PRISCYLLA BENTO, M.P.A.

EDUCATION

PhD – Urban Planning and Public Policy
University of Texas at Arlington; Arlington, Texas - Current

Master of Public Administration
University of Texas at Arlington; Arlington, Texas –2013

Bachelor of Arts in History Pre-Law, Political Science, French (triple major)
University of Texas at Arlington; Arlington, Texas – 2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of North Texas at Dallas   **Dallas, TX**   2016-Present
Adjunct Faculty

- Serve as professor of Political Science, planning course formats and implementing learning objectives while utilizing the collaborative learning process.
- Courses cover full range of undergraduate Political Science materials, including fundamental concepts of Federal and Texas Government.
- Contributes to the evaluation of the instructional process and utilizes strategies to continually improve learning.

Dallas County Community College District   **Dallas, TX**   2015-Present
Eastfield College – Adjunct Professor

- Serve as professor of Government in regular, dual credit, and online course formats, with courses covering materials in both federal and Texas government.
- Design and implement course curriculum and structure. Assess student progress, provide guidance, and deliver assistance in comprehension of materials.
- Prepare coursework, lessons, and develop teaching strategies to engage students in an interactive learning process.
- Certified by the Dallas County Community College District to teach online college courses.

Garland Independent School District   **Garland, TX**   2013-2014
Williams Elementary School – Bilingual Aide

- Designed evaluation instruments to gauge instructional effectiveness of learning in classrooms with non- or limited English proficient students.
- Worked directly with 200 students, grades K thru 5th, in subject areas such as, reading, math, language development, social studies, art, ethnic studies, music, and physical education to enrich, review and reinforce the instructional program; translate as needed into the students' native language.
- Wrote simple instruction guides for classroom management and bilingual educational teaching methods.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Texas at Arlington   **Arlington, TX**   2016
Institute of Urban Studies – Graduate Research Assistant

- Conduct revitalization project for the Dallas Fair Park and surrounding community.
- Prepare strategic analysis and comprehensive plan, producing architectural and economic development approach for the Dallas Fair Park.
- Organize neighborhood engagement and community development research, detailing best practices for the area's improvement and growth

U.S. House of Representatives   **Washington, D.C.**   2015
Office of Congressman Marc Veasey – Congressional Fellow

- Developed and advanced legislative initiatives utilizing legislative research and analysis for bills such as the reintroduction of the Notario Victim Relief Act.
- Attended policy briefings handling a diverse portfolio of policy issues including international affairs, immigration, education and environment.
- House Learning Center Certificate of Completion in: Legislative Research – LIS and ProQuest, House Research Tools, and Excel Manipulating Data.

City of Dallas   **Dallas, TX**   2014-2015
Office of the City Secretary – City Council Support and Departmental Internal Support

- Provided service to Dallas City Council Members and researched requests from city departments regarding inquiries over various city services.
- Attended all City Council Committee meetings and other related activities; provided meeting support and maintained Council attendance.
- Administered and managed the City Secretary's Office database for the City of Dallas Boards & Commissions, City Resolutions & Ordinances and City Administrative Actions.
- Provided internal support to 44 city departments including city council, city attorneys, and city auditors with service requests regarding official documentation such as city resolutions, ordinances, and administrative actions.

City of Dallas   **Dallas, TX**   2012-2013
Office of the Mayor – Intern

- Performed research and data analysis, prepared reports and made recommendations to Chief of Staff.
- Researched priority city projects and provided feedback on topics such as Public Safety and Education.
- GrowSouth: Mayor Mike Rawlings's Southern Dallas economic development plan. Planned outreach and effective interaction such as the High School Leadership Program. Authored briefings and speeches, created program evaluation and assisted in the development of strategic planning.
- Dallas Men Against Abuse: Mayor Mike Rawlings's rally for Dallas men to end physical abuse. Assisted in the drafting and distribution of flyers, newsletters, and informational data on the rally. The event was able to draw out over 4,000 people March 23rd, 2013 and pledge over 20,000 people to stand against abuse.

Peoplefund   **Dallas, TX**   2012
Lending Assistant – Intern

- Implemented marketing strategies, outreach activities to media and public relations related to community partners and prospective clients.

- Successfully targeted market of minorities, women, veterans, and businesses in low-income areas with 89% of loans approved.
- Analyzed research data including grant related research/applications; proposed recommendations along with processing and upkeep of clients.

