

Patricia (Patti) Mulligan

Communications Director

Genetic Engineering and Society Center, NC State University

Raleigh, North Carolina

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Professional Summary

Strategic communications leader with more than eight years at NC State University supporting a nationally recognized interdisciplinary research center at the intersection of biotechnology, policy, ethics, and society. Experienced in public engagement, external affairs, reputational risk management, and translating complex research for public, policy, and professional audiences. Trusted advisor to leadership and faculty with a track record of building durable communications systems and advancing institutional visibility.

Professional Experience

Communications Director (SHRA Advanced)

Genetic Engineering and Society Center, NC State University | April 2017 – Present

- Lead strategic communications, public engagement, and external affairs for a nationally recognized interdisciplinary research center.
- Advise Center leadership and faculty on messaging, positioning, and reputational risk for politically and socially contested research.
- Oversee the Center's communications ecosystem, including website, newsletter, reports, social media, multimedia content, and public events.
- Plan and promote approximately 20–30 public events annually, including hybrid lectures, workshops, and exhibitions.
- Cumulatively reached an 6,000+ participants through public initiatives and convenings.
- Provide communications leadership for large, externally funded initiatives totaling \$30M+.
- Develop repeatable workflows, documentation, and digital tools that support continuity, efficiency, and institutional knowledge.
- Mentor graduate students and early-career researchers in public-facing academic communication.
- Serve as a member of the GES Center Executive Committee.

Operations Director, 2016 Coordinated Campaign

North Carolina Democratic Party | 2016 – 2017

- Directed statewide campaign operations for a large, complex, and time-sensitive political organization.
- Managed cross-functional teams, logistics, and operational infrastructure under high-pressure conditions.
- Coordinated with national and state partners to support voter engagement and field operations.

Director of eGiving

United Way of the Greater Triangle | 2006-2011, 2014-2016

- Led digital fundraising strategy and implementation for a regional nonprofit organization.
- Managed donor-facing platforms, online campaigns, and partnerships with corporate and community stakeholders.
- Improved digital engagement and operational efficiency through systems-building and process improvement.

Community Outreach Director

NC Partnership for Children/Wake County SmartStart | 2012-2014

- Led digital fundraising strategy and implementation for a regional nonprofit organization.
- Managed donor-facing platforms, online campaigns, and partnerships with corporate and community stakeholders.
- Improved digital engagement and operational efficiency through systems-building and process improvement.

Awards and Recognition

- NC State Chancellor's Award for Excellence (2020)
 - University's highest honor for non-faculty employees, recognizing sustained impact and exceptional service.

Key Skills and Expertise

Strategic Communications • Public Engagement • External Affairs • Science Communication • Reputational Risk Management • Digital Strategy • Event Planning • Grant Communications • Leadership Advising • Systems Building • Cross-Sector Collaboration

Education

Political Science, North Carolina State University, 1995-1999