

G. Dylan Russell

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MPA, Public Policy Minor

BS, Education

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EDUCATION

- The University of North Carolina**, Chapel Hill, NC 2017
Master of Public Administration – Graduate Minor in Public Policy
- Appalachian State University**, Boone, NC 2014
Bachelor of Science in Education – Concentration in Theatre Arts, summa cum laude

WORK EXPERIENCE

- UNC School of Government**, Lead for North Carolina (LFNC's) *September 2018 – Current*
Executive Director and Co-Founder of Lead for America

- Secured \$2,488,000 to support Lead for North Carolina's operations and to provide subsidies to host sites
- Placed 28 college graduates in high-impact local government fellowships across North Carolina, predominately in economically distressed communities
 - Identified and selected a diverse cohort of fellows (60% female, 45% racial / ethnic minority, and 38% first generation college student)
- Managed Lead for North Carolina's annual \$1,000,000 operating budget; ensuring compliance with UNC-Chapel Hill's Office of Sponsored Research
- Created the program's mixed-methods evaluation plan to measure program outcomes and ensure alignment with grant requirements
 - Fellows in our inaugural cohort secured over \$10,000,000 in grants to advance key community initiatives and provided \$1,800,000 in estimated cost savings to participating governments
 - 94% of host sites reported increased capacity within government units because of the program
 - 81% of host sites reported the fellow tackled previously unaddressed, yet critical challenges because of the fellow's work
- Designed LFNC's four-week graduate-level training curriculum in consultation with School of Government faculty and designed and delivered the on-going fellow support curriculum
- Taught courses and presented at conferences on the following topics: grant writing, leadership development, professional communications, sustainable placemaking, strategic partnerships, government to university pipeline, and the state of North Carolina's public institutions
- Managed local government relationships and relationships with partner organizations (NC League of Municipalities, NC Association of County Commissioners, and NC City and County Management Association)
- Led the LFNC Implementation Team (10 faculty/staff members and representatives from four partner organizations) by defining program objectives and ensuring partner integration in working committees

- Department of Health and Human Services**, State Operated Healthcare Facilities *March 2020 – October 2020*
Consultant

- Recruited to provide management support to the Division Director and Deputy Secretary
- Monitored the spread of Covid-19 among patients / residents and staff in the state's 14 healthcare facilities
- Managed external communications announcing transmission of the virus in long-term care facilities
- Conducted a benchmark analysis on the creation of a new chief diversity officer within DHHS for the Secretary
- Worked to secure childcare and funding to support daycare facilities for healthcare staff

- OSBM, Office of Strategic Partnerships**, NC Covid-19 Student Response Corps *April 2020 – August 2020*
Co-Director

- Created the NC Covid-19 Student Response Corps to place 130 students in internships with nonprofit organizations and local government entities
- Recruited host sites and nonprofit organizations to participate in the program in coordination with the NC League of Municipalities, the Rural Center, Governor Cooper's Hometown Strong initiative, and the NC Association of County Commissioners
- Led recruitment efforts with student career professionals from each of the 16 UNC system schools and representatives from private colleges and universities

- Designed the curriculum for an intensive two-day training session for internship participants on the following topics: local government 101, nonprofit 101, public sector communications, organizational theory, research, grant writing, and business process reengineering
- Created a weekly speaker series with public sector leaders including: Secretary Penny, Secretary Hamilton, Mo Green, Director Sprayberry, and local government leaders
- Designed the program's evaluation plan to measure outcomes
 - 94% of host sites reported the intern added capacity to help with critical projects
 - Half of participating organizations had never previously hosted an intern

UNC School of Government, Development Office

June 2017 – August 2018

Donor Relations and Discovery Officer

- Managed prospect management plans to ensure development officers maintain progress cultivating new donors
- Conducted donor research to identify and refer new prospects to the School
- Solicited gift requests from new prospects to the UNC School of Governments
- Initiated the use of customer relation management strategies to create the first MPA Alumni Survey to tailor department communications, streamline event programming, and understand financial giving behaviors
- Created and maintained databases tracking participation and budget information of School events and programs

NC Department of Public Instruction, Financial and Business Services

May 2016 – August 2016

Policy Analyst and Researcher

- Independently conducted three original research projects and reported key findings to the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent
- Provided policy recommendations, legal briefs, reports, and statistical summaries to the State Board of Education and members of the NC General Assembly
- Synthesized data from various perspectives to provide policy recommendations, while developing political acumen and researching sensitive topics for members of the NC General Assembly and State Board of Education

North Carolina Public Schools, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

