

Laura Emberton Owens

107 Thistle Road
Frankfort, Kentucky
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Home: 502-352-6735

Cell: 502-229-5764

EDUCATION:

1987 - M.A. Organizational Communication
Western Kentucky University

1982 - Area of Specialization in English
and Allied Language Arts
Western Kentucky University

1980 - B.A. Communication
English Minor
Western Kentucky University

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS:

White House Commission on Presidential Scholars (Served at the invitation of both President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

June 2008-
Present

President- Advancement Strategies, LLC

- Assist organizations with strategic planning: establishing a vision, creating an action plan, and implementing measurement tools
- Craft leadership development strategies tailored to meet individual needs
- Provide access to policy-makers, government officials, and legislators
- Present leadership training/keynote speeches

December 2007-
July 2008

Assistant to the President for Regional Development at Western Kentucky University

- Promote regional collaboration to ensure the delivery and utilization of pertinent academic programs
- Assess regional workforce needs and production
- Serve as the President's liaison throughout WKU's twenty-eight county service region
- Work with legislators regarding legislation pertinent to higher education.

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September 2006-
December 2007

Secretary of Education- Commonwealth of Kentucky

- Serve as the Governor's chief education policy advisor
- Coordinate the compilation of the Commonwealth's education budget
- Coordinate the Cabinet's education agenda and strategic plans
- Testify on education policy before the General Assembly
- Collaborate with legislators on education-related legislation
- Approve purchasing, contracting, and establishing of personnel positions within the Cabinet

May 2004-
August 2006

Commissioner-Department for Workforce Investment

- Oversight of four agencies: Office for Employment and Training (Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Perkins, and Wagner Peyser funding, Unemployment Insurance); Office for Career and Technical Education (55 Area Technology Centers); Office of Vocational Rehabilitation; Office for the Blind
- Oversight of each agency's strategic plan compilation and attainment
- Oversight of approximately 2300 employees
- Oversight of approximately 1 billion dollar budget

November 2002-
May 2004

Member, Glasgow City Council

July 2002-
May 2004

Curriculum Coordinator/ Instructional Specialist
Barren County School District

- Evaluate/plan curriculum
- Monitor teacher performance
- Conduct teacher interviews
- Write/edit school-wide publications
- Present district-wide professional development training

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- May 2000-December 2001 Host/Producer Cable telecast *First Tuesday*
- 1997-2004 Writer/Speaker
- Weekly newspaper column
 - Freelance articles
 - Leadership Training
 - Keynote Speeches
- September 1998-
May 2003 Instructor, part-time
Western Kentucky University
- Fundamentals of Public Speaking
 - Business and Professional Speaking
 - English 100
 - English 300
- July 1996-
June 2002 English Department Head
Glasgow High School
- Interview teacher candidates
 - Plan class schedules
 - Analyze and assign English core content to state assessment goals
- July 1992-
June 2002 English Teacher
Glasgow High School
- Instruct basic, advanced, and remedial levels
 - Develop, implement, and monitor curriculum
 - Implement School-to-Work program
 - Develop and present professional development on local and state levels
 - Coordinate building-level professional development
- 1987-1992 Instructor, part-time
Western Kentucky University
- Business and Professional Speaking
 - Fundamentals of Public Speaking
- 1984-1992 English Teacher
Warren Central High School

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1980-1982

Payroll Supervisor
Warren County Board of Education