

Winston Salem, NC
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PHILLIP GIBSON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Experienced professional with over 25 years of experience in the non-profit sector. Passionate about improving lung health and preventing lung disease through research, education, and advocacy. Demonstrated success in fundraising and a track record of exceptional community engagement. Skilled communicator with a creative and empathic approach to leadership. Seeking opportunities to make a significant impact and drive positive change in the organization and community.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

JUL, 2012 - PRESENT

North Carolina Radon Coordinator, NC Department of Health and Human Services, Raleigh, NC

- Collect, store, and report activities to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency which funds the NC Radon Program.
- Maintain and report data to the US EPA on matching funds for the NC Radon Program.
- Ensure activities meet or exceed the terms of the grant from the US EPA.
- Serve as the lead in all private and public partnerships involving the development of radon programs and products for the State of North Carolina.
- Developed and implemented strategies to increase public awareness and education about the lung cancer risks of radon exposure in North Carolina
- Developed a coalition and implemented curriculum and educational resources for North Carolina real estate brokers, resulting in an award from the NC Society of Public Health Educators and an invitation by the International Atomic Energy Agency to virtually present to over 200 representatives from 42 countries
- Collected statewide data to evaluate and track the number of homes tested and mitigated for elevated radon levels, utilizing data to inform future programming efforts and continuous development of partnerships to increase awareness and access to educational resources
- Engaged state leadership in accepting radon-induced lung cancer as a priority issue in the strategic goals set forth in the NC Cancer Control Plan
- Engaged state leadership in accepting radon-induced lung cancer as a priority issue in the strategic goals of the NC State Health Improvement Plan.
- Increased statewide awareness of radon by 30 percent over a 4-year period, measured by the NC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.
- Identified and analyzed new research and scientific findings related to radon exposure and incorporated this knowledge into public education materials and program development.
- Developed and implemented statewide strategies to increase awareness of radon and promote radon testing and mitigation.

JUL, 2005 - JUL, 2012

Director of Research and Community Outreach, Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC

- Managed staff and volunteers that operated three programs of the Environmental Leadership Center - a regional weatherization program, a regional radio program, and a regional green building summit.
- Wrote, managed, and reported on multiple research grants involving faculty and students.
- Created and implemented events that served the needs for regional education, opportunities for collaboration, and private and corporate giving.
- Developed and implemented a comprehensive community outreach strategy to promote the college's research initiatives and engage with local stakeholders.
- Developed strategic partnerships with local businesses, government agencies, and community organizations to enhance collaborative research and outreach initiatives.
- Identified and pursued grant opportunities to support research projects and community outreach initiatives.
- Evaluated the effectiveness of community outreach programs and research initiatives through data analysis and reporting, and made recommendations for improvements.
- Identified and cultivated relationships with potential donors and sponsors to secure funding for research projects and community outreach initiatives.
- Coordinated with faculty and staff to ensure research projects are aligned with the college's strategic goals and priorities.
- Coordinated and led interdisciplinary teams to develop innovative research projects that address local community needs and contribute to the college's reputation as a research institution.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2001 - 2004

French Broad Riverkeeper, RiverLink, Asheville, NC

- Provided leadership in the development and implementation of the NC watershed management plan for the French Broad River watershed.
- Principal fundraiser for the French Broad Riverkeeper Program, responsible for meeting and/or exceeding all unrestricted fundraising goals with an emphasis on unrestricted revenue streams.
- Created and implemented events that served the needs for regional education, opportunities for collaboration, and private and corporate giving.
- Provided leadership as a member of environmental, natural resource, and water management committees organized by the City of Asheville, Buncombe County, and other local and State agencies.
- Developed and maintained strong relationships with local stakeholders, including government agencies, community organizations, and industry representatives, to effectively advocate for the protection and restoration of the French Broad River.
- Coordinated and led river volunteer clean-up events in collaboration with local community organizations to maintain the cleanliness and health of the French Broad River.
- Developed and implemented educational programs and initiatives to raise awareness about the importance of water conservation and river health in the French Broad River watershed.
- Regularly evaluated and reported on the progress and impact of the French Broad Riverkeeper Program's activities to key stakeholders including government agencies, community organizations, and donors.

