# COMMUNICATION PROFESSIONAL

# CONTACT



## EDUCATION

#### BACHELOR OF JOURNALISM / BROADCAST NEWS

The University of Texas at Austin 1990 - 1994

> Dean's List / 1992 & 1994 National Dean's List 1992

## EXPERTISE

Media & Public Relations

Crisis Communication

Employee Relations & Recognition

Project & Event Management

Publications & Web Content

**Customer Service** 

Texas Public Information Act

Texas School District Elections

# PROFILE

Effective communication is the engine that drives progress and success. In my career, I have practiced and studied communication from a number of vantages – as a reporter, a spokesperson for two fast-growth school districts, and as the communication director for a state agency. I have celebrated communication successes and managed public relations disasters. I pride myself on exceeding what is expected. I bring to any team a fresh and fun energy, using imagination and skill to achieve goals – no matter the obstacles. I am committed to winning the trust and enthusiasm of all partners and constituencies included in and affected by the organization to which I belong.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### CHIEF COMMUNICATION OFFICER



Hays Consolidated ISD | Kyle, Texas | 2011 - Present

As the CCO, I am responsible for the reputation of a school district with 20,000 students and 2,900 employees at 24 campuses. I serve on the superintendent's cabinet and manage a staff of five.

- Develop and implement the district's external and internal communication strategies, media relations, web content, social media, and crisis messaging
- Manage customer service, community engagement, volunteer activities, and employee recognition
- Administer school district elections and public information requests
- Coordinate School Board community committees to make recommendations regarding major district decisions

#### DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION



Texas Youth Commission | Austin, Texas | 2004 - 2011

Serving in this role for the state juvenile justice agency required working with local, state, national, and international media including newspapers, radio, television, magazines, documentary filmmakers, movie producers, and authors. At the time, the agency was responsible for 6,000 youth and 4,000 employees at 19 facilities.

• Served as official agency spokesperson and collaborated with top agency management, legislative offices, and the Office of the Governor to develop messaging and communication strategies and deliverables.

#### PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD | Schertz, Texas | 2000 - 2004



I was responsible for transforming the communication department into a critical and respected part of the organization. At the time, the district served 7,200 students and 1,000 employees at 12 campuses.

### SKILLS

- - -

MS Office Suite

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Adobe Photoshop & Illustrator

Web Content & Social Media

Photography & Video Production

Writing **Public Speaking Project & Event Organization** \_ **Policy Development** 

## AWARDS

**TEXAS SCHOOL PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSOCIATION STAR AWARDS** Multiple Best in Category, Gold, and Silver Level Winners / 2015 - 2018

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BEST PRACTICE RECOGNITION** Family Bill of Rights / 2012 Youth Handbook / 2010 My Connection Card / 2007

HERO EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH TYC Youth Services Division / 2009

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COINS FOR EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE** Recipient of 7 Coins / 2004 - 2007

> HALL OF HONOR INDUCTEE **SCUCISD / 2006**

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR **SCUCISD / 2002** 

MEDIA PERSON OF THE YEAR Columbus, GA TV Market / 2000

ASSOCIATED PRESS AWARDS Multiple Winners 1998 - 1999

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE | CONTINUED**

#### **SENIOR PUBLIC SAFETY & INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER**

WTVM Television (ABC News Affiliate) | Columbus, Georgia | 1995 - 2000



As an award-winning television reporter with more than 600 stories to my credit, I have a valuable knowledge of how the news media works. Our viewing area included 22 counties in two states.

- Worked under extreme and multiple deadlines to write, shoot, and edit news stories
- Major stories include: 1996 Summer Olympic Games and bombing, media witness to Georgia's last electric chair execution, three hurricanes, troop deployments from Fort Benning army installation, regular coverage of limmy Carter in Plains, the death of George Wallace, and a story with Ladybird Johnson

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS/MARKETING RESEARCH INTERN

Texas Medical Association | Austin, Texas | 1994 - 1995

**PRODUCER, EDITOR, PHOTOGRAPHER (Free-lance)** 

An Interview with James Michener | Austin, Texas | 1994



npr

TexasMedical Association

#### **NEWS ANCHOR/REPORTER**

UT Week in Review on KUT 90.5 FM (NPR Affiliate) | Austin, Texas | 1994

# PROFFSSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

**TEXAS SCHOOL PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSOCIATION** NATIONAL SCHOOL PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION FOR TEXAS PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS

## REFERENCES

**DR. JEREMY LYON** SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS Frisco ISD 469.633.6012 lyonjm1@friscoisd.org

**MICHELLE BARRERA** Hays CISD (retired) 210.269.6171 mbarrera1960@yahoo.com

**DR. BELINDA PUSTKA** SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS SCUCISD (retired) 210.241.6143 bpustka@sunshinecottage.org

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES **AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST** 

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HR**