SARAH PETERSON

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# EDUCATION

**The University of Texas at Austin** May 2012

B.A., Plan II Honors; *Concentration: Political Communications*

Honors Thesis: United States Health Care Reform: Political Achievement or Failure

Bridging Disciplines Program: Ethics and Leadership Certificate

# RELEVANT COURSEWORK

**Policy Making Process, Archer Program**  Aug 2010 – Dec 2010

* Reviewed the roles of the media, U.S. Congress, U.S. President, and nongovernmental agencies throughout the policy making process
* Developed 60-minute presentation on how health care policy is defined and implemented
* Led classroom panel simulation and debated positive and negative policy components regarding health care reform

**Political Communication, UT Austin**  Jan 2010 – May 2010

• Analyzed breakdown in the International Olympic Committee (IOC) communication function

• Utilized multiple communication theories to improve organization efficiency

• Conducted extensive research and interviews to collect supporting data

* Completed 25-page analysis describing enhancement measures in IOC mock training manual
* Presented training manual and improvement recommendations to mock committee

**RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

### **Liberal Arts Council, UT Austin** Austin, Texas

#### *Vice President* May 2011 - Present

* Increased membership by 150% through effective advertising and public relations efforts
* Recruit guest speakers to discuss community development initiatives
* Supervise eight officers working in the areas of treasury, internal communication, professional networking, and member benefits
* Represent organization at professional functions and serve on university-wide committees

**The Archer Program, UT Austin** Washington, D.C.

*Archer Fellow* Aug 2010 – Dec 2010

* Selected to participate in competitive, rigorous leadership development program and learned how the federal government interacts with internal and external agencies
* Earned 12 credit hours incorporating policy development, advocacy, political theory, economics, and experiential learning

**Anderson Communications**Washington, D.C.

*Research Intern* Aug 2010 – Dec 2010

* Completed 35+hour/week internship requirement for Archer Program
* Researched campaigns in local and state races and compiled the information into research books and searchable CD’s
* Performed legislative research at the U.S. Capitol and synthesized constituent data for Senior Researchers and Campaign Strategists
* Conducted in-person interviews throughout the mid-Atlantic and collected constituent and policy information

# ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

W Hotels, *Front Desk Agent*, Austin, Texas Dec 2009 – July 2010

Chuys, *Server*, Austin, Texas June 2009 – Nov 2009

**LANGUAGES**

Working Knowledge of Arabic and Conversational Spanish