

Mary Ellen Sprenkel

Professional Experience

The Corps Network, Washington, DC

President and CEO

April 2014 – Present

Responsibilities:

- Work with Board and Corps Council to develop, revise, and implement the organization's strategic plan, including annual goals and benchmarks;
- Oversee fundraising for and budget of more than \$11 million;
- Supervise 22 staff and 3 consultants;
- Manage 5 federal grants and 3 foundation grants
- Administer national cooperative agreements or MOUs with 5 federal agencies;
- Solicit new grant opportunities;
- Develop new programmatic and funding opportunities for the membership;
- Represent the organization, including 130 members and 25,000 Corpsmembers annually, at a wide variety of venues;
- Oversee annual National Conference, Hill Day; and Day of Service

Accomplishments:

- Built a strong and diverse Board of Directors;
- Developed, with the Board, a new mission statement, strategic plan, and annual goals for the organization;
- Tripled the organization's budget and conference sponsorship;
- Doubled, diversified, and restructured staff for better representation, efficiency and accountability;
- Helped significantly increase federal funding and resources available to the field;
- Secured funding for, developed, and implemented new programs like GulfCorps, the Opportunity Youth Service Initiative, and the Moving Forward Initiative, which is designed to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in conservation and environmental stewardship;
- Oversaw the development and implementation of an official accreditation program for the field;
- Secured funding for and established a department of training and technical assistance;
- Facilitated the passage of the 21st Century Conservation Corps Act and the inclusion of preferential treatment language for Corps in several pieces of legislation

Director of Government Relations

March 2008 – April 2014

Responsibilities:

- Work with Board and membership to establish legislative and administrative priorities;
- Develop and implement a strategic plan designed to achieve such priorities,
- Expand opportunities for Corps outside of traditional issue areas (service and the environment) to include energy, juvenile justice, transportation, and others;

Accomplishments:

- Secured preference for Service and Conservation corps in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and helped member Corps obtain nearly \$75 million in ARRA funding;
- Negotiated the inclusion of Clean Energy Corps and other provisions for Corps in the Serve America Act;
- Successfully advocated for the inclusion of "environmental stewardship" in CNCS' five-year strategic plan;
- Drafted and implemented national partnership agreements between The Corps Network and the Department of Interior and the Forest Service

Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, Washington, DC

January 2001 – February 2003

Legislative Director

- Developed and implemented Congresswoman's legislative agenda
- Defined message and formulated strategy to advance public policy objectives
- Drafted legislative proposals, public statements, briefing memoranda and media releases
- Advised Congresswoman and monitored legislative and policy developments regarding economic issues, education, the environment, labor, transportation, and welfare concerns
- Fostered relationships with national and community advocacy organizations
- Served as public liaison for Congresswoman at events in Washington, D.C. and Congressional District
- Supervised legislative staff and managed constituent communications

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Washington, DC

February 1999 – December 2000

Professional Staff

- Staffed and advised Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, Training, and Life-Long Learning on all education, labor, and welfare issues before the Committee
- Drafted legislation, press releases, and speeches
- Prepared legislative analyses and other official committee documents
- Drafted the Smart Classrooms Act and the IDEA Full Funding Act of 2000
- Negotiated for the Ranking Member and the Hispanic Caucus during reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act, the Welfare-to-Work Act, and the Older Americans Act

Congressman Matthew G. Martinez, Washington, DC

March 1994 – January 1999

Legislative Assistant

- Monitored legislation and formulated legislative initiatives
- Drafted testimony, speeches, and press releases
- Responded to constituent concerns in the following issue areas: education, environment, health care, judiciary, transportation, Social Security, and welfare
- Represented Congressman's interests on several conference committees, including the Workforce Investment Act and the Higher Education Act

Education

Virginia Commonwealth University, Alexandria, VA

Masters of Social Work

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Psychology
