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Top Skills

Government Relations
Food Policy
Media Relations

Brendon Cull

SVP and Chief Operating Officer at the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber
Cincinnati

Summary

Driven public and private sector executive with extensive experience leading and providing strategic direction to companies, non-profits, elected officials, and C-Suite leaders. Career accomplishments include: leading large and complex teams, successful strategic planning, revenue growth, and organizational change. Cull is skilled in government relations, communications, crisis response, and reputation management. Known widely as a trusted, respected, and pragmatic leader with deep local insight and broad national outlook. Deeply engaged in policy efforts related to community engagement, cities, transportation, sustainability, and inclusion.

Currently the SVP & COO of the Cincinnati Chamber (~\$16MM annual revenue), Cull leads teams that have overhauled public policy, government relations, membership, talent, and marketing efforts. Cull developed the Chamber's transportation initiatives strategy, resulting in a successful \$2 million ballot initiative and coalition supporting increased transportation funding. Cull managed the fundraising and production team for BLINK, a \$5 million art and light event that was the largest public event in Cincinnati's history. He is an accomplished and sought-after speaker and ambassador for the organization and the region.

Previously, Cull led Government Affairs for The Kroger Co., where he advised executives and the company's board on vital policy and political issues. He launched an effort to legalize wine in grocery stores, resulting in \$10MM+ in new sales. Cull's influence and leadership was evident in Kroger's successful policy efforts: pension reform, food safety, and corporate social responsibility. He grew the company's PAC five-fold, worked with national and local associations, and chaired the Food Marketing Institute's Government Relations committee.

During his time as Press Secretary & Legislative Director for the Mayor of Cincinnati, Cull was involved in major efforts including economic development and more inclusive and just police-community reforms. Cull led external messaging, legislative, and political affairs.

Cull serves on the Southwest OH Regional Transit Authority and is the Vice-President of the Mercantile Library. He's worked with dozens of organizations in advisory and volunteer roles, including the United Way, ArtsWave, Cincinnati Regional Business Comm., Crown Cincinnati, and Tender Mercies. He graduated from Xavier University, with a degree in Org. Comm., and is a graduate of Leadership Cincinnati. He is an avid reader, runner, and live-music aficionado. He's married and has two daughters.

Experience

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber
SVP and Chief Operating Officer
March 2016 - Present (4 years 10 months)

Kroger
9 years 9 months

Senior Director, Government Relations and Regulatory Affairs
February 2014 - March 2016 (2 years 2 months)
Cincinnati, Ohio

Lead Government Relations and Regulatory Affairs for Fortune 25 Company. Responsible for communicating key company policy positions to federal and state policy-makers. Lead the company's political action committee (PAC) and manage relationships between company and key trade associations.

Director of Government Relations and Regulatory Affairs
July 2006 - February 2014 (7 years 8 months)

Self-Employed
Independent Consultant
September 2005 - July 2006 (11 months)

Campaign manager for Ohio statewide candidate, consultant to various companies seeking political and public relations services.

City of Cincinnati, Mayor's Office
Press Secretary and Legislative Director
September 2000 - September 2005 (5 years 1 month)

Press Secretary and Legislative Director for Mayor Charlie Luken, City of Cincinnati.

Global Lead Management Consulting
Consultant
January 1998 - September 2000 (2 years 9 months)

Developed and facilitated key training modules for Fortune 100 companies. Specialized in training related to generations in the workplace. Provided consulting services to companies in areas of diversity, team-building, communication skills, and presentation skills.

Education

Xavier University
B.A., Organizational Communication · (1995 - 1999)