

Mercedes Maness

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EXTENSION ASSOCIATE

Bachelor's degree in Community and Leadership Development with a minor Agricultural Economics, and a focus on youth engagement and rural health.

EDUCATION

University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment

May 2018

Lexington, Kentucky

B.S. Community and Leadership Development **Minor:** Agricultural Economics **GPA:** 4.0

SKILLS & INTERESTS

- Public Service
- Event Planning
- Youth Leadership Development
- Public Speaking
- Program Development
- Writing for Community Medias
- Microsoft Office
- Survey Software
 - Qualtrics
- Geospatial Mapping
 - ARC GIS
- Graphic Design
 - InDesign
 - Canva

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky, *Extension Associate*

May 2018-Present (40 hours weekly)

- Facilitated Community Health Needs Assessment focus groups to gain qualitative data and insight.
- Designed, developed, and implemented youth engagement and leadership programs throughout the state of Kentucky.
- Provide support and assistance for community organizations that foster community and economic development in the state.

Cooperative Extension Service, *Intern*

May 2016 - August 2017 (2 summers, 40+ hours weekly)

- Assisted with youth engagement and leadership programs throughout the state of Kentucky.
- Presented research across the state for Outreach Department at conferences and meetings, including the Saving Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) Conference.
- Facilitated group discussions over a variety of topics concerning community development as well as youth engagement and leadership.

Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky, *Undergraduate Assistant*

August 2016 – Present (2 years, 20 hours weekly)

- Assist and contribute to both Outreach and Research teams. This included creating and presenting content, revising and editing documents, as well as event planning.
- Input data from across the Commonwealth into a self-developed file management system.
- Designing an evaluation method for a CEDIK program.

LEADERSHIP

Beta Chi Chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma, *Member/First Vice President*

August 2014 - Present

- Fostered a sense of community amongst chapter and sisters by planning and executing Sisterhood events 200-250 members.
- Chaired the Standards Committee, a committee dedicated to preserving the standards, values, and the reputation of the Kappa Kappa Gamma fraternity, while also enhancing interpersonal relationships between members of the chapter and the committee.
- Served as class representative of the Nominating and Slating Committee to choose future leadership for chapter.

COMMUNITY & CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

- **The Nest-** Sorted donated goods and gardened.
- **Bryan Station High School-** Volunteered and assisted at GIRLS Academy.
- **Tates Creek Elementary-** Coordinated a Reading Literacy booth at Reading is Fundamental Carnival.
- **Menifee County Theater Group-** Acted in 4 productions, as well as functioned as Stage Manager for 1 production, and served in other countless volunteer roles.
- **University of Kentucky Panhellenic Council-** Served as a Panhellenic Recruitment counselor for a primary recruitment cycle.
- **Be Bold-** Led 2 sessions at 2 separate conferences over the impact of female entrepreneurs and their impact on the community.
- **Kentucky Horse Park-** Landscaped, gardened, and helped set up for annual Hats Off Day celebration.

AWARDS

- Deans List to the University of Kentucky, 4 years
- Highest GPA for Community & Leadership Development department, 4 years
- University of Kentucky Honors Program, 4 years