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## Kat Skiles '07 Named One of Most Powerful Women in D.C.

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## **Kat Skiles '07 Named One of Most Powerful Women in D.C.**

Kat Skiles '07, Senior Advisor and Digital Director for House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, has been named to *Washingtonian* magazine's list of "100 Most Powerful Women in Washington."

[Washingtonian](#) notes the women on the list "define the agenda and determine the course of action in their enterprises." Earlier in 2015, Kat was named one of "The 20 Most Powerful Women Staffers on Capitol Hill" by *National Journal*.

Kat, who graduated with a degree in Political Science and minors in Religion and Pre-Law, 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, D.C., office of the late Congressman Tom Lantos, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Congressional Human Rights Caucus.

Kat delivered the [undergraduate student address](#) at commencement in 2007. 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.

Kat 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. She joined Pelosi's office in 2014.

"Kat truly personifies the Dominican ideals of study, service, community, and reflection, and I am not only incredibly proud of all she has accomplished, but also humbled to know she was once my student," said Kat's faculty mentor Alison Howard, Assistant Professor in [Dominican's Division of Political Science and International Studies, History, and Economics](#).

Howard 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 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."

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

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