

Michael Reese was appointed Assistant Vice President of Strategic Communications in the Office of the President on July 1, 2000.

In this capacity, Michael has the primary responsibility for planning and directing the implementation of strategic public affairs, issues management, market research, media and constituent relations, and public outreach programs for the University of California.

Michael graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Riverside in December 1976. In 1977, he began a 12-year career with Newsweek that included working as a New York-based National Affairs Writer and a Correspondent in San Francisco and Chicago. In 1986, he became the magazine's Los Angeles Bureau Chief, with responsibility for coverage of 11 Western states.

From 1990 to 1994, Michael worked in Sacramento, first as press secretary to Assembly Speaker Willie L. Brown, Jr., where he was responsible for overseeing communications, serving as the Speaker's chief spokesman and speech writer, and coordinating consistent public messages with other legislative members and their staffs. Later he became Director of Communications for the State Treasurer's Office, where he developed media plans and formulated public policy initiatives for the office's statewide communications efforts.

In 1994, he joined then-Treasurer Kathleen Brown's gubernatorial campaign. As deputy campaign manager, he was the speechwriter, strategist, and personal liaison between the candidate, constituency groups, and the central campaign organization. He oversaw the finance, media, volunteer and general operations of the campaign.

After a 1995 Visiting Fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley, Institute of Governmental Studies, Michael established a Southern California-based independent consulting service specializing in media/political consulting, lecturing and speechwriting. Prior to accepting this position, he was the Vice President for Communications and Government Affairs for the Milken Family Foundation where was responsible for external outreach efforts in support of the foundation's mission of advancing excellence in education. He also taught a graduate course on media and politics at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School of Communications.