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Alum among "most powerful women staffers on Capitol Hill"

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Alum among "most powerful women staffers on Capitol Hill"

Kat Skiles '07, digital director and senior adviser to Democratic Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, has been named one of "The 20 Most Powerful Women Staffers on Capitol Hill" by National Journal.

Kat has spent her career in Washington helping elected officials and the organizations that support them get their message across in the most actionable and effective manner possible.

Kat was inspired to pursue a career in politics during her experience as Dominican's Panetta Institute Congressional Intern in 2006. Her internship placed her in service to the Washington DC office of the late Congressman Tom Lantos, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Congressional Human Rights Caucus.

Kat graduated with a degree in Political Science and minors in Religion and Pre-Law. She was selected to deliver the Undergraduate Senior Address.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch a video of Kat delivering her inspiring address at Commencement 2007.

Kat's faculty mentor Alison Howard, Assistant Professor in [Dominican's Division of Political Science and International Studies, History, and Economics](#), recalls that as a student Kat was always looking for new and innovative ways to inspire and attract others to causes important to her.

"I am not at all surprised that she has become influential on 'The Hill' and has done an amazing job in her chosen profession," Howard says. "Most importantly, however, Kat was always extremely kind and generous and showed tremendous empathy for everyone she met. These characteristics, combined with her intelligence and drive, have certainly served her well."

Following her graduation Kat served as an intern in then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom's Office of Public Policy and Finance. She also worked as a volunteer field director for Congresswoman Jackie Speier's campaign and later joined the congresswoman's full-time staff as her Washington, D.C. Scheduler – coordinating her calendar, refining her agenda and talking points, serving her constituents, and doing policy work on human rights issues.

She then became Press Secretary & Director of Online Strategy for the Democratic Caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives, where she developed comprehensive outreach plans for Members of Congress that utilized the power of digital and traditional engagement strategies. Kat joined Pelosi's office in 2014.

Kat has been recognized as *Washington City Paper's* Best Gay Activist and the *Washington Blade's* Best LGBT Hill Staffer.

"Kat truly personifies the Dominican ideals of study, service, community, and reflection, and I am not only incredibly proud of all that she has accomplished, but also humbled to know that she was once my student," Howard said.