

## **ALYSSA MARIE VELIQUETTE**

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**Country of Birth:** United States of America

### **EDUCATION**

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**Master of Science in Human Rights and Multiculturalism** **August 2016 – Present**  
*Høgskolen i Sørøst-Norge | Drammen, Norway*

**Bachelor of Arts in Social Work** **August 2013 – May 2016**  
*Cornerstone University | Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA*

### **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' UNION (ISU) EXPERIENCE**

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**ISU Drammen** **September 2016 – Present**

*Secretary General | Drammen, Norway*

- ❖ Developed an event “Human Rights in a Challenging Environment” presented by the Deputy Chief of Mission for the Israeli Embassy, Dan Poraz, through collaborating with the Public Diplomacy office
- ❖ Coordinated with the local newspaper, Drammens Tidende, to develop an article about international students perceptions of studying in Drammen
- ❖ Communicate with the Advisor of International Relations and the Student Chaplain at HSN Campus Drammen to further develop services offered to international students
- ❖ Assist in the development of and follow through of events
- ❖ Provide admin services for ISU Drammen including keeping of meeting minutes, developing event summaries, and responding to ISU Drammen e-mails in a timely manner

**ISU Norway Political Committee** **November 2016 – Present**

*Committee Member | Oslo, Norway*

- ❖ Follow political parties proposals that pertain to international students and internationalization of education
- ❖ Collaborate with four other international students across Norway to discuss political issues relevant to international students

**ISU Norway / Embassy Partnership Meeting** **February 2017**

*Presenter | Oslo, Norway*

- ❖ Presented my experiences as an international student to seventeen embassies, SiU and ANSA
- ❖ Developed a local branch partnership with some of the attendees and, as a result, coordinated an event “Human Rights in a Challenging Environment” with the Israeli Embassy

**ISU Norway State Budget Working Group** **August 2016 – October 2016**

*Working Group Committee Member | Oslo, Norway*

- ❖ Examined the Norwegian State Budget 2016-2017 for issues relating to international students in higher education in Norway and internationalization of education in Norway
- ❖ Assisted in preparing an article which was published on behalf of ISU Norway which stated our position on issues presented in the Norwegian State Budget 2016-2017

## **LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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### **Great Lakes Diabetes Charity**

**May 2009 – Present**

*Co-founder & President | Michigan, USA*

- ❖ Provide educational, age-appropriate diabetes trainings within the community
- ❖ Organize fundraising and awareness events and promote events by appearing on local radio stations and writing press releases for local newspapers
- ❖ Create partnerships with like-minded organizations to provide better services

### **Miss Greater Grand Rapids 2015**

**November 2014 – September 2015**

*Miss America Organization | Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA*

- ❖ Interview and public speaking experience both onstage, on radio, and on television
- ❖ Served at community events at developed partnerships with many community organizations including the Special Olympics, Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, Children's Miracle Network and the American Diabetes Association
- ❖ Provided educational trainings within primary education classrooms

### **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation**

**November 2014 – January 2015**

*Event Spokesperson | Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA*

- ❖ Advertised for JDRF Great Lakes Michigan West Chapter's Annual Promise Celebration Gala on television (Fox17 Morning Mix) and radio (TALK 1230 WTKG)
- ❖ Filmed promotional videos leading up to the event
- ❖ Presented at an annual VIP donor event

## **POLITICAL ADVOCACY EXPERIENCE**

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### **State of Michigan Advocacy**

- ❖ Shadowed State Representative for the 105<sup>th</sup> District, Triston Cole, accompanied him on the floor of the House of Representatives while the House was in session, provided my knowledge of child welfare from experience in working in the field, and advocated for further policy development in the State of Michigan to combat human trafficking as it has been ranked the second highest human trafficking state in the USA
- ❖ Further developed my knowledge of political advocacy through various conferences and seminars including: Northern Michigan Human Trafficking Awareness Summit (23.10.15); Developing a Social Work Response to Racism, Hate Crimes, and Police Use of Force (08.10.15); Organizing and Public Policy Advocacy – Alexia Salvatierra (12.04.14); Youth Advisory Council Grant Writing Seminar (2013)

### **International Advocacy**

- ❖ Norway: Member of Redd Barna Local Advocacy Group in Oslo designed to advocate for the needs of children within Norway addressing issues such as child poverty and ensuring that teachers have access to information on how to handle child disclosure of abuse
- ❖ Ethiopia: Co-authored and edited a grant proposal to obtain resources to purchase food support for those impacted by the 2016 famine in Ethiopia via Bethany Christian Services Ethiopia

## **CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCE**

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- ❖ Experienced cross-cultural communicator based on experience traveling in North America, South America, Asia, Europe, and Africa
- ❖ Assist in arranging and coordinating biweekly events for unaccompanied minors at a refugee reception center in Norway
- ❖ Studying Norwegian (A2) at the Introduksjonssenteret in Drammen
- ❖ Lived, interned, and studied from three months in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- ❖ Tutored refugees from Burma in English as a second language