August 2014 – June 2015

5th Grade English and Language Arts Teacher

- Collaborated with the White House for a “Writing for Social Change” unit, where students worked with policymakers and businesses to make policy recommendations
- Demonstrated ability to work under pressure in a fast paced, deadline-driven environment by preparing lesson plans, modifying instruction based off different learning styles and abilities, and by completing long-term planning
- Assessed student data to inform decision making to optimize learning for various learners

The White House, Presidential Personnel Office

May 2014 – August 2014

Intern, Management Office – Management Analyst

- Conducted research on the talent pipeline in federal agencies from HBCUs
- Facilitated instruction and developed curriculum for training sessions for new presidential appointees
- Conducted a workforce needs assessment across federal agencies to create employee recognition programs to increase employee morale in the federal government
- Assisted in compiling, editing, and drafting White House press releases and memoranda to the President and staff
- Conducted research and vetting reports in Lexis Nexis on candidates for political appointments
- Tracked and monitored team progress regarding minority recruitment and retention in the executive branch

STUDENT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

UNC Graduate and Professional Student Federation, Student Government

December 2015 – April 2017

President of the Graduate and Professional Student Body

- Provided monthly reports, updates, and recommendations to the Board of Trustees and university administrators
- Created an advisory council to advise UNC General Administration and former President Margaret Spellings on graduate and professional student affairs across the UNC System
- Restored \$200,000 of student fees to graduate and professional students after launching a voter-awareness campaign (now used as a blueprint for graduate and professional students to audit fees across the UNC System)
- Managed 25 student leaders and the organization's budget to implement policy initiatives, ensure graduate / professional student representation, and increase programming efforts

Student Body President and Member of the Board of Trustees

- Served as a member of the Board of Trustees, tasked with the responsibility of representing the student body and providing reports to fellow board members
- Directed 12 cabinet members and managed the implementation of various policy initiatives
- Expanded organizational capacity by authoring and receiving over \$20,000 in grants
- Petitioned the State Board of Elections to restore a voting site to Appalachian's campus

CONSULTANT WORK, RESEARCH, AND PUBLICATIONS

- *Supporting Students in Pursuit of Public Service Careers*. EdNC. January 2021.
- *Strengthening the Talent Pipeline to Public Service*. EdNC. January 2021.
- *NC Covid-19 Student Response Corps: Partnerships at Work*. EdNC. December 2020.
- *Free and Appropriate Education for Whom? Understanding the variables that affect a student's likelihood of receiving Section 504 educational services*. NCDPI and UNC Public Policy. May 2017.
- *Charter Schools in Economically Distressed Communities in North Carolina*. UNC Public Policy. March 2017.
- *Implementing Paid Parental Leave across North Carolina's Local Governments*. UNC School of Government. December 2016.
- *NC Teacher Background Checks: Legal and Normative Dimensions of Senate Bill 867*. NCDPI, NCGA, UNC Law. November 2016
- *Section 504: Ensuring Equitable Services for All*. NCDPI, FBS. September 2016.
- *Understanding How Social Media Can Influence Parental Involvement*. NCDPI, FBS. August 2016.
- *Teacher Paperwork: Origins and Impact*. NCDPI, FBS. August 2016.
- *Diversity Barriers Analysis: Creating a Socially Just and Sustainable Workforce*. City of Jacksonville. May 2016.
- *Organizational Management Analysis: The NC Justice Center*. UNC School of Government. May 2016.
- *Conditional Cash Transfers as Social Policy*. UNC Public Policy Department. April 2016.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

- *Strategic Partnerships in Rural Communities*. UNC's Connect-Engage-Transform Conference. January 2020.
- *Strategic Partnerships and Capacity Building in Government*. Institute for Emerging Issues Forum. February 2021.
- *Reforming the Government to University Pipeline through Fellowship Programs*. NCCCMA Manager's Winter Seminar. January 2020.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- UNC-Chapel Hill
 - Robert E. Bryan Public Service Award for creating and managing the Lead for North Carolina fellowship program. Awarded by the Chancellor to a member of the university community who demonstrates "extraordinary public service and engagement." May 2020.
 - Gwendolyn Harrison Distinguished Graduate Student Leader Recipient. May 2017.
 - Frank Porter Graham Graduate and Professional Honor Society Inductee. April 2016.
- Appalachian State University
 - Plemmons Leadership Medallion. Awarded by the Appalachian State University Board of Trustees to an individual in providing leadership that enriches the quality of campus life.
 - Distinguished Student Leader. Awarded by the ASU Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs.
 - John Sanders Student Delegate of the Year. Awarded by the UNC General Administration and the Association of Student Governments.