

A.SOLOMON GARNER JR.

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EDUCATION

- PhD** Tennessee State University, *Department of Agribusiness and Education* Present
- MS** The Ohio State University, *Community Development & Leadership* May 2023
Thesis: Social Capital and Non-familial Adult Volunteers: Connections with Youth and Community.
Advisor: Dr. Shannon G. Washburn
- BS** The Ohio State University, *Community Leadership* May 2021
Minored in Youth Development
- AA** Columbus State Community College December 2017
Associate of Arts

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Graduate Research Assistant**, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN 2025 to *present*
- Develop Positive Youth Development curriculum for teacher training.
 - Identify program gaps and create youth development experiences to be hosted at an agricultural education center.
 - Identify engagement activities for youth to learn about and explore the College of Agriculture and highlight the ALEC and DABE departments.
- OSU Extension**, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 2023 to 2025
Extension Educator – 4H
- Create and innovate agriculture curriculum for Urban ROOTS youth participants.
 - Teach urban agriculture curriculum to youth participants.
 - Facilitate and teach immersive youth sessions, through experiential learning opportunities.
 - Build and develop citywide/statewide partnerships within and amongst organizations.
 - Collaborate effectively and efficiently with the OSUE team, countywide and statewide.
 - Design camp model for Urban ROOTS youth participants.

- Create and innovate a youth engagement tier system to support and encourage growth and development.
- Meet local priorities for youth and community members.

Graduate Research Associate (8/15/2021 to 6/19/2023)

- Build Urban R.O.O.T.S program.
- Support special projects such as Salesforce.
- Build student engagement with OSU Extension organization.
- Support Urban October Campaign.
- Establish and begin recording a podcast series for urban Extension.
- Support Leadership in the City online course (assist with video uploads and closed captioning. Assist with PowerPoint and PDF accessibility. Link validation checks and track down replacement links as needed.)
- Prepare scholarly presentation and article for the national urban Extension audience
- Support Ohio Urban Extension team
- Co-develop and facilitate Project D.R.E.A.M.S

UpRys, Columbus, OH

2021 to 2023

Consultant Intern

- Organize and collect statistical data.
- Develop creative strategies to conceptually design and implement tools for marketing.
- Conduct procedures for onboarding and payroll.
- Elaborate philosophy on leadership development & protocol.
- Assist organizations with interview pre-screening.

Think Make Live Youth Organization, Columbus, OH

2020 to 2021

Program Specialist

- Develop curriculum material for youth consisting of: mental health & wellness, education, civic engagement, life skills, leadership development, career readiness.
- Host workshops covering curriculum content.
- Assist youth in employment searching.
- Assist youth in credit recovery, high school, and post-secondary enrollment.

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company – Legacy Project, Columbus, OH

2019 to 2021

Legacy Coach

- Facilitate one-on-one coaching sessions and group events.
- Schedule and plan student coaching sessions.
- Elicit student passions and interests leading towards potential life and career pursuits.
- Guide students in a structured goal-setting process and model.
- Manage staggered levels of progress and tailor coaching sessions to meet individual needs.
- Maintain written observations and progress files.
- Identify and communicate student strengths.

Impact Community Action, Columbus, OH

2018 to 2019

Self-Sufficiency Coordinator

- Helped transfer all LeaderSpark program content to Impact Community Action teaching model.
- Completed comprehensive assessments and Individual Opportunity Plans for all assigned youth participants.
- Assessed and identified youth participants for intensive services before entering training or concurrently with training.
- Provided intensive case management to youth participants.
- Monitored progress of all program youth participants.
- Made referrals to additional services and/or programs based on participant needs and assessment data.
- Identify community resources and build community partnerships of services.
- Provided follow-up services to participants who left the program.
- Met regularly with youth staff to provide participant updates, gather information on participants in training, and offer feedback and suggestions for programmatic improvements.
- Engaged participants, parents/guardians, community partners, and school personnel in community settings.

LeaderSpark Inc, Columbus, OH

2017 to 2018

Program Manager

- Provide proper supervision, program development, and ensures quality assessment and improvement activities for youth members.
- Develop and prepare communications to keep volunteers, facilitators, and partner organizations informed of status, problems, achievements, and organizational functions.
- Proactively identified issues impacting youth services and/or office operations and involve Executive Director, as indicated.
- Participated in research, development and writing grant proposals, and in writing articles for the Spark Plug Newsletter/Website and social media.
- Provide education and training on LeaderSpark program curriculum, process and procedures to facilitators in settings ranging from group sessions to one-on-one train the trainer models.
- Provided direction regarding program process improvement methods and guide team in the implementation of new processes/procedures/methods.
- Collaborate and coordinate efforts with the Executive Director, LeaderSpark team, volunteers and youth council to ensure consistent direction on agency goals and outcomes.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Urban R.O.O.T.S, Columbus, OH

October 2022 to January 2025

Graduate Research Associate & Extension Educators Lead Coordinator

- Teach and facilitate the Urban R.O.O.T.S curriculum at Franklin County Extension building.

- Teach and facilitate the Urban R.O.O.T.S curriculum in partnered schools within the Columbus City School District, Groveport School District, and various charter schools.
- Classroom size consists of 25 – 40 youth, ranging in ages 13-18.

Project D.R.E.A.M.S, Delaware, OH

October 2022 to February 2023

Graduate Research Associate

- Teach and facilitate Project D.R.E.A.M.S curriculum at Rutherford B. Hayes High School.
- Classroom size consists of 15 youth, ranging in ages 15-18.

Impact Community Action, Columbus, OH

November 2018 to August 2019

Self-Sufficiency Coordinator, Department

- Taught and facilitated LeaderSpark youth leadership curriculum at the Circleville Department of Youth Services.
- Classroom size consisted of 10 – 12 youth, ranging from ages 16-18.

LeaderSpark Inc, Columbus, OH

February 2017 to November 2018

Program Manager, Department

- Taught and facilitated LeaderSpark youth leadership curriculum at the Franklin County Juvenile Detention Facility.
- Classroom size consisted of 15-20 youth, ranging from ages 13-18.

CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

- Co-presented: *Urban Extension Unscripted* June 2023
- Focusing on the First Year Conference: *Expanding Your Cultural Intelligence Presentation* January 2023
- Presented published scholarly article: *Futuring Perspectives and Practices for Urban Extension* May 2022
- Hosted and directed poster session: NUEL National Conference May 2022

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Human Subjects Protection [HSP] (Social and Behavioral), The Ohio State University
September 2021-2024

Organizational Leadership Certificate, Otterbein University August 2019

Teaching Mindfulness to Teens, Center for Adolescent Studies April 2018

HONORS AND AWARDS

Buckeyes Under 40 Honoree (J. Maynard Dickerson Community Service & Activism Award) 2025

Columbus Everyday Hero Award (Finalist)	2023
Mahogany Columbus Community Leader Award	2023
Graduate Associate Leadership Award (GALA)	2023
Navigator Award	2023
Universidad de Puerto Rico Service of Extension Award	2022
Distinguished Senior Award	2021
Wildermuth Scholarship	2020
Mcintosh Scholarship	2020
Sharp Memorial Scholar	2020

REFERENCES

Dr. Julie Fox, Associate Professor
 OSU Extension, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Urban Engagement
 The Ohio State University
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 2120 Fyffe Road
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 Chair, Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership
 The Ohio State University
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