

Mercedes Fraser

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SENIOR EXTENSION ASSOCIATE

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

EDUCATION

University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment
Lexington, Kentucky

Graduation Date: May 2018

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

SKILLS & INTERESTS

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- Interpersonal Communication
 - Grant Coordination
 - Presentation Development
 - Report Writing
 - Event Planning
 - Youth Leadership Development
 - Curriculum Building
 - 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, Senior Extension Associate
February 2020-Present (40 hours weekly)

- Facilitates Community Health Needs Assessment focus groups to gain qualitative data and insight.
- Leads Extension Programming focusing on youth and community development. Programs include the Youth Engagement Leadership Program (YELP) and First Impressions, a community assessment tool and report plan.
- Coordinates the CREATE BRIDGES program, involving multiple state and national partners, resulting in an online workforce training informed by local business owners and employees

Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky, Extension Associate
May 2018-Present (40 hours weekly)

- Assisted facilitating 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.

AWARDS & PUBLICATIONS

- Excellence in Tourism Award 2021 - *National Extension Tourism Network*
- National Runner-Up for Innovation and Creativity 2021 - *National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals*
- National Runner-Up Excellence in Teamwork for Downtown Revitalization Team 2018 - *National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals*
- Contributed to SPARK! Extension Creative Placemaking Toolkit
Koo, J., & Bond, M. (2021). SPARK! Extension Creative Placemaking Toolkit. University of Kentucky. Lexington, KY.
- 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

LEADERSHIP

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

August 2014 -May 2018

- 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.