

CT Intern Academy 2013  
Speaker Questions

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1. What do you look for in a resume? Depends on the position, but the three things that I do look for is experience, projects completed/accomplishments and positions held in the area of focus/recruitment
2. What classes do you recommend for students interested in your field? What skills are important to develop? (writing, fiscal analysis, public speaking, etc.) Definitely data analysis and policy work are important. In my world, it is also important to have a grassroots perspective or desire to work with people at the grassroots level. Finally, good interpersonal and writing skills are a plus.
3. What keeps you motivated in your job day-to-day? In three words, a “passion for justice.” That is coupled with a desire to see people and our social system transformed so that as Martin Luther King says that true compassion “understands that an edifice that produces beggars needs restructuring.”
4. Do you work in a constantly changing field and how does that affect your job? I don’t know that the field is constantly changing but, over the years some changes have been made – focusing on an end to homelessness at the federal level without the resources to achieve it and helping people in need when the commitment to provide the state, local and federal resources (as well as the personal trauma that people have experienced) has decreased.
5. What was your career and educational path to your current position? The path was being born and educated in Hartford and securing my BA from Smith College in Northampton MA and my Master of Public Health and Master of Arts in Religion degrees from Yale University. After college, I worked for the American Heart Association and, after graduate school, for the CT Department of Mental Health and a Regional Administrator. From this last position, I became director at Christian Community Action.
6. What risks did you take? The three that come to mind are: going to school, leaving a better paying job to take the one I have, trying new things such as working in an area about which I had no knowledge and taking trips to new places both in the US and abroad.
7. What terms and acronyms do people need to know? ACA, FPL, PCMH (Person Centered Medical Homes), EHR (electronic health records) state agency names, TANF (temporary assistance for needy families) and SNAP (supplemental nutrition assistance program) are the ones that quickly come to mind.

8. What sources of info do you check regularly?

9. What's your best advice to students? What to do and what not to worry about. Learn all that you can. Follow your passion. Expect disappointments. Refocus...focus and act.