

Alexis Zickafoose

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About Me

Youth in agricultural development professional with experience in agricultural curriculum implementation, project management, youth development, and leadership skills in multicultural settings attaining a Ph.D. at The Ohio State University. She desires to build the capacity of youth in agricultural entrepreneurship, education, and communications. Effective capacity-building must be done through active engagement of locals and the incorporation of their expertise with innovative methods.

EDUCATION

Ph.D, Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership expected May 2026
The Ohio State University Columbus, OH, USA

M.S., Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication May 2023
Texas A&M University College Station, TX, USA
Certificate: International Agricultural Development
Thesis Title: *Assessing the Need for and Designing a Short-term Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurship Program*

B.A., International Relations December 2017
B.A., Theatre- Costume, Design/Tech December 2017
Tulane University New Orleans, LA, USA

Additional Education and Training

Beef Cattle Short Course August 2022
Texas A&M University College Station, TX

CIEE: Central European Studies January 2017 – May 2017
Charles University Prague, Czech Republic

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Fellow August 2023-present
The Ohio State University Columbus, OH

- Published master's thesis research on youth agricultural entrepreneurship.
- Evaluating the Urban Roots program with Dr. Rodriguez, Dr. Latscha, and Solomon Garner.
- Conducting research on 'Education for All' with Texas A&M and Ohio State University colleagues.

Agriculture and Food Security Intern June 2023-August 2023
Chemonics International Remote

- Spearheaded research and wrote a report on USAID solicitation trends of the past 5 years to better inform Chemonics' agriculture and food security new business policy.
- Wrote agricultural trade briefs based on data from Egypt, Bangladesh, and Nepal.

Graduate Research Fellow

August 2021-May 2023

Texas A&M University

College Station, TX

- Conducted and published research on consumer education and acceptance of food-health innovations with Dr. Mathew Baker and Dr. Peng Lu.
- Conducted research on efficacy of youth entrepreneurial education in international development programs (paper submitted).
- Published research on trauma-informed classroom professional development for school personnel with Dr. Gary Wingenbach and Mental Health America- Greater Houston.
- Published research on radio communications effects on family planning in Africa with Dr. Jaehyun Ahn.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Fall 2022

Texas A&M University

College Station, TX

Introduction to Agricultural Communications- AGCJ 105

Instructor Dr. Dara Wald

- Taught classes alone and with Dr. Wald on agriculture communications.
- Graded assignments and exams according to rubrics
- Presented my research during a guest lecture.

ESL Curriculum Development Specialist

November 2022

Partners of the Americas- Dominican Republic

Jabaracoa, Dominican Republic

- Developed ITESMARENA English curriculum for post-secondary students.
- Incorporated agroforestry and environmental science technical language in curriculum.
- Worked with students and staff to create an English curriculum that satisfied current and future needs.

Digital Marketing Trainer

August 2022

Winrock International-Senegal

College Station, TX

- Remotely prepared all training materials and training agenda related to improving RUUFTAC's marketing activities, effective digital marketing skills; and developed a digital marketing strategy with the national volunteer.
- Remotely provided training to host organization with the national volunteer on improving RUUFTAC's marketing activities, effective digital marketing skills; and developing a digital marketing strategy.

Organic Farming Youth Educator

June 2022

Partners of the Americas-Colombia

El Dovio, Colombia

- Developed workshops and guides for organic agriculture for rural youth at Colegio Agropecuario Juan Salvador Gaviota (CAJSG)
- Facilitated training sessions on key aspects of organic agriculture by using simple exercises and presented some organic agriculture successful cases
- Facilitated English language acquisition for CAJSG students and staff

- Strengthened their knowledge of organic farming and its importance in food security and health

Digital Media Marketing Trainer

Winrock International-Ghana

January 2022- February 2022

College Station, TX

- Remotely prepared all training materials and training agenda related to improving Meannan Foods' marketing activities, effective digital marketing skills; and developed a digital marketing strategy with the national volunteer.
- Remotely provided training to host organization with the national volunteer on improving Meannan Foods' marketing activities, effective digital marketing skills; and developing a digital marketing strategy.

Community Development and Outreach Coordinator

University of Nevada, Reno Extension- Clark County 4-H

2020 - 2021

Las Vegas, NV

- Developed a beginner, intermediate, and advanced sewing curriculum to be taught by AmeriCorps volunteers for city youth.
- Taught and developed a fifteen-week virtual course on the food system to local high school culinary students.
- Delivered sessions at housing authorities on agriculture, cultural diversity, health and wellness, and communication with colleagues.
- Raised youth awareness on local agriculture by creating videos on animal domestication and local farmers.

English Language Co-Teacher and Trainer

Peace Corps Georgia

2018 - 2020
Ali and Nabakhtevi, Republic of Georgia

- Redesigned the English Education Program Framework using quantitative and qualitative data while responding to new Georgian government initiatives for the 2021-2027 Peace Corps Volunteer groups with two other Peace Corps Volunteers and program staff.
- Improved 1st – 12th grade students' English fluency through school classes, workshops, and summer camps with host country teachers.
- Developed host country teachers' English Language and teaching skills through lesson planning, one-on-one speaking sessions, and technology-in-the-classroom trainings.
- Implemented trainings, national summer camps, and holiday events with host country nationals and non-governmental, non-profit Georgian organizations.

Secondary School English Co-Teacher

Nad Aleji High School

February 2017 – May 2017

Prague, Czech Republic

- Taught English to 6th grade students improving their English fluency.
- Engaged students through interactive activities increasing English language skills.
- Taught students about American culture through presentations and interactive activities.

