

**Rural Concerns Advisory Committee**

**Applicant Package - Residing in Unincorporated Area Outside Urban Cluster designated in  
Alachua County Comprehensive Plan**

Rural Concerns Advisory Committee - Residing in Unincorporated Area Outside Urban  
Cluster designated in Alachua County Comprehensive Plan

**Term:** 01 Oct 2023 - 30 Sep 2026

**Positions Available:** 1

**Number of applicants in this package:** 1

- Bedenfield, Jacobi

**Name** :Bedenfield, Jacobi

**Address** :24621 SE 101st Avenue, Hawthorne, FL, 32640

**Email** :jacobibedenfield@yahoo.com

**Board Name** :Rural Concerns Advisory Committee

**Primary Phone** :

352-262-5632

**Please list any civic and professional accomplishments/honors, training or experience related to this appointment:** :

Current: Ph.D. student at UF IFAS, research focus: solving issues of food insecurity through organizational leadership. Volunteer leadership experience: National FFA Alumni Advisory Council - Southern Region Representative, National FFA Board of Trustees, Florida FFA Board of Directors - Director at Large, National Institute of Campus Activities, Florida Student Success Center - Inaugural Advisory Board member, UF Division of Student Life - Strategic Plan Work Plan, etc.

**Please list any current/previous Advisory Board appointments :**

None current

**What Contributions do you feel you could make if you were selected to this board?**  
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Serving on the Alachua County Rural Concerns Advisory Committee, I could contribute by providing insights and recommendations on issues such as agricultural needs, land use planning, rural development, environmental conservation, and community engagement. I believe my input could balance the needs of rural areas and support community well-being. Additionally, I would advocate for local businesses, preserve cultural heritage, address infrastructure needs, promote environmental stewardship, support affordable housing, ensure emergency preparedness, focus on educational initiatives, organize community events, promote health and wellness, advocate for transportation, contribute to local food initiatives, and collaborate on projects that enhance the visual appeal and cultural vibrancy of rural communities.

**Please Agree with the following statements:**

**I understand this application is the property of Alachua County and subject to public records laws. I hereby certify that the statements made on this application are true and correct. I understand that Appointees to advisory board/committees are required to attend scheduled meetings as specified in the "Guidelines for Citizen Advisory Boards and Committees". I understand that some boards and committees require Financial Disclosure (Chapter 112, Florida Statutes) and I am willing to file if required. I affirm that my personal and business (if applicable) affairs within Alachua County are in substantial compliance with all county regulatory and taxing authorities rules and regulations? :**

Yes

**Time of Submission** :08/07/23 12:08:03 PM

**Attachments:**

- Jacobi Bedenfield\_CV\_Resume.pdf

# JACOBI I. BEDENFIELD, M.S.

Phone: (352) 262-5632 | Email: jacobibedenfield@yahoo.com

## EDUCATION

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**Doctor of Philosophy, Agricultural Education & Communication** | Specialization: Leadership Development  
University of Florida – *Current, Part-Time*

*Program Description:* This doctoral program focuses on organizational leadership theory and measurement, critical and creative thinking, and leadership in cross-cultural settings. This is a research and theory-based program with a strong knowledge of training, development, and management. The program also equips students with skills related to public relations, public value, communications, and marketing.

**Master of Science, Agricultural Education & Communication** | Specialization: Leadership Development  
University of Florida – *Graduated*

**Ensuring Equitable Student Success in Higher Education Program**  
Harvard University, Graduate School of Education – *Completed*

**Graduate Certificate, Leadership**  
University of Florida – *Completed*

**Bachelor of Arts, Political Science** | Specialization: Comparative Politics & International Relations  
University of Central Florida – *Graduated*

**Associate of Arts**  
Santa Fe College – *Graduated*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**University of Florida, Gainesville, FL (2019 – 2023)**

*Associate Director of Development, University Initiatives (2021 – 2023)*

- Led strategic planning for implementation of fundraising programs designed to secure funding in support of University Initiatives
- Collaborated with the unit and program directors, including 20+ departments of the division of student life, to ensure goals and objectives were achieved
- Worked with communications and marketing team to coordinate solicitation communications to key constituencies
- Built and managed a portfolio of major gift prospects (\$50,000 - \$100,000+) for identification, cultivation, solicitation and stewardship
- Led mini campaigns for the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars program
- Developed new strategic initiatives to broaden the University's donor base and build new donor pipelines
- Strategically managed relationships through face-to-face visits and brought gift solicitations to closure
- Oversaw and led gift acknowledgement plans and processes

