

Mr. Michele Joseph Aquino

PROFILE

A food scientist, sustainability manager, and climate change educator with a decade of cross-functional professional experiences, primarily in the consumer products sector. Currently enrolled as a full-time doctoral student at American University's School of Public Affairs. My primary area of research is the political economy of climate change.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Public Policy Analysis American University (DC) *Present*

Master of Science, Sustainability Management, GPA 3.7 Columbia University (New York) 2015
Capstone Project: Identifying alternative fuel vehicle potential in NY State for NY State Dept. of Transportation.

Bachelor of Science, Food Science, GPA 3.8 Drexel University (Philadelphia) 2008
Senior Project: Testing antioxidant-rich food extract impact on immune response with advisor Dr. Barry Ritz.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Contracted to provide Connecticut-based workforce development program planning, monitoring, and evaluation (2019).
- Provided environmental, social, and governance (ESG) risk advisory services to BSR supply chain clients (2019).
- Led BSR facilitation efforts for Walmart's recruitment of additional supplier participants in Project Gigaton (2019).
- Published a food systems chapter entitled *Food, Agriculture, and Nutrition* in a Global Public Health textbook (2018).
- Created a three-step decision making tool for GHG emissions reduction project planning for General Mills (2018).
- Contributed to achievement of General Mills listings on Dow Jones Sustainability indices (2018).
- Co-founded Earth Forward Group, a sustainability management research and advisory services company (2017).
- Delivered \$1M in productivity and cost avoidance managing the General Mills dry corn and rice purchasing desk (2017).
- Developed supply chains for brands *Annie's*, *Liberté*, and *EPIC Provisions*, which won the *SCM World Social Impact of the Year Award* for General Mills for expanding Organic acreage and supporting rotational grazing (2017).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Earth Forward Group (New Haven) *Present*
Consultant & Advisor

Sustainability management consultant focused on business/program strategy, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), data analysis projects, and unique client research needs.

Earth Forward Group (New Haven) 2015 – 2020
Principal & Co-founder

Provided sustainability-focused research and consulting services to public, private, and non-profit sector organizations. Managed administrative tasks to run this small business.

BSR (New York) 2019
Manager, Supply Chain Sustainability (Consulting)

Managed projects and contributed consumer packaged goods (CPG) and agribusiness sector insights related to responsible and sustainable supply chain management.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE, CONTINUED

General Mills (Minneapolis) 2015 – 2018

Assistant Manager, Sustainability Programs, Global Sustainability Team

Assistant Manager, Climate Plan Acceleration Lead, Global Sustainability Team

Assistant Commodities Manager, Dry Corn and Rice (Supply Chain, Sustainable Sourcing)

Sr. Organic Buyer (Supply Chain, Natural/Organic Sourcing)

Managed projects related to large-scale agricultural supply chains including dairy, meat, corn, and rice. Served as a subject matter expert for Organic agriculture, emissions reductions efforts, and management of animal welfare issues.

The Earth Institute at Columbia University (New York) 2014 – 2015

Sustainable Agriculture Teaching and Research Assistant

Performed agricultural sector desktop research for the Earth Institute and served as a graduate course teaching assistant.

Danone R&D (New York) 2011 – 2013

Senior Research Technologist

Led setup and day-to-day management of the analytical/microbiology lab for North American pilot-scale manufacturing site.

United States Peace Corps Agriculture Sector (Nicaragua, Central America) 2009 – 2010

Rural Development/Sustainable Agriculture Extension Volunteer (Spanish language role)

Coordinated community development efforts, wrote grant proposals, and taught English in an agrarian community.

Pinnacle Foods R&D (Cherry Hill) 2007 – 2008

Student Food Technologist COOP

Performed small-scale (benchtop) product development and product renovation activities, including sodium and trans-fatty acid reduction formulation changes for a variety of high value consumer brands.

DuPont R&D (Philadelphia) 2005

Student Engineering COOP

Managed projects and contributed to design of experiments for the development of pigment-based black inks.

PUBLICATIONS

Aquino, Michele J. (2018). *Food, agriculture, and nutrition*. In L. DiPrete Brown (Ed.), *Foundations for global health practice* (pp. 167-191). San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Aquino, Michele J. (2013). *The coffee book project*. Portland: Self-published, printed by Scout Books.

LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

Columbia University Guest Speaker	Spoke on climate change and technology trends to build resiliency (2019)
University of Wisconsin-Madison Guest Lecturer	Presented a lecture on sustainability and food systems (2019)
Community Education Presentation	Spoke on climate change risks and solutions, Bermuda (2019)
Community Education Presentation	Spoke on climate change, hosted by Clean Water Action CT (2019)
Savory Institute Conference Panelist	Discussed supply and demand of natural food ingredients (2016)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Tomlinson Adult Education Center	Volunteer literacy and GED tutor (2019)
Community Capital Advisors	Pro-bono consulting on sustainability strategy for a school in Liberia (2017)
Partners in Food Solutions	Tele-consulting on food business development projects in East Africa (2016)
Center for Family Support	Tutoring and in-class assistance for autistic college student (2015)
Women's Enterprise Development Center	Small business Excel and social media trainings in Spanish (2012-2014)

OTHER TRAINING

Climate Reality Leadership Corps Certification Training, Climate Reality Project (2018)
Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Certification, Global Reporting Initiative (2014)
Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Certification, International HACCP Alliance (2013)
High-temperature-short-time (HTST) Pasteurization Short Course, Cornell University Extension (2013)
Spanish Language Immersion and Community Development Training Program, US Peace Corps (2009)
Spanish Language Immersion Course, University of Granada, Spain (2006)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management, APPAM (member)
Slow Food USA (member)
Columbia University Alumni Association (member)
Drexel University Alumni Association (member)

AWARDS

SCM World Social Impact Award for Supply Chain (2017)
Yoplait Crystal Cup Award for business contributions during the launch of USDA Certified Organic yogurts (2016)
OCIA micro-grant recipient for organic agriculture education in Nicaragua (2010)
NCAA Scholar Athlete Award (2007)