

# Taruni Donti, MSPH

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Health communications specialist with expertise in behavior change, creative storytelling, and health literacy. Skilled in managing multiple projects, strategic communications, collaborating with diverse teams, and innovating new ways to promote healthy behaviors.

## RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

### Photographer

Jan 2022-Present

- Photograph community members for headshots, graduation photos, personal portraits, events, and concerts.
- Handle scheduling and communication with clients, promoting a fun and welcoming environment.
- Ensure a smooth post-processing workflow and edit with Adobe Lightroom.

### United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Jan-Sept 2023

Malaria Communications and Public Affairs Intern for U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI)

- Developed strategic communications plan based on PMI goals and priorities and USAID brand guidelines.
- Created social media calendars and drafted content in English, French, and Portuguese using Canva and Microsoft Office for key events, report releases, blog posts, and more for PMI HQ and 30 partner countries.
- Created content for X and helped gain 400+ X followers, increasing profile visits and tweet impressions to promote PMI's work.
- Aided media relations strategy by reviewing speeches and press releases, drafting talking points and key messages, and creating PowerPoints for Congress to secure PMI funding.
- Collaborated with technical and comms teams to pitch ideas, draft, and publish blog posts on pmi.gov, Exposure, and Medium websites to advertise health successes and stories.
- Created and distributed newsletters using GovDelivery to share new content with 87K+ PMI subscribers.
- Suggested updates to PMI CDC reports to follow Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility best practices.

### Mountains to Mountains Film Festival

Jan-Sept 2023

Co-Founder and Project Lead

- Collaborated with professors to create a new annual social media film festival which explores well-being concepts among Generation Z college film students.
- Created grant report discussing well-being, relevance of film, festival activities, and timeline to secure funding and share with stakeholders and successfully secured \$10,000 in funding.

### PCI Media Impact

July 2022-Jan 2023

Media Programs Intern

- Collaborated with subject matter experts, and creatives to research, plan, and implement entertainment products worldwide to promote behavior change.
- Drafted a social media package for the UNICEF Spotlight Initiative in the Caribbean to empower women and girls and prevent gender-based violence.
- Reviewed scripts, casting submissions, and video cuts for the Juvenile Justice Innovation and Impact Network (JJIIN) project to improve sexual health education among youth in the juvenile justice system in New Mexico.
- Conducted literature reviews and interviewed experts to create research reports and proposals for new projects on family planning in Zimbabwe and gender-based violence prevention in rural Honduras.
- Searched for new projects and helped develop Request for Proposals to attract new clients.

### Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

July-Oct 2022

Researcher

- Took notes and provided support for discussion groups with adolescents, parents, and adults (Black, white, and Hispanic) who are vaccine hesitant to hear critiques on health animations intended for these audiences.
- Helped create videos for the <https://covid.letstalkshots.com/> website to increase COVID-19 vaccination rates.
- Completed a rigorous quality assurance for all 100+ videos uploaded to the website.

## OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

### Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Oct-Dec 2022

Teacher's Assistant for Health Literacy: Challenges and Strategies for Effective Communication

- Graded assignments and provided feedback on health literacy principles, including projects related to analyzing websites, exploring hospitals, and creating health brochures.

### AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), National Service Program

Oct 2020-June 2021

Team Member, Assistant Team Leader

- Selected to serve on a team of eight people and worked for various organizations (e.g., Habitat for Humanity, YMCA, LA Food Bank...) full-time in California, Montana, and Utah.
- Communicated directly with division supervisor, collaborated with team leader on logistical issues, and supported team as Assistant Team Leader at Yolo Food Bank (Sacramento, CA).
- Packed over 260,000 lbs. of food at Yolo Food Bank and LA Regional Food Bank to fulfill increased number of orders for low-income seniors and children due to food insecurity exacerbated by pandemic.
- Collaborated with nurses, paramedics, fire department, and Federal Emergency Management Agency to manage 5 mobile sites and offer 250 COVID-19 vaccinations daily to low-income communities in Los Angeles.
- Mentored paramedics and other staff to document vaccine process and record patients using My Turn system.
- Helped patients complete paperwork even with a language barrier (Spanish, Korean, Mandarin).
- Facilitated conflict resolution and communication among team members.

### Dermatology Lab, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Feb 2019-May 2020

Researcher

- Completed honors distinction thesis manuscript on role of mutant p53 in initiating melanoma, a skin cancer.
- Handled hundreds of mice, measured visible tumor growth, and performed necropsies.
- Recorded and analyzed data and created graphical displays to communicate results to other lab members.
- Managed social media for the Colorado Melanoma Foundation and raised awareness of skin cancer with local communities (May 2019).

### Credo Espoir, Literature and Art Magazine

May 2017-July 2021

Co-Founder, Chief Editor, Social Media Manager

- Managed and published 7 well-received issues of original poetry, prose, and visual art from global contributors.
- Forged connections between established and emerging creatives through social media management.
- Collaborated in website creation and management to advertise submission periods, new blog posts, and keep information timely and accurate.

## EDUCATION

### Master of Science in Public Health, Health Education & Health Communication

Jan 2023

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

### Bachelor of Science, Molecular Biology; Minors: International Studies, Chemistry

June 2020

University of Denver

## PUBLICATIONS, EXHIBITIONS, & AWARDS

- Denver Art Museum Photography Exhibition, Nov 2021 – Feb 2022
- Congressional Award, 2021, for volunteering and leadership during the AmeriCorps NCCC program
- 2020 Featured Photographer in the Vicki Myhren Gallery

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Professional Writing and Editing
- Social Media (IG, FB, X) and Management Tools (Hootsuite)
- Website Content Management (WordPress, Wix)
- Photography and Editing (Adobe Lightroom)
- Graphic Design (Canva, Microsoft Office Suite)