1997 - 2001

Natural Resource Program Manager, Western Carolina University, WNCT, Cullowhee, NC

- Increased awareness of regional environmental issues with a focus on air quality, water quality, and land use management.
- Provided support to the regional board of directors who served as volunteer fundraisers
- Organized and implemented a regional planning conference entitled "Human Health and Environment in the 21st Century" with key national and state leadership including Governor Jim Hunt, Diplomat Jeanette Hyde, and Harvard Professor Paul Epstein.
- Developed and implemented training programs for local governments on land use planning, environmental policies, and the development of local ordinances on a variety of community issues.
- Published the Mountain Home Guide: a resource manual on the role private landowners play in protecting the mountain region of North Carolina.
- Created and administered the "Clearwater Contractor" certification - a statewide training program for earth-moving professionals regarding best practices as well as state, and federal laws, local rules pertaining to wetlands, erosion control, and agency permit guidelines, e.g. Army Corps of Engineers, NC Division of Water Quality, etc.
- Served as member of the human health subcommittee for the Global Climate Change strategy session organized by President Clinton.
- Served as a committee member in a Kettering Foundation exchange on land use policies and practices.
- Appointed by Governor Hunt to serve a 3-year term on the NC Sedimentation Control Commission.
- Represented western NC on the committee to develop the NC Phase II Stormwater Policy.
- Collaborated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and others in developing conservation plans for the promotion of regional native species as well as an exotic invasive species eradication program. This was a continuance of the work I began with the Southern Appalachian Man and Biosphere Cooperative.
- Provided leadership as a member of environmental, natural resource, and water management committees organized by the City of Asheville, Buncombe County, and other local governments. Participated in the development of local policies for land management.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

1995 - 1996

Environmental Planner, Southern Appalachian Man and Biosphere Cooperative, Gatlinburg, Tennessee

The Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere (SAMAB) was a public/private partnership promoting the environmental health and stewardship of natural, economic, and cultural resources in the Southern Appalachians. SAMAB was a UNESCO-affiliated regional cooperative of 12 federal and 3 state agencies. The agencies collaborating to develop landscape management plans include. My work included:

- Development of educational programs, fundraising efforts, conferences, and materials on common environmental and public health issues facing all partner agencies.
- Organized and staffed annual conferences and workshops on land use management strategies
- Organizing and reporting on the development of the Southern Appalachian Assessment and the Southern Appalachian Mountain Initiative
- Awarded funding and collaborated with the U.S. State Department in addressing vector-borne diseases
- Worked with the public/private partnership promoting environmental health and stewardship of natural resources
- Develop and implement programs to promote sustainable land use practices in the Southern Appalachian region.
- Conduct environmental impact assessments and develop mitigation strategies

EDUCATION

1991

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky

DEC, 1991 - MAY, 1999

Master of Science, Geography, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois

Earned an assistantship teaching an undergraduate meteorology course. Obtained an internship with the Sustainable Biosphere Initiative with the Ecological Society of America in Washington, DC.

2003 - 2009

Not Completed, Ph.D., Interdisciplinary Health Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Did not complete degree. I held a 3.7 GPA upon departure. My priorities changed as we decided to adopt a 13-year-old. I completed 35 hours of coursework including 3 courses in Watershed Management; Quantitative Research Concepts; Qualitative Research Concepts; Instruction and Assessment; Grant Proposal Development; Advanced Statistics; Innovative Pedagogy; Ethics in Health and Human Services Profession; and HHS Policy and Politics. Our son completed his degree at UNC-Chapel Hill and is now a graduate student at the University of Louisville.

PREVIOUS VOLUNTEER ROLES

Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation

ADVISORY PANEL MEMBER

Haywood Community College

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, MEMBER

MountainTrue

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, CHAIR

Evergreen Community Charter School

BOARD MEMBER

NC State University Natural Resources Leadership Institute

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CO-CHAIR

North Carolina Sedimentation Control Commission

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MEMBER

North Carolina Academy of Science

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CHAIR OF GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.

E-25 COMMITTEE MEMBER

Jackson County, NC Planning Board

VICE CHAIR