HONORS

City of Dallas Reinvestment Zone 18 Maple/Mockingbird TIF Board   *2015 – Present*
> Appointed board member by the Dallas City Council

The University of Texas System - Archer Center Graduate Program in Public Policy   *2015*
> Competitively selected as an Archer Fellow from across The University of Texas System for a Washington, D.C., internship and academic fellowship program

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board   *2014*
> University of Texas Arlington student nominee for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Rotary Group Study Exchange Program   *2013*
> Selected for a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for businesspeople and professionals in the early stages of their careers

CERTIFICATIONS

Chief Administrative Office (CAO) - House Learning Center
- Certificates of Completion in
  - Legislative Research – LIS and ProQuest
  - House Research Tools
  - Excel Manipulating Data

Dallas County Community College District
- Online Teaching Certification

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Community and Economic Development
- Evaluation Research
- Urban Research and Analysis
- Strategic Economic Development
- Quantitative/Qualitative Research and Analysis
- Public Capital Budgeting
- Urban Planning
- Training in Localization and Translation
- Training in instruction of Second Language Acquisition (SLA)

LANGUAGES

Fluent in: English, Portuguese, and Spanish
Intermediate in: French

RESEARCH & PROJECTS

Fall 2013: Masters Student - Team Member

Capital Improvement & Performance Measurement Methods
Part I
- Provided performance measurement methods for use by the City of Garland to analyze the inputs, outputs and outcomes of the Capital Improvement Program adopted.

- Steps included:
  - Review of the Capital Improvement Plan for the City of Garland and determining of projects within the Parks and Economic Development area that would require performance measures.
  - Development of client-approved list with specified qualitative and quantitative performance measures established.

Part II
- Conducted a survey of all cities in the State of Texas, with a population of 50,000 or more, requesting information on Capital Improvement Programs and whether Performance Measurements are conducted for programs.
- Steps included:
  - Development of contact information for the 70 Budget Directors in Texas Cities who have a population greater than 50,000.
  - Creation and distribution of survey, consisting of 20-25 questions, concerning whether the cities have an operating and capital budget and if they use performance measures for projects within their CIP.

Final Project Deliverables
- Project Report
- Presentation Materials
- Survey Analysis
- Performance Measures for City of Garland

Fall 2015: PhD Student - Team Member

Cadillac Heights Community Development Strategic Plan
A collaboration between the Department of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) and Terra Shelter Inc. to develop a Community Development Strategic Plan for Cadillac Heights.
- Faculty and students of the Nonprofit Organizations in Public Policy class facilitated visioning exercise with community members, which resulted in the identification of the most critical issues facing the neighborhood. Primary parts of this Plan – strategic issues, goals and objectives, are based on community feedback.
- Plan discussed the four strategic issues identified by the community members of the Cadillac Heights neighborhood:
  - Economic Revitalization
  - Infrastructure Development
  - Social Revitalization
  - Environmental Awareness
- Final Plan outlined the 2015 Community Development Strategic Plan intended on revitalizing Cadillac Heights. Entailing the following:
  - An introduction to the strategic planning process and its execution.
  - Data summarizing the community's various objectives
  - Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis (SWOT)
  - Strategic issues and corresponding objectives formulated from data collected at the visioning meeting.

Spring 2016: Graduate Research Assistant

Fair Park Reinvigoration Plan
The Institute of Urban Studies and researchers engaged with community leaders and Fair Park tenants while exploring national best practices to ensure their commitment to shaping sustainable urban communities.

- The team examined the stakeholder group's own unique set of priorities within the context of proven approaches that have worked in other cities
- Work focused on four broad areas:
  o Improving neighborhood connectivity with Fair Park
  o Creating a world-class urban park with year-round programming
  o Recommending new uses for the mostly vacant historic buildings
  o Imagining a better State Fair within a reconfigured footprint.
- Other components of the proposal include:
  o New ticket packaging process, which would allow easier access to venues by visitors and a more efficient way of tracking attendance by the State Fair and other venues;
  o Extensive greening of Fair Park, including a variety of gardens;
  o Attracting research consortia and other educational and cultural entities to occupy the historic buildings;
  o Creating an innovation and education hub that would fuse art and technology
  o Providing year-round multigenerational programming and events.