

Donna Milakovic

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Summary

Collaborative, strengths-based leader creating high-energy, high-performance culture and resilient teams

11+ years: Government affairs, economic development, policy development, contract negotiation, and non-profit management
7+ years: Higher Education administration, outreach programming, and strategic initiatives
8+ years: Teaching: executive education, leadership & culture, undergraduate business
8+ years: Journalism and media communications
6+ years: Grant management for workforce development and technology commercialization

Executive Experience

University of South Florida

Director, Academic Strategic Initiatives

Tampa, FL

Dec 2024 - Present

- Co-Director of the ExCeL Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), leading efforts to integrate experiential learning into the curriculum through the Faculty Champion program and Communities of Practice initiatives
- Provided team leadership for experiential learning programs and large-scale grant initiatives, including a faculty-led five year \$4.8M Mellon Foundation internship grant
- Built and sustained collaborative partnerships with faculty, academic departments, student affairs, and external organizations

Utah Valley University

Executive Education Instructor

Orem, UT

Jan 2022 - Dec 2024

- Instructed C-suite executives, professionals, and state and local public managers in principles of communication, self-knowledge, team dynamics, and strength-based leadership.
- Developed programs including curriculum creation, instructor management, co-teaching, alumni program development, LMS coordination, and budgeting.
- Led industry partnering programs, custom corporate trainings, and retreat facilitation.

Utah Valley University

Senior Director Community Outreach

May 2018 - Jan 2022

Orem, UT

- Led Community Outreach and Economic Development as a divisional leader responsible for digital transformation, technology implementations, industry partnerships, grant supervision, and major construction projects.
- Supervised multiple departments and employees, overseeing performance management, goal setting, career advancement, and recruiting activities.

Utah Science Technology and Research Agency (USTAR)

Director of Outreach

Mar 2015 – Apr 2018

Lindon, UT

- Directed outreach in the Robotics/Automation and Internet of Things and Big Data sectors, targeting technology sectors and regional outreach for three counties.
- Managed a \$3M grant portfolio for experimental and research-based technology commercialization projects.

Profire Energy

Executive Director, Gov Affairs

Nov 2014 – Mar 2015

Orem, UT

- Created the government affairs department for a high-growth technology company in the oil and gas industry.
- Coordinated with international sales to identify emerging markets and opportunities.

Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce

Executive Vice President

Jun 2012-Oct 2014

Provo, UT

- Participated in redesign of financial model, raising the annual budget from \$400K to over \$750K in one year.
- Supervised designated programs, committee coordination, human resources, strategic planning, budgeting, policy and procedure development, contract review, and negotiations.
- Project managed a office move and remodel of county owned spaces to fit mission needs

Lehi Area Chamber of Commerce

President

Jun 2009-May 2012

Lehi, UT

- Led all aspects of Chamber programs and administration, including member services, annual budgeting, recruitment, and events.

Education

Utah Valley University

Masters in Business Administration

Dec 2018

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute of Organizational Management

IOM Certification

Jan 2010 – Jan 2013

Brigham Young University

Bachelor of Arts English

Apr 1998