

MEGAN J. CHRISTENSON

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PROFESSIONAL OVERVIEW

Megan Christenson is a passionate, self-driven professional with experience across a myriad of industries ranging from ecotourism and rural economic development to language access policy and small business operations. With a multidisciplinary background in international management, development economics, and linguistics she is well-equipped to succeed in any given environment. Megan is results-oriented and motivated most by discovering unique solutions to complex global issues such as access to financial services and environmental sustainability.

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- First-hand knowledge of the specific needs and challenges faced by SMEs in the US and abroad
- Successful track record in new business development and client relationship management
- 3 years of experience in start-up environments; comfortable with prolonged ambiguity
- Fluent in social media platforms for enterprise development and B2B / B2C marketing and communications
- Effective project manager with consistent attention to detail
- Educated in corporate best practices for social and environmental sustainability
- Professional, living, and travel experience in over 15 countries across Europe and Latin America
- Excellent communication skills; cross-cultural, written, and verbal
- Fluent in Spanish, working knowledge of German
- Advanced analytical and quantitative skills

SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE

Ecotourism Consultant, Asociación Mangle – San Nicolás, El Salvador

January 2011 – May 2011

- Performed 3-week feasibility study for an income-generating ecotourism cooperative in the Bajo Lempa biosphere
- Collected and analyzed quantitative and qualitative field data from over 100 individuals in 5 target communities
- Delivered short, medium, and long-term strategic recommendations to increase household income by nearly 50%
- Developed and led project planning workshops in each community to help implement short-term recommendations

Marketing/Business Development Associate, Healthcare Language Services, LLC – Chicago, IL

August 2009 – July 2011

- Assisted in securing multi-million dollar contracts with top Chicago hospitals and mitigating competition through innovative marketing platforms, service diversification, and strategic partnering
- Managed social B2B marketing platforms to communicate with stakeholders and promote HLS and its services
- Proactively recruited, hired and trained new talent to double language service offerings and exceed client expectations
- Authored reports on strategic planning for Chicago's foreign language needs, marketing to healthcare administrators, and the growth potential of the national medical interpretation industry
- Streamlined and reduced oversight of company processes to increase workplace productivity
- Edited and designed monthly newsletter for clients and interpreters using Constant Contact ®

Trade Associate, World Trade Center Illinois– Chicago, IL

May 2009 – July 2009

- Prepared reports on trade policy and emerging markets to support WTCI trade initiatives
- Co-authored grants and fundraising initiatives to promote on-going WTCI projects and attract international trade missions to Illinois

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Translator/Admin. Assistant, East Central Illinois Refugee Assistance Center– Urbana, IL

August 2008 – January 2009

- Provided job assistance, immersion mentoring, and social services to local immigrants and refugees
- Translated 50+ legal and government documents from Spanish into English and English into Spanish

Independent Researcher, United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

Vienna, Austria

January 2008 – July 2008

- Conducted independent research and composed an undergraduate thesis on the economic and social effects of UNICTRAL's initiatives and uniform trade law on developing countries.
- Participated in professional workshops organized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations, and the US Institute for Peace.

EDUCATION

The Monterey Institute of International Studies

A Graduate School of Middlebury College – Monterey, CA

August 2010 – present

- MBA Candidate, 2012 – concentration in investment management and emerging markets
- MA International Environmental Policy Candidate, 2012 – concentration in sustainable business solutions

University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign, IL

August 2005 – May 2009

- B.A. in International Studies and Spanish, Cum Laude – concentration in international economics and development

Vienna Business and Economics University – Vienna, Austria

January 2008 – July 2008

- Studied international economics and conducted research with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

University of San Francisco de Quito– Cumbayá, Ecuador

August 2007 – December 2007

- Studied Spanish language, literature and rural sociology in Latin American

MEMBERSHIPS

- Net Impact– Events Chair
- MBA Student Association – Logistics Coordinator for social events, forums, and fundraisers
- Delta Gamma Fraternity, Iota Chapter – alumna

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Megan is a freelance photographer and is proficient in photo / image editing. In her free time, she enjoys traveling off the beaten path, reading, hiking, and yoga.