

Bob Sommer
Eagleton Fellow 1984
CEO, Awsom Associates LLC

Robert G. Sommer is CEO of Awsom Associates, LLC, a public relations and public affairs firm. He is also an adjunct lecturer at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University, where he previously directed the Institute of Planning and Public Policy Communications. Sommer's earlier roles include: senior advisor to Mayor Steven Fulop of Jersey City, NJ; president of Rock Entertainment Management (a holding company for the organization that owns the New Jersey Devils National Hockey League franchise and the Prudential Center in Newark, NJ); president and board member of Observer Media Group; partner and executive vice president of MWW Group. Before that, Sommer developed environmental and transportation policies as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives Commerce Subcommittee staff. In addition, he was speechwriter for Subcommittee Chairman (and later Governor) Jim Florio (D-NJ). He also served as a presidential management appointee at the Environmental Protection Agency Office of Toxic Substances. He has served on the transition teams of several New Jersey governors. Sommer has been a trustee of the Public Affairs Council and the New Jersey Public Policy Institute and was first vice chairman of New Jersey Network. Recognized as one of "New Jersey's 50 Most Interesting People" by *NJ Monthly* and as Bloustein School Alum of Year, he is also ranked as one of the most powerful New Jerseyans by *NJBIZ* and *PolitickerNJ*, and is on the current *NJBiz* Real Estate Power list. He has been published in numerous magazines, newspapers and journals. Sommer sits on the board of Venture Studio West and WBGO. He was a founder and advisory board member for North Jersey Community Bank (now ConnectOne Bank).