**TIBBS Career Blitz Career Profile Questionnaire**

1. Please provide your name and employer

Laura Simone, PRIME Education

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

Vice President, Scientific Affairs. I joined PRIME in 2015 as a medical writer.

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

University of Nebraska Medical Center, Cancer Biology and Immunology

1. Did you do a postdoc?

Yes, I completed a 2-year postdoc in a cell biology lab

1. What are your main daily responsibilities?

The Scientific Affairs team is works across the lifecycle of PRIME’s continuing medical education programs. Our key responsibilities encompass maintaining a working knowledge of the latest clinical and pharmaceutical developments in assigned therapeutic areas; designing and developing educational grants; fostering relationships with expert faculty; developing educational content for healthcare professionals; developing surveys to measure the impact of the education on providers’ knowledge, competence and performance; developing abstract submissions to major medical conferences summarizing key findings of PRIME’s research-informed educational initiatives.

In my current role, I provide guidance to therapeutic area team leads; support educational strategy and grant development; train and mentor members of the Scientific Affairs team

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

Strong writing skills, including ability to synthesize complex medical literature into clear, concise, accurate and visually appealing slides. Time management skills and ability to collaborate in a fast-paced team environment.

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

I was looking to move away from the bench in a career that would allow me to apply and expand my scientific writing and communication skills. Being in the field of continuing medical education, specifically, has allowed me to contribute to initiatives that drive tangible improvements in patient care and outcomes. At PRIME, I have valued the unique opportunity to continue to be involved in peer-reviewed publications and abstract presentations.

1. What activities (if any) did you participate in that helped you be successful in obtaining your job?
* Freelance scientific editing
* Networking with others in scientific communications roles
1. What 1 or 2 pieces of advice do you have for people who want to land a job like yours?
* Seek out and apply feedback to develop and improve your writing
* Try writing for a variety of different audiences (eg, scientists, clinicians, patients, etc)
1. How is the work/life balance in your career field and how much of a factor was that in your career choice?

The ability to work remotely requires a high degree of professionalism and a strong work ethic, but affords opportunities for work/life balance and has been a major factor in my own career path.