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ALI WEBB, PH.D.

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EDUCATION

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST LANSING, MI  
Ph.D. Mass Media

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, CAMBRIDGE, MA.  
Masters of Public Policy

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, STANFORD, CA  
B.A. Journalism

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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[Ali Webb Strategies](#)

2018- current

Advises leaders and advances strategies that help organizations bridge the gap between expectations and outcomes. Firm focuses on leadership coaching, program assessment, policy and strategic communications and team building, with an equity lens. Certified as Qualified Administrator of The Intercultural Development Inventory® (IDI®) which helps individuals and teams develop their multi-cultural competencies. Clients include major U.S. foundations, the state of Michigan. Key partner is [Keecha Harris and Associates](#).

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Battle Creek, MI

1998-2017

As the Director of Michigan Programs, led a 21-person team to devise change making strategies and measure progress towards the foundation's goals. Supervised an annual grant making budget of \$85 million, about 25 percent of the foundation's total annual investments. Other positions included a focus on developing a new strategic area to lift families out of poverty using a racial equity lens. Spent the first eight years developing and leading a body of work around strategic communications and policy for U.S. food systems and rural development.

The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, VA

1996-1998

Director of Communications

Managed a 17-person staff with responsibility for supervising an award-winning magazine, web site, media relations, video and television programming unit and field relations.

The United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

1993-1996

Director of Communications

Managed a 150-person division. Member of the Secretary's sub-cabinet.

The League of Conservation Voters, Washington, D.C.

1989-1992

Associate Political Director

Office of the Mayor, Los Angeles, CA

1980-1988

Press Secretary to Mayor Tom Bradley

[The Eagle](#), Bryan-College Station, TX

1979-1980

Reporter

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**TEACHING/PUBLICATIONS**

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**Teaching**

Columbia University, School of Professional Studies, New York, NY, Lecturer  
Developed course, Strategic Philanthropy, taught Fall 2020

University of Michigan, Ford School of Public Policy, Ann Arbor, MI, Lecturer  
Developed course, Strategic Communication and Public Policy, taught class Winter, 2019, 2020  
Developed course, Leading Across Difference, Winter 2021

Grand Valley State University, Johnson Center on Philanthropy, Grand Rapids, MI  
Developed workshop on Social Movements and Grantmaking

Nanyang Technological University, Wee Kim Wee School Communications, Singapore  
Guest lecturer on social movements and social media (March, 2018)

Oxford University, Said Business School, Oxford, U.K.  
Advised development of Women Transforming Leadership program  
Panelist, Women Leading Change webinar  
Taught Women Leading Change workshop, Lusaka, Zambia  
Oxford Impact Investment Programme  
Developed and wrote multiple cases for teaching

George Washington University, School of Political Management, Washington, D.C.  
Adjunct faculty, teaching graduate level courses in political communications and leadership  
Courses taught included:  
Fundamentals of Political Management  
Political Management and the Media  
Principles and Practices of Political Leadership  
Leadership in Public Office  
Leadership Styles

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA  
Research Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government, focusing on media and presidential campaigns. Also taught media training workshops.

**Publications/Papers**

Webb, A and Harris, K. (2019) Six Leadership Imperatives for Philanthropy, Centered on Racial Equity, The Nonprofit Quarterly, Boston, MA.

Webb, A. (2018) Philanthropy's Seven Deadly Sins, The Nonprofit Quarterly, Boston, MA

Webb, A & Bell, M. (2016) Critical Tools for Team building in Philanthropy, The Foundation Review, Grand Rapids, MI

Webb, A. (2006). "Reframing Rural America." A paper presented at the International Communications Association Annual Meeting, Dresden, Germany: June 11, 2006.

Webb, A. & Hesterman, O. (2005). Perceptions of the U.S. Food System: What and How Americans Think about Their Food. W.K. Kellogg Foundation: Battle Creek, MI

Webb, A. & Salmon, C. (2004). "Government Public Relations," in Heath, R.L. (Ed.), Encyclopedia of Public Relations. Sage: Thousand Oaks

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ADVISORY/ ELECTED ROLES

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Board member, Center for Rural Strategies, Whitesburg, KY

Fulbright Specialists Roster member in Marketing/Communications

Public Policy Committee, Council on Foundations, Washington, D.C.

ASCEND Advisory Board, Aspen Institute, Washington, D.C.

Elected School Board President and Trustee, Marshall, Michigan