

School of Environment and Natural Resources

Assistant to the Executive Coordinator | Greenhouse Manager at FACCES

THE FAMILY, ADOLESCENT & CHILD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERVICE

Mackayla Culbertson | Environment, Economy, Development and Sustainability with Community Development Specialization

Background

Who is FACCES:

- The Family, Adolescent & Child Community Engagement Service (FACCES) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- Location: South side of Columbus, Ohio
- Mission: Community engagement & child-driven
- Vision: Families receive equitable and dignified support. Children are excited about learning and life!
- Programs: Food Education and FACCES Academic Navigation System



The FACCES Team and Fresh Market Festival volunteers

My Introduction to FACCES

- I became aware of FACCES through a Facebook Group
- Networked with leadership during their Urban Gardener's Meeting
- Was offered a full-time position as an administrative assistant and greenhouse manager



Engaging with families during Food Therapy

On the Job

Administration:

- Managing outreach efforts by connecting with other organizations
- Engaging with families in the community and encouraging participation
- Record and transcribe daily team meetings
- Plan and oversee 8 events – each serving 10 to 100 beneficiaries



Testing pH, as well as amount (ppm) of ammonia, nitrite, and nitrate in the aquaponics tank

Greenhouse Management:

- Assisting daily volunteers with Goodwill Columbus to perform greenhouse tasks
- Communicating observations with extension educators from Central State University and The Ohio State University
- Cultivating 21 raised beds, one hydroponics tower, and one aquaponics tank
- Conducting routine water quality testing on aquaponics tank
- Documenting the production of produce by weight and amount distributed weekly

Reflection

- Non-profit work is challenging and rewarding
- First job that I have been given administrative experience – I really enjoy it!
- Passionate about urban agriculture – I want to learn more!
- Maintain the connections I have made through the organization



An extension educator from OSU teaching during an Urban Gardener's Meeting

- FACCES has encouraged me to be more confident in my professional skills
- I have become satisfied with my choice to specialize in community development by working with FACCES



Goodwill Columbus volunteers



The FACCES Team and high school students observing the aquaponics tank

Acknowledgements

I would like to say a huge thank you to The FACCES Team. LaTasha Watkins, my direct supervisor, is an amazing employee and a great leader who has helped me develop beyond what I thought I was capable of. She has become a close friend of mine and I am so thankful that I have the privilege to work with her. Jordan Cartwright, Director of Marketing, is a talented and wonderful team member who creates a positive work environment for everyone. Melissa Johnson, Executive Director, is an inspiration to me and has pushed me to be better each and every day.



My first time volunteering at Fresh Market Festival

References

The Family, Adolescent & Child Community Engagement Service. (n.d.) FACCES Logo. [Photograph]. FACCES. <https://thefacces.org/>.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES