

Chris Howes

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Qualifications Summary

Accomplished **writer, editor, and communicator** seeking a position that utilizes extensive skills to help fulfill the goals of a mission-based organization. Areas of strength include:

- Exceptional capacity for developing communication strategies
- Proven ability to plan and manage projects of varying scope concurrently
- Understanding of what it means to work with others to accomplish institutional priorities
- Excellent customer-service skills
- Passion for undertaking new opportunities

Core Skills

Editing | Proofreading | Copywriting | Creative Writing | Technical Writing | Concept Clarification |
Project Management | Problem Solving | Workflow Optimization | Time Management | Client Relationship Building

Education

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism

Eastern Illinois University – Charleston, IL

Associate in Applied Science in Photography Technology | High Honors

College of DuPage – Glen Ellyn, IL

Career Experience

Aurora University – Aurora, IL

November 2017 – December 2020

Senior Writing Specialist | August 2019 – December 2020

Provided writing guidance to undergraduate and graduate students, emphasizing critical thinking, brainstorming, and proficiency in grammar, mechanics, and APA and MLA formatting. Strategized methods to foster students' enthusiasm for composition and elevate their communication skills.

Key Achievement:

- Conducted more than 250 one-hour student sessions in a single semester, providing academic support and fostering student success.

Managing Editor | November 2017 – August 2019

Crafted and refined various materials, including website content, press releases, promotional collateral for events, community correspondence, and informative brochures outlining undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degree programs in close collaboration with academic and administrative staff.

Key Achievement:

- Managed *Aurora University Magazine*, with a circulation exceeding 38,000, assuming responsibility for content creation, comprehensive copyediting, and meticulous oversight of the production schedule.

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Chicago Zoological Society (Brookfield Zoo) - Brookfield, IL
Managing Editor | April 2009 - November 2017

June 1993 - November 2017

Acted as project manager, writer, and editor for an extensive range of communication vehicles and initiatives with varying goals, budgets, numbers of clients, and complexities. Managed the process of writing and editing all signs throughout the zoo, including interpretive signs in exhibits, which convey information about animal natural history and conservation initiatives.

Key Achievement:

- Oversaw *Gateways*, a four-color quarterly magazine that served as the main communication resource for approximately 110,000 member households.

Senior Editor/Writer | March 2005 - April 2009

Associate Editor/Writer | June 1993 - March 2005

Additional Experience

VHT Studios - Rosemont, IL
Elite Photographer

February 2024 - Present

Provide photography services to real estate agents during sessions at residential and commercial properties in Chicago's western suburbs, collaborating with them to offer solutions that enhance their online listings. Products include flash-enhanced images, bracketed images, and floor plans.

Key Achievement:

- Photographed the leasing office, business center, workout room, and clubhouse, along with a sample living space, for the ReNew Westmont community.

College of DuPage - Glen Ellyn, IL

June 2022 - Present

Photography Tutor and Teacher's Assistant

Mentor College of DuPage photography students in essential topics encompassing fundamentals, lighting techniques, portraiture, historical context, film photography, studio practices, architectural photography, and proficiency in Adobe software, including Photoshop and Lightroom.

Key Achievement:

- Conducted more than 800 monthly sessions with students.

Photographer's Assistant | Chicago, IL, and Western Suburbs

Argonne Associate | Argonne National Laboratory - Lemont, IL

Managing Editor | Chemical Processing Magazine, Putman Publishing Company - Chicago, IL

Managing Editor / Associate Editor / Assistant Editor | Boxboard Containers Magazine, Maclean Hunter Publishing Company - Chicago, IL