrative theory and behavior, public policy, administrative law and policy implementation, public budgeting, human resource management, and analytic methods.

MAY 2004

B.A. JOURNALISM, B.A. ENGLISH (DOUBLE MAJOR), UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

HONORS/AWARDS/AFFILIATIONS

- 2012-2013 Award of Achievement, Division of Public Administration, Portland State University
- 2011 Emmy Nominee, "Best Evening Newscast" & "Best News Special"
- Oregon Association of Broadcasters, "2012 Best Public Affairs Program"
- Oregon Association of Broadcasters, "2012 Best Newscast" & "Best Documentary-Serious Subject"
- Senate Press Secretaries Association, former member
- House Committee Communications Directors, member
- Washington Area Bicycle Association, member and volunteer