- Led the coordination of effective stewardship and gratitude strategies for programs and initiatives
- Worked with council members, Annual Giving, and central UF Advancement office to assist in the planning and implementation of activities and events
- Assisted with identifying and qualifying potential council members
- Initiated, planned, and supported activities and events involving volunteers and prospects
- Engaged council members and donors at events
- Developed and attended programs and events on and off campus
- Worked in partnership with Annual Giving to develop and implement strategies to retain and increase the number of annual donors
- Developed and presented major gift proposals, and acknowledged/recognized gifts in ways that were meaningful to donors and appropriate to the mission, vision, and values of the University of Florida
- Worked in partnership with Alumni Relations to develop a strategy for programs and activities involving volunteers, prospects, and alumni
- Assisted with planning and implementing short and long-term development strategies
- Served on work groups that supported campaign, fundraising, and strategic planning efforts for programs and initiatives
- Ensured best practices in office systems, practices, files and record keeping

***Assistant Director, Campus Engagement (Promoted 2021)***

***Program Coordinator, Campus Engagement (2019-2021)***

- Assisted with the communications and marketing of the Department
- Advised the Budget & Appropriations Committee in allocating over \$22,000,000 in Activity & Service fee funds, including over \$1.2 million to student organizations
- Advised members of the Legislative Branch, including Senate President, Senate President Pro Tempore and Committee Chairs
- Managed the Senate administrative processes including but not limited to meeting and committee minutes, agenda packets, senate rosters, senator eligibility and bills in accordance with UF and State of Florida rules, policies, and regulations
- Assisted in the coordination, implementation, and assessment of comprehensive training programs including New Senator Orientation, workshops, retreats, individual consultations, and officer transitions
- Served as backup for all human resources, personnel, and administrative functions performed by the office manager
- Facilitated the Student Government Public Record Request and Archives process
- Served as lead related to emergency operations and trainings for the Department
- Advised the Student Body Treasurer, the chief financial officer for the student body
- Advised the Student Body Supreme Court
- Advised and support the Bridges Multicultural Outreach Program, a program designed to bridge the higher education gap for minority students throughout the state
- Advised the Accountability Agency, whose purpose was to ensure the Activity & Service Fee is spent in a fiscally responsible manner
- Advised the Internal Affairs Agency, whose mission was to ensure initiatives and goals are accomplished
- Advised the External Affairs Agency, whose mission was to represent students to any external legislature or municipality
- Contributed to the Division and University through active participation on committees and division-wide initiatives

- Supervised full time office manager of the department
- Supervised departmental graduate assistant
- Supervised two clerical employees and six other student employees

### **Take Stock in Children, Inc. - State Office**

#### ***College Resource Specialist (2018 – 2019)***

- Wrote proposals for Florida legislative funding, outlining in detail, the goals and needs of the program
- Wrote articles and mass communication works to educate students across the state of Florida
- Represented the northern region of Florida spanning almost 350 miles
- Achieved all goals and deliverables set forth by the Florida Department of Education
- Cultivated partnerships with postsecondary institutions to leverage existing resources for students
- Oversaw and supervised 12 student employees
- Oversaw the planning for and facilitation of workshops and events focused on navigating the challenges of higher education
- Served underprivileged and underrepresented youth
- Provided academic and scholarship advisement to approximately 1,500 students, many of which were low-income and minority students

### **Santa Fe College, Gainesville, FL (2015-2018)**

#### ***Student Affairs Support Specialist (2017 – 2018)***

Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs

- Provided case and document management for student conduct and disciplinary admissions
- Provided support for grants managed within student affairs
- Compiled data and reported analytics related to student conduct
- Supported on and off campus planning and implementation
- Helped students navigate all areas related to student affairs

#### ***State President (Elected Term 2017 – 2018)***

Florida College System Student Government Association, Statewide

- Oversaw entire rebranding project for the organization
- Oversaw all marketing and communications efforts of the organization
- Served as the spokesperson for the organization
- Coordinated the implementation of all campaigns and lobbying efforts throughout the State of Florida
- Oversaw the implementation of critical projects
- Presided over all statewide conferences and executive board meetings
- Delivered the State of the Association address before the delegates delineating the goals of my administration
- Served as a voting member of the Florida College System Activities Association Executive Committee
- Attended Council of President meetings consisting of all 28 state college presidents and delivered reports

## ***Marketing & Communications Aid (2015 – 2017)***

### ***Programming Assistant***

- Aided the marketing department by proofreading and editing any materials to be produced for the college
- Wrote press releases, articles, and other items for the college community
- Assisted in the development and implementation of campus-wide events for students

## **Florida FFA Association**

### ***State Vice President (Elected Term 2014 – 2015)***

- Served as a leader to 17,000 members and 65,000 agricultural education students statewide
- Wrote and edited content for leadership continuum workbooks and materials
- Facilitated four leadership conferences and a state convention with approximately 6,000 in attendance
- Traveled throughout the state to speak and represent the agriculture industry in Florida

## **FACULTY / TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Adjunct Assistant Professor, Public Speaking (2022-Present)**

#### ***Santa Fe College, Gainesville, FL***

Public Speaking, SPC2608, is an introduction to the principles and application of speaking effectively to diverse audiences in a variety of settings. Its focus is on topic selection, organization, research, and presentation, with special attention on learning effective delivery skills.

