

ANDY SPEARS, Ph.D.

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OVERVIEW:

Andy combines the knowledge of a **Ph.D. in Public Administration** with hands-on professional experience at both the **local and state government** levels. His work includes assignments in **management, public affairs**, and university **teaching**. Whether it's providing **leadership for a state agency** or managing **a growing statewide non-profit**, Andy brings a commitment to hard work that results in excellence to whatever challenge is before him.

EXPERIENCE:

President, Spears Strategy – Public Affairs Firm

2012-present

Accomplishments:

Advise clients on advancement of social emotional learning strategies

Advocate for access to high quality early education

Build coalitions to protect and defend public education

Co-founder of Tennessee Education Report, an online journal of education policy

Named a "Best of Nashville" Political Blog in 2013, 2014, 2016

Executive Director, Tennessee Citizen Action

2015-present

Accomplishments:

Manage budget for statewide non-profit issue advocacy group

Assist borrowers in low-dollar lending space

Advocate for consumer-friendly payday lending laws

Outreach to communities impacted by high-cost, low dollar loans

Recruit and train volunteers and contract employees

Director of Government & External Affairs, Tennessee 911 Board

2010-2013

Accomplishments:

Developed and executed media relations strategy for launch of first-in-the nation

"Next Generation 911" project

Developed and executed public affairs strategy for \$60 million regulatory agency

Developed and managed crisis communication plans

Director of Policy & Outreach, Tennessee Stand for Children

2007-2009

Accomplishments:

Expanded organizational presence into three new cities within eight months

Crafted broad, state-level issue agenda and achieved legislative adoption

Focused on Pre-K expansion and increased BEP funding

Press Secretary, Tennessee State Senate

2003-2007

Accomplishments:

Initiated weekly press conferences

Created personalized communication plans for 16 Senators

Developed comprehensive constituent outreach program

Communications/Research Director, Fletcher & Rowley Consulting

2000-2002

Accomplishments:

Consulted on eight winning campaigns in 2000

Developed in-house policy research program

Legislative Assistant, City of Bowling Green, Office of the Mayor

1999-2000

Accomplishments:

Managed Mayor's Office in Kentucky's 4th largest city

Coordinated Sister Cities high school exchange student program

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. Public Administration

Tennessee State University

M.A. Communication

Western Kentucky University

B.A. Government and Communication

Western Kentucky University

TEACHING:

Western Kentucky University, 1998-2000

Adjunct Instructor, Public Speaking

Debate Coach, 1997-1999

Debate teams won national titles in 1998 and 1999

Belmont University, 2000-2005

Adjunct Instructor, Public Speaking

Debate Coach

Debate teams won state titles in 2003, 2004, 2005

Tennessee State University, 2008-Present

Adjunct Instructor, Public Administration

Southern New Hampshire University, 2014-2016

**Adjunct Instructor and Subject Matter Expert,
Government/Politics**

Merrol Hyde Magnet School, 2003-2015

Volunteer Speech/Debate Coach

Coached high school students in public speaking and debate

Attended 6-10 tournaments per year

Coached several state champions and national qualifiers

**PUBLICATIONS/
PRESENTATIONS:**

“Building Community Support for Public Schools”

Tennessee School Boards Association, 2015

**“School Funding and Student Achievement: Lessons Learned from
Kentucky and Tennessee”**

Springer Briefs in Political Science, 2015

“Tennessee Thunderdome: A Look at the Achievement School District”

Edushyster.com, 2014

“Tale of the NAEP”

Nashville Scene, 2013

“Early Education Advocacy”

Tennessee Alliance for Early Education, 2007, 2008, 2009