**TIBBS Career Blitz Career Profile Questionnaire: Kelsey Miller**

1. Please provide your name and employer:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

1. What is your current title and how long have you worked in your current job?

Chemist, Exposure Systematic Review Discipline Lead (January 2022)

1. Where did you get your PhD and what discipline was it in?

UNC Chapel Hill; Analytical Chemistry

1. Did you do a postdoc?

Yes, in the Office of Research and Development (ORD) at the U.S. EPA

1. What are your main daily responsibilities?

I’m responsible for coordinating/improving/overseeing our systematic review workflow, providing technical expertise, directing contractor work, briefing management, and communicating with other teams.

1. What are the keys to success in your career field?

The ability to troubleshoot well, clearly communicate, coordinate and manage multiple projects, and work well with others

1. What were the most important factors in choosing your career path and current employer?

Good work/life balance, a mission/purpose that aligned with my values, high pay, good benefits (ex. pension, matching contributions, health insurance)

1. What activities (if any) did you participate in that helped you be successful in obtaining your job?

Although the technical expertise I gained during graduate school are no longer directly applicable to my current role, the ability to critically think, manage multiple projects, troubleshoot, and work independently are valuable traits.

Additionally, while in graduate school, I participated in activities that enhanced my soft skills and these activities included:

* Earning a Business Certificate
* Chairing the Outreach Committee for the Science Policy Advocacy Group (SPAG)
* Being President and Secretary of the Association of Chemistry Graduate Students
* Completing a year-long NSF training program to be a Science Communication Ambassador
* Being an editor and contributor for the Pipettepen through UNC Science and Writing Communication (SWAC)
1. What 1 or 2 pieces of advice do you have for people who want to land a job like yours?
* Be able to work well in a team and communicate effectively with others
* Be a self-starter and take initiative to solve issues
1. How is the work/life balance in your career field and how much of a factor was that in your career choice?

The work/life balance is great — I don’t work more than 40 hours a week (it’s illegal without being properly compensated). Many bosses and coworkers respect the culture of maintaining a healthy balance. This was a huge consideration for me when searching for a career and I’m happy to have achieved it!