### **Instructor, Enhancing the Freshman Experience Course (2020)**

#### ***University of Florida, Gainesville, FL***

This course explored the purpose and philosophy of higher education in the United States; the history and traditions of the University of Florida; the potential roles of a student within the university and other learning environments; and the resources, behaviors, and skills necessary for successful higher learning.

## **LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT**

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### **Helping Advancement Nurture Diversity (H.A.N.D.) Advisory Committee (2022-2023)**

*Worked with committee to build an inclusive culture where all are valued and feel safe to express their unique characteristics and identities, and provided recommendations to organizational leadership.*

### **Strategic Plan Work Group | University of Florida, Division of Student Life (2019-2020)**

*Served on the team responsible for creating the five-year strategic plan for the Division of Student Life.*

### **Institute Staff | National Association of Campus Activities (2019-2020)**

*Planned and coordinated a national conference for student leaders and facilitated workshops.*

**Event Support Team | University of Florida (2019-2023)**

*Assisted with the management of large-scale programming and events on campus.*

**Director-At-Large, Board of Directors | Florida FFA Alumni & Supporters (2017-2021)**

*Planned and coordinated statewide initiatives and programs for FFA alumni members and chapters which included an annual conference and statewide business meeting.*

**National Southern Region Representative, Advisory Council | National FFA Alumni & Supporters (2019-2020)**

*Served the entire southern region of the U.S. which also included Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Planned and coordinated national initiatives for the betterment of FFA alumni and programs.*

**Trustee, Board of Trustees | National FFA Foundation (2019)**

*Provided oversight to the foundation's fundraising and campaign efforts.*

**Inaugural Advisory Board Member | Florida Student Success Center (2018-2019)**

*Helped coordinate efforts to share best practices throughout Florida College System institutions. Youngest member nominated to serve in the state.*

**Executive Committee Member | Florida College System Activities Association (2017-2018)**

*Provided oversight to the FCSAA, initiated policies, and implemented the practices necessary for successful operations.*

**Student Body President | Santa Fe College (2016-2017)**

*Represented the interests of the student body to college administration, implemented programs and initiatives on behalf of the students, and served as the student liaison to the college administration.*

**GRANTS**

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**Chesley G. Magruder Foundation Grant (Awarded 2023)**

Grant was awarded to support the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars, first-generation and low income program at the University of Florida after a successful application process.

**PepsiCo Community Impact Grant (Awarded 2022)**

Grant was awarded to support the Field & Fork Food Pantry at the University of Florida after a successful application process.

**Smallwood Foundation Grant (Awarded 2022, 2023)**

Grant was awarded for two consecutive years to support the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars, first-generation and low-income program at the University of Florida after successful application processes.

**Justine Merceron Foundation Grant (Awarded 2022)**

Grant was awarded to support the Disability Resource Center's autistic student support program at the University of Florida after a successful process. This was the first time this UF program ever received outside funding support.



## NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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Avalos, C., **Bedenfield, J.**, Brumfield, A., & Tyger, J. (2021, March) Presentation: Supporting Student Leaders As They Seek to Engage Issues of Campus, Local, State, and Federal Politics. National Association for Student Personnel Administrators Annual Conference, Virtual.

**Bedenfield, J.**, Delaney, L. (2021, March) Presentation: Zoomed Out – Perspectives on Creating Educational & Engaging Virtual Conferences. National Association for Student Personnel Administrators Annual Conference, Virtual.

**Bedenfield, J.** (2020, June) Presentation: Effective Social Media Strategies. National Association for Campus Activities, Virtual.

**Bedenfield, J.** (2020, May) Presentation: The Principles of Parliamentary Procedure. University of Florida Student Government Institute, Virtual.

## AWARDS & HONORS

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Dr. James E. Scott Bridging the Gap Memorial Award  
Awarded by: University of Florida (2022)

Bob Graham Distinguished Service Award  
Awarded by: Florida College System Activities Association (2018)

Commencement Keynote Speaker  
Santa Fe College Graduation Ceremony (2017)

President of the Year  
Awarded by: Florida College System Student Government Association (2017)

Civic Engagement & Service Award  
Awarded by: Santa Fe College (2017)

Commissioner of Education Leadership Award  
Awarded by: Florida Department of Education (2017)

American FFA Degree  
Awarded by: National FFA Organization (2015)

State FFA Degree  
Awarded by: Florida FFA Association (2014)

40 Future Leaders of the Gulf Coast  
Awarded by: WBLX-FM Radio Station (2014)

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

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Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate

Issued by: University of South Florida Office of Corporate Training and Professional Education (2021)

Project Management Essentials Certified

Issued by: Management & Strategy Institute (2017)

Certificate of Mastery in Agricultural Biotechnology

Issued by: Florida Department of Education (2014)