Chris Essig

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

4/22 – Present: Data visuals editor, Texas Tribune
- A news organization that covers politics and policy in Texas with 100 employees and an audience of 3.5 million visitors a month. Lead a team of developers who build charts, maintain public databases and analyze data for reporters to help them hold elected officials accountable.

2/17 – 4/22: Data visuals developer, Texas Tribune
One of five developers on the data visuals team. Lead back-end developer on the redesign of our salaries database, which tracks how much state agencies pay their employees and how the money is distributed. Lead developer on the organization's coronavirus tracker, which tracked the spread of the virus statewide and was viewed millions of times by our readers. Used mapping software to visualize how lawmakers gerrymandered two different Congressional Districts and minimized the political clout of Hispanic residents. Helped tell the story of rising maternal mortality deaths in Texas and asked if the state was doing enough to prevent them.

6/18 - 9/18: Adjunct professor, Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas
- In coordination with the University of Texas; one of two instructors for an online course on mapping for journalists. Tought data analysis using open-source GIS software for 2,000 students around the world. Interacted with students and answered their questions during the four-week course.

6/14 – 1/17: Interactive news developer, The Gazette Company
- A newspaper that covers eastern Iowa; One of three newsroom developers. Maintained the code behind our news website, mobile and desktop. Lead developer on the redesign of KCRG.com, TheGazette.com and Hoopla, our entertainment site. Collaborated with developers and reporters to create data visualizations, including one that explains Iowa's complicated new Medicaid system. Created open-source templates to help automate the process of crunching large amounts of data, as well as deploying maps, charts and databases.

8/13 – 12/13: Adjunct professor, University of Northern Iowa
- A state university with student enrollment at 13,000; One of five journalism professors. Taught *Online Journalism* course. Provided instruction to students in audio and video production, data journalism, data analysis, mapping and web development.

6/11 – 6/14: Online Editor, Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier
- A 33,600-circulation newspaper in northeastern Iowa; One of four online staffers. Was responsible for all content posted on our website, our sub-sites and social media networks. Produced interactive maps and data visualizations, including a guide to mental health services in eastern Iowa.

EDUCATION
Master of Arts - Public Affairs Reporting, University of Illinois Springfield, Springfield, IL - GPA: 4.0/4.0, May 2010
Bachelor of Arts Degree - Journalism; English minor, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL - GPA: 3.6/4.0, May 200

AWARDS
- Society for News Design, Bronze Medal, Infographics: Health, COVID Deaths in Texas, 2021
- Society for News Design, Awards of Excellence, Format: Use of Data, Coronavirus tracker, 2021
- Online News Association, Best explanatory reporting, "Dangerous Deliveries", 2018
- Society for News Design, Awards of Excellence, Features, "Puzzling Shapes", 2018
- Iowa Newspaper Association, Business Coverage, first place, 2016
- Iowa Newspaper Association, Newspaper website, third place, 2016
- Iowa Broadcast News Association, Overall use of online media, first place, 2014

CORE SKILLS
- Data analysis
- Python / Pandas
- Django
- SQL / PostgreSQL
- JavaScript
- D3.js
- Mapbox.js
- GIS / QGIS
- Bash / Command line
- CSS / SASS
- Git
- Editing
- Management