

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER II

DEFINITION

Implements communication and public information strategies in the identification and coordination of more complex communications and public relations issues in the assigned local district. Develops media strategies designed to inform a broad sector of the public (including internal audiences) on matters of major importance.

TYPICAL DUTIES

- Coordinates and supervises the more complex communications and public relations issues in the local district.
- Formulates and recommends a public relations campaign that will increase public and internal audience awareness and enhance the image for the local district.
- Advises and assists local district administrators, local district personnel, and staff communicating the development and support for local district programs external and internal audiences.
- Serves as a spokesperson for the local district and liaison with the media on behalf of the Local District Superintendents.
- Staffs and briefs the Superintendent at press conferences, school site visits, community meetings, and other public appearances.
- Represents the Local District Superintendents in District-wide meetings to coordinate media strategy.
- Initiates and prepares press releases, position papers, correspondence, reports, feature articles, and related materials for distribution to the press, public and internal audiences.
- Establishes and maintains effective working relationships with newspaper, radio and television personnel, and blog journalists, and personnel from other external and internal agencies and organizations for the purpose of creative positive public relations for the local district.
- Represents the local district and administrative staff in meetings or communications with the public and internal audiences concerning local district policies and administrative procedures.
- Arranges and conducts press conferences, ceremonies, and special events for local district officials and important visitors.
- Initiates and prepares press releases, position papers, correspondence, reports, feature articles, and internal communication deliverables for distribution to the press, public and internal audiences via print, online, video and digital media.
- May deliver timely, clear and consistent communications for internal audiences through a range of channels such as Newsletter, EdMag, E-Bulletin, Blackboard Connect, etc.)
- May develop branding campaign and community-outreach strategies using social media tools.
- May manage advocacy for the organization in social media spaces, including overseeing and participating in the online dialogue through the use of internal and external social media communication sites such as Facebook, You Tube, LinkedIn, blogs, and local district websites.
- May formulate strategic plans to engage the community and businesses to promote philanthropic involvement in public education via social media sponsorships.
- May develop benchmark criteria to measure the effectiveness of social media programs and implement improvements as required.
- May arrange for and conduct in-service programs and make presentations to District employees, students, parent groups, and others.
- May manage parts of the local district website to highlight programs and events.

May conduct photo and video shoots and assist in the managing photo and video resources.
Performs related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS AMONG RELATED CLASSES

A Public Information Officer II plans, develops, supervises, and coordinates the more complex communications and public relations activities of the assigned local district while exercising more independent judgment.

The Chief Communications Officer represents the District in the area of public information and communications, and directs the administration of the Office of Communications.

The Deputy Chief Communications Officer assists in representing the District in the area of public information and communications, and acts as Chief as required.

A Public Information Officer I maintains good public relations by establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with representatives of mass communications media, web blogs, District staff and various other agencies and organizations; visiting officials; and members of the staff; and prepares, processes, and edits, distributes and posts, press releases, media advisories, news statements and additional information as directed.

SUPERVISION

General supervision is received from the Local District Superintendents. Technical direction is received from the Chief Communications Officer or the Deputy Chief Communications Officer. General supervision may be exercised over lower-level communications and media relations personnel.

CLASS QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Effective marketing and communications strategies
- Communications media and its most effective uses, including print, radio, and television
- Appropriate media and media management contacts regarding given issues and circumstances
- Ethnic, cultural, geographic, and socio-economic diversity of the populations served by the District
- Current issues regarding the District
- Organization, operation, and practices of newspaper, radio, television, and other media
- Activities, policies, practices, organization, and protocols of the District
- Fundamentals of writing and editing external and internal communications
- Web and multi-media technologies for use as communication tools
- Local and national educational issues and trends
- Principles of supervision
- Current social media tools, trends, and techniques (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Blogs, etc.)
- Social listening tools such as TweetDeck and Google Alerts
- Microsoft Office and/or Mac OS X applications

Ability to:

- Present information regarding District programs in a proactive and media-sensitive manner
- Communicate effectively with the news media and several publics served by the District
- Effectively write for media distribution and communications campaign proposals

Write clear, concise communications deliverables (messages, articles, brochures, PowerPoint presentations, website posting/management, flyers, etc.) under tight deadlines
Analyze emergent situations and programs and determine public relations value
Develop and maintain effective relationships with news media personnel and management, District divisions, corporate partners, community leaders, administrators, and others
Develop effective media campaigns for both English and non-English speaking populations
Promote and pitch positive stories to news media
Act judiciously under pressure
Supervise and lead effectively
Use current mobile technology efficiently and effectively
Use technology effectively and efficiently
Use tact, discretion and courtesy in communications with all individuals regardless of cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds

ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

Graduation from a recognized college or university with a bachelor's degree in communications, English, public relations, journalism, marketing, or a related field. Additional qualifying experience may substitute for two years of the required education on a year-for-year basis provided that graduation from high school or evidence of equivalent educational proficiency is met.

Experience:

Four years of full-time experience in public information, media liaison, news reporting, feature writing, publicity writing, marketing, or television news and public affairs. Experience as a news reporter is highly preferred. Supervisory or lead experience and political and educational policy communications experience is preferred.

Special:

A valid driver's license to legally operate a motor vehicle in the State of California and use of a motor vehicle.

Fluency in oral and written Spanish is preferable.

The class description is not a complete statement of essential functions, responsibilities, or requirements. Entrance requirements are representative of the minimum level of knowledge, skill, and /or abilities. To the extent permitted by relevant law, management retains the discretion to add or change typical duties of a position at any time, as long as such addition or change is reasonably related to existing duties.

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