

Curriculum Vitae

Carrie Blanchard Bush, Ph.D.
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Professional Experience

2023 – Present, University of Florida

Assistant Vice President of Administration and External Relations

In this inaugural role, I serve two distinct areas of the University of Florida to ensure alignment and coordination among university priorities in operations and government affairs. In university operations, I am leading business process improvements to ensure state financial reporting cycles are managed appropriately, are streamlined, and include relevant stakeholders. In government and community relations, I am responsible for facilitating projects with municipal and county government partners, including the recently announced expansion of Gainesville's Innovation District, with planned future development of 1.2 million square feet to leverage UF research and talent in targeted industries. In this role, I remain closely tied to UF's internal administration while also expanding my scope of work to include UF's government relations efforts in Tallahassee, FL and Washington, D.C.

2019 – 2023, University of Florida

Chief of Staff to the Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

Managed a multifaceted portfolio spanning enterprise-wide university issues including campus planning and construction, information technology systems, human resources, and real estate. Implements strategic vision by creating critical pathways for success with an emphasis on collaboration with partners and internal departments such as advancement, academic colleges, administrative units, and research. Serves as a liaison with the community on interorganizational issues, including safety initiatives, strategic planning, and economic development. Experienced professional with a high capacity for work and a proven record leading cross-functional teams in strategic planning, communications, deferred maintenance, and organizational consolidation. Works closely with university leadership to manage information and execute priority projects.

2016 – 2018, City of Gainesville, Florida

Director of Strategic Initiatives

Led a municipal department including a 15-member team responsible for areas of Communications & Marketing, Economic Development, Strategic Planning, Intergovernmental Relations, and Organizational

Innovation for the city of Gainesville, an organization of 1,200 general government employees. As a direct report to the City Manager, key achievements included bringing transformation and thought leadership to local government by utilizing data and human-centered design, redesigning the city's strategic planning process, overhauling the city's brand with a human-centered design, partnering with the national Bloomberg Philanthropies to build systems to support the city's use of data, and serving to formalize the city's long-term vision with the University of Florida. The work around human-centered design was highlighted twice in Fast Company magazine ([UX Design Article](#); [Gainesville Debranding Article](#)).

2012- 2015, Appalachian State University

Assistant Professor, Department of Government and Justice Studies

Taught undergraduate and graduate level courses with expertise in public administration and policy, state and local government, public leadership and economic development. Areas of research include economic development, social capital and performance measurement. In addition to teaching in the graduate MPA and undergraduate Political Science curriculums, served as the Administrative Leadership Fellow for the College of Arts and Sciences to develop assessment strategies and make recommendations to enhance the college's sustainability program.

2010 –2012, Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation

Director of Research and Public Policy

Executed a multifaceted portfolio of research, both as original author and managed research, for a statewide non-profit organization assessing broad policy impacts of economic development and local/regional community growth initiatives. Areas of emphasis include strategic planning, business & community partnerships, performance measurement/indicators, workforce development and international trade. Led the statewide "Trade and Logistics Study" which transformed Florida's perspective on international trade opportunities through the stages of research to implementation.

2005- 2010, City of Tallahassee, Office of the Mayor

Chief of Staff/Director of Intergovernmental Relations (August 2008 – July 2010)

Served as the intergovernmental liaison responsible for developing annual state and federal legislative priorities for the city, including policy and appropriations requests. Coordinated priorities with the local delegation and with partnering local and regional organizations. Directed and managed office operations for the Mayor, including staffing, budget, communications, constituent and administrative services.

Aide to the Mayor (July 2005 – August 2008)

Administered community outreach programs with a focus on early childhood literacy, media relations, speechwriting, event planning, and citizen advisory board appointments. Assisted diverse stakeholder groups of citizens and private sector partners in navigating complex issues within municipal government.

Education

- 2010 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Public Administration, Florida State University
Dissertation: Local Government Decisions Regarding Wal-Mart Development in Florida
Major Professors Drs. Mary Ellen Guy and Kaifeng Yang
- 2004 Master in Public Administration (M.P.A.), University of Miami
- 2002 Bachelor in Business Administration (B.A.), University of Miami
Dual Majors, Political Science and Business Law

Professional Certifications

- 2020 Cornell University, Financial Management
- 2018 University of New Haven, Online Teaching

Community and Professional Service

- Board member – Gainesville Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Board (2019 – 2021)
- Board member – Half Cent Sales Tax Oversight Committee for Alachua County Public Schools (2018 – 2020)
- Board member – Blue Ridge Seeds of Change, Boone, NC (2014 – 2015)
- Peer reviewer for *Administration & Society, Economic Development Quarterly, State and Local Government Review*
- NASPAA reaccreditation taskforce, MPA Program, Appalachian State University
- Ex-Officio Member - Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee (2013-2014)
- Member - Southeast Evaluation Association, Tallahassee, FL (2012 – Vice President)
- Board member - LeRoy Collins Friends of the Leon County Library (2010 – President)
- Board of Governors - Leon County Research Development Authority (2009 – Treasurer, 2010 – Vice Chair)
- Member - American Society of Public Administration, Tallahassee, FL (2008 – Vice President)

Other Skills and Interests

- Intermediate Spanish language
- Strategic planning facilitation
- 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training Certification
- Florida state park enthusiast