

Haley Bennett

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A motivated public servant with expertise in relationship building, policy analysis, research, and public speaking. Strategic thinker dedicated to social and environmental justice and driving systems change by tackling ambiguous problems and effectively communicating solutions.

EDUCATION

Food Policy & Sustainability

Graduate Certificate
Arizona State University

Master of Social Work

Public Policy & Community Leadership
Michigan State University | 2017

Bachelor of Social Work

Michigan State University | 2016

AWARDS

'40 Under 40' Regional Leader
Traverse City Business News, 2021

Advocacy Scholar; Social Policy
MSW Scholarship Program, 2017

Most Outstanding Senior Award
School of Social Work, 2016

EXPERIENCE

Director of Community Partners

Taste the Local Difference | August 2022 - Present

- Co-lead and manage the Business Relationship Development Team, modeling vulnerability and transparency to support an inclusive and value-based team culture
- Develop mutually beneficial partnerships with businesses, nonprofits, government agencies and other strategic partners across Michigan
- Main consistent communication with funders, contractors, and partners
- Manage existing grant contracts to ensure deliverables are met on time
- Collaborate with CEO on out-of-state licensing opportunities and development

Northern Lower Michigan Community Affairs Liaison

Executive Office of Governor Whitmer | November 2020 - August 2022

- Develop and maintain relationships with diverse rural stakeholders across 21 counties in northern Michigan and multiple state departments
- Collaborate with colleagues across teams in a fast-paced environment with diverse people and projects
- Convene and facilitate conversations about aligning administration and community goals and priorities
- Concisely communicate priorities through writing and public speaking
- Coordinate face-to-face and virtual regional engagement opportunities and events for Governor Whitmer and Lieutenant Governor Gilchrist

Food & Farming Policy Associate

The Groundwork Center | January 2020 - October 2020

- Assisted with expanding a regional pilot program into a \$5 million dollar statewide farm to school initiative to purchase and serve Michigan-grown fruits, vegetables, and legumes
- Managed digital advocacy campaigns and website
- Created and managed databases with key information about grantees, supporters, legislators, and stakeholders. Developed actionable analysis.
- Identified and amplified grantee stories statewide to demonstrate impact
- Supported needs assessment and evaluation to inform program improvements and expansion
- Provided backbone support to regional Food & Farming Network facilitation, social media, and writing a monthly newsletter of agriculture trends

School Based Behavioral Health Specialist

Kealakehe Elementary School | December 2018 - December 2019

- Provided weekly individualized cognitive behavioral therapy to sixteen students with severe social emotional needs
- Developed and implemented Individualized Education Plans, facilitated meetings with families, teachers, and community-based specialists
- Built a school peace garden to provide horticulture therapy, and presented my work at statewide Schools of the Future Conference.
- Served as a voluntary Site Supervisor for FoodCorps Service Member

FoodCorps Service Member

Kealakehe Elementary School | August 2017- July 2018

- Taught 12 hands-on garden and culturally-relevant nutrition lessons per week to 600+ students in second largest elementary in Hawaii
- Developed resources and educational materials
- Connected with community partners and foundations to increase capacity of the school garden
- Participated in the Hawaii Farm to School Network to expand farm to school programs and initiatives statewide