

AARON D. OLVER

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Interim Director of Economic Development

February 2010 – Present; City of Madison, Madison, Wisconsin

- Six month appointment to manage Madison's economic development efforts

Secretary of Commerce

April 2010 – January 2011; Wisconsin Department of Commerce, Madison, Wisconsin

- Led State Agency with 402 employees and \$183 million annual budget devoted to business attraction, retention, and creation
- Managed over \$1 billion of public resources including grant, loan, CDBG, tax credit, and bonding programs
- Advised Governor on strategy, planning, policy, and management issues in all Commerce areas
- Articulated Wisconsin's vision to public, legislature, and media

Deputy Secretary of Commerce

February 2007–April 2010; Wisconsin Department of Commerce, Madison, Wisconsin

- Responsible for day-to-day operations of Commerce with 10 direct reports and a span of control over 402 employees and \$183 million budget
- Led strategic projects including: budget development, overhauling state programs, implementing new federally-funded programs, overseeing administrative code development, streamlining Commerce business functions
- Negotiated critical economic and community development deals
- Supervised programmatic areas and made decisions or recommendations on grants, loans, financial assistance, regulatory policy, and enforcement actions
- Managed Commerce's budget, personnel, and IT functions

Senior Advisor to the Transition

November 2006 – February 2007; Office of Governor Doyle, Madison, Wisconsin

- Identified, interviewed, screened, and recruited diverse talented individuals for leadership positions during the Governor's second term
- One of four managers selected by the Governor to scout talent for the cabinet and other senior positions in his second term

Executive Assistant (Executive Appointment)

January 2003 – August 2006; Wisconsin Department of Commerce, Madison, Wisconsin

- Responsible for Governor's economic development planning and strategy development
- Led interagency team that developed Governor Doyle's *Grow Wisconsin* economic development strategic plan and message
- Responsible for Commerce's relationships with media, legislature, and public stakeholders
- Managed analysts to track and analyze economic data for Governor and Secretary

- Helped develop, negotiate, and implement new legislation, most notably Act 255

Policy Director

November 2002 – January 2003; Governor-Elect Doyle's Transition Team, Madison, Wisconsin

- Created and managed two-month transition program to assess issues facing cabinet agencies
- Briefed incoming cabinet appointees on agency issues
- Managed four public advisory boards to collect policy input

Management Consultant

January 2002 – November 2002; Self-employed, Madison, WI

- Developed strategies and research-backed analysis for senior executives
- Devised growth strategies for businesses
- Wrote pricing strategy handbook

Management Consultant (Associate)

October 1999 – January 2002; McKinsey & Company, Chicago, Illinois

- Conducted research and data analysis to help senior executive craft strategies to address problems facing their organizations
- Managed research staff, business analysts, junior associates, client team members, and graphic artists
- Designed and presented PowerPoint decks to executives
- Served pharmaceutical, chemical, financial, venture capital, government, and nonprofit clients
- Helped develop economic strategy for City of Chicago

Legislative Analyst

January 1997 – September 1997; Wisconsin State Senate, Madison, Wisconsin

- Staffed Joint Committee on Finance during FY98-99 budget cycle
- Drafted daily briefing memo on Joint Committee on Finance proceedings

EDUCATION

1997 – 1999 Oxford University Oxford, England

BA (MA pending) – Honour School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

- Rhodes Scholarship

1992 - 1997 University of Wisconsin - Madison Madison, WI

BA – Economics (Mathematical Option) with Honors

- Phi Beta Kappa
- Senior Honors Thesis on Role of Skill in Econometric Explanations of Labor Market Inequality

RECENT HONORS & ACTIVITIES

Forty Under Forty - In Business Magazine; Friend of UW Extension Award; UW Pathways to Excellence Advisory Board; UW – Madison Honors Program Anniversary Speaker