

Alexander Kase Vandenberg

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Summary of Qualifications:

- Strategic communicator with experience in legislative outreach, public relations, and coalition building.
- Proven ability to engage diverse communities and advocate for equity in public access to resources.
- Experienced in grassroots mobilization, policy education, and stakeholder engagement.
- Strong background in storytelling and social media strategy for public interest causes.
- Digital native with proficiency in Microsoft Office, Google Suite, Adobe Creative Suite, and social media.

Education:

Master's Degree in Community & Economic Development

Penn State University, May 2023

Thesis: "Effective Components of an Empathy Education Program in High Schools"

GPA: 3.94

Bachelor's of Science in Biology, Minor in Psychology

Penn State University, University Park, PA, May 2020

Concentration in Vertebrate Physiology

Cumulative GPA: 3.45

Experiences:

Canvasser / Shift Manager – Crowdwave Campaigns, May 2024 - Present

- Led regional canvassing and phone banking efforts on behalf of national progressive causes.
- Trained and managed volunteers to effectively engage voters and advocate on key issues.
- Facilitated direct constituent outreach to Members of Congress through strategic call campaigns.
- Collaborated with campaign leadership on refining messaging for voter turnout and engagement.

Substitute Teacher - Fairfax County Public Schools, December 2023 – October 2024

- Delivered tailored instruction to middle and high school students, including Special Education.
- Applied equity-centered teaching strategies in diverse classroom environments.
- Adapted lesson plans and classroom facilitation to support academic and social-emotional needs.

Social Media Volunteer - Dean Phillips Campaign for President, December 2023 - March 2024

- Supported rapid response messaging and long-term digital communications strategy.
- Engaged new audiences and expanded campaign reach through innovative social storytelling.
- Helped nationalize the campaign by crafting messaging for diverse demographics.

International Volunteer - Kibbutz Ein Gev, Israel - September 2022 - May 2023

- Led collaborative landscape revitalization projects enhancing public green space.
- Installed and maintained sustainable irrigation systems supporting agricultural efficiency.
- Fostered community with international volunteers through cross-cultural dialogue and teamwork.

Teaching Assistant - Anatomy & Physiology Lab, Penn State University - January 2018 - May 2022

- Taught 400+ first-year non-health students in introductory Anatomy & Physiology.
- Additionally taught 60+ senior students in a 400-level advanced Anatomy & Physiology course, guiding them through a live surgery on a rat and determining their readiness for medical school.
- Successfully balanced the teaching of both foundational and in-depth topics, demonstrating the ability to simplify complex material while diving deep into advanced content.

Director of Communications - Penn State Alumni Assoc Lion Ambassadors - April 2019-May 2020

- Led media strategy and storytelling to promote campus initiatives and alumni events.
- Developed digital content and promotional materials to drive student-alumni engagement.
- Launched campaigns that increased organizational visibility and event turnout.

Photographer & Social Media Creative - Penn State Football - March 2019 - December 2020

- Captured behind-the-scenes moments of players, highlighting their human side through interactions.
- Created and curated viral content for social media, boosting engagement and growing followers.
- Collaborated with the creative team to develop innovative ideas for promoting the team's brand.

Family Relations Captain - Penn State THON - September 2019 - May 2020

- Facilitated interactions between event attendees and families impacted by childhood cancer, ensuring safe community engagement.
- Served as a primary contact for families from Penn State Children's Hospital, providing emotional support and encouraging involvement in THON events.
- Fostered connections between volunteers and families, creating a sustainable community.

Resident Assistant - Penn State Residence Life, Penn State University - January 2018 - May 2020

- Managed a diverse community of 80+ residents, including international students and student-athletes, fostering a supportive environment.
- Organized community-building events such as block parties and watch parties to strengthen connections among residents.
- Trained in conflict resolution, suicide prevention, and de-escalation tactics, providing leadership during critical situations.

Honors, Awards, and Memberships:

- Presidential Gold Service Award – Honored for community impact and civic engagement
- American Association of Cancer Researchers (AACR) - Student Member
- Mini-THON Excellence in Use of Donor-Drive Award – Honored for Fundraising Innovation
- National Society of Leadership and Success – Student Member
- National Honors Society – President
- Student Council Leadership Team – Executive Director, Mini-THON

Skills & Proficiencies

- Legislative outreach | Stakeholder engagement | Equity-centered communications
- Event planning & facilitation | Press releases | Advocacy strategy
- Community building | Coalition management | Public speaking
- MS Office Suite | Google Workspace | Adobe Creative Suite
- Social Media (Analytics, Messaging, Strategy)
- Languages: English (Fluent), Spanish (Basic)