**TIBBS Career Blitz Career Profile Questionnaire**

1. Please provide your name and employer: Cherilyn Heggen, PhD. PRIME Education.
2. What is your current title and how long have you worked in your current job? Senior Vice President, Scientific Affairs, 3 years in my current role.
3. Where did you get your PhD and what discipline was it in? North Carolina State University, Immunology.
4. Did you do a postdoc? I completed a postdoc at North Carolina State University.
5. What are your main daily responsibilities? At PRIME, our ultimate goal is to improve patient care and health outcomes. I lead a talented team of PhD and PharmD medical writers and researchers who design educational and research interventions to address clinical knowledge and practice gaps; write grant proposals that fund the interventions; develop, execute, and evaluate the projects, working in collaboration with nationally and internationally recognized experts across a wide variety of medical specialties; and author abstracts, posters, and manuscripts disseminating the findings of our work nationwide. Our work has generated over 50 presentations and publications over the last 2 years at leading medical conferences and peer-reviewed journals.
6. What are the keys to success in your career field? 5 top keys to success include 1) excellent writing and PowerPoint skills, including digesting complex medical and scientific information in a clear and concise manner, 2) high level of accuracy and keen attention to detail, 3) adaptability and problem solving, 4) excellent interpersonal skills, and 5) strong project management skills.
7. What were the most important factors in choosing your career path and current employer? A key factor is knowing that our work makes a difference and drives measurable improvements in patient care and real-world health outcomes. I also enjoy the collaborative nature of the work and team environment.
8. What activities (if any) did you participate in that helped you be successful in obtaining your job? Prior to working at PRIME, I spent a decade working in vaccine research and development for a leading pharmaceutical company, where I had the opportunity to build a variety of skills that I apply in my daily work.
9. What 1 or 2 pieces of advice do you have for people who want to land a job like yours? I highly recommend conducting your own research to learn about the field, leading companies, and roles, to find your best fit. Talking with individuals to learn about their day-to-day work can be very enlightening as you are considering your options.
10. How is the work/life balance in your career field and how much of a factor was that in your career choice? The remote nature of the work is a definite plus, but requires careful navigation of the work-life balance as it is very fast-paced and demanding. Efficiency, and organization, and flexibility are key.