Ajvar 5K Project Manager

United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD)

August 2016 - November 2016

New Orleans, LA

- Coordinated 5K races in Florida, Ohio, New Jersey, Michigan, and D.C.
- Created social media marketing campaigns for each race.
- Sold sponsorships for races which raised money for Emanuil Plus, a Macedonian non-profit for children with epilepsy and cerebral palsy.

- Developed the race website and sign ups.

International Policy and Diplomacy Fellow

May 2016 - August 2016

United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD)

Washington, D.C.

- Wrote and edited copy for website and UMD Voice, a magazine for donors.
- Coordinated the 3rd Annual Macedonian-American Leadership Conference for Macedonian youth engagement in politics and their community.
- Facilitated events at the Macedonian Embassy for UMD.
- Represented organization at speeches and meetings in Washington, D.C.
- Organized Immigrant Heritage Month Congressional Celebration with Welcome.US.

REFEREED PUBLISHED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Zickafoose, A., Wingenbach, G., Baker, M., & Price, E. (2023). Developing youth agricultural entrepreneurship in Latin America and the Caribbean. *Sustainability*, 15(22), 15983.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/su152215983>

Ullaguari, J. X., Landaverde, R., Sanders, A., & **Zickafoose, A.** (2023). Farmer-producer organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic: Examining the role of organization-producer relationships on coping, resiliency, and effectiveness. *Advancements in Agricultural Development*, 4(3), 131–145.

<https://doi.org/10.37433/aad.v4i3.331>

Wingenbach, G., & **Zickafoose, A.** (2023). Postsecondary Students' Social Stress and Learning Styles. *Sustainability*, 15(15), 12540.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/su151612540>

Zickafoose, A., & Wingenbach, G. (2023). Incorporating field experience into international agricultural development programs. *Education Sciences*, 13(5), 456.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci13050456>

Zickafoose, A., Lu, P., Baker, M. (2022). Forecasting food innovations with a Delphi study. *Foods*, 11(22), 3723.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/foods11223723>

Zickafoose, A., Wingenbach, G., Haddad, S., Freeny, J., & Engels, J. (2022). Homophily effect in trauma-informed classroom training for school personnel. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(12), 7104.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19127104>

McKoin Owens, M., **Zickafoose, A., Wingenbach, G., Haddad, S., Freeny, J., & Engels, J.** (2022). Selected Texan K-12 Educators' Perceptions of Youth Suicide Prevention Training. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(19), 12625.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph191912625>

Ahn, J., Briers, G., Baker, M., Price, E., Strong, R., Piña, M., **Zickafoose, A., & Lu, P.** (2022). Radio communications on family planning: Case of West Africa. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(8), 4577.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph19084577>

REFEREED PUBLISHED PAPER PRESENTATIONS AND POSTER ABSTRACTS

Zickafoose, A., Ilesanmi, O., Elliot, J. (2023). The Impact of Governance and Socioeconomic Development on Sustainability [Poster presentation]. 2023 Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education Conference, Guelph, CN.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/369753179_The_Impact_of_Governance_and_Socioeconomic_Development_on_Sustainability

Zickafoose, A., Wingenbach, G., Haddad, S., Freeny, J., Engels, J., & Hoeft, C. (2022). Professional development using trauma-informed practices in the classroom [Paper presentation]. 14th

International Conference on Education and New Learning Technologies, Palma, Spain.
www.doi.org/10.21125/edulearn.2022.0839

- Zickafoose, A., Redding, C., Lu, P. (2022)** The Relationship between the Colombian 2016 Peace Accords, Agricultural Production, Quality of Life, and Education [Poster presentation]. American Association for Agricultural Education, Las Cruces, USA.
- Zickafoose, A., Baker, M., Lu, P. (2022).** Upcoming food innovations: A Delphi study [Poster presentation]. American Association for Agricultural Education, Oklahoma City, USA.
http://aaaonline.org/resources/Documents/National/2022Meeting/2022NationalAAAE_PosterProceedings.docx
- Chambers, A., **Zickafoose, A., Lu, P., Woodruff, T., & Baker, M. (2022).** Youth and Family Assets Across Texas Communities [Poster Presentation]. American Association for Agricultural Education, Oklahoma City, USA.
http://aaaonline.org/resources/Documents/National/2022Meeting/2022NationalAAAE_PosterProceedings.docx
- Ahn, J., **Zickafoose, A., Baker, M., Lu, P., Chambers, A., Parrella, J., & Leggette, H. (2022).** Agricultural innovations, diffusions, and adoptions 2009-2021 [Poster presentation]. American Association for Agricultural Education, New Orleans, LA, USA.
http://aaaonline.org/resources/Documents/Southern%20Region/2022SouthernConference/2022SouthernAAAE_ResearchProceedings.pdf
- Lu, P., **Zickafoose, A., Parrella, J., Baker, M., Chambers, A., Ahn, J., & Leggette, H. (2022).** Synthesis and computation of precise effects: A meta-analytical approach [Poster presentation]. American Association for Agricultural Education, New Orleans, LA, USA.
http://aaaonline.org/resources/Documents/Southern%20Region/2022SouthernConference/2022SouthernAAAE_ResearchProceedings.pdf
- Ahn, J., **Zickafoose, A., & Baker, M. (2022).** Food security of farm households in impoverished West African countries: A case for machine learning? [Poster presentation]. American Association for Agricultural Education, New Orleans, LA, USA.
http://aaaonline.org/resources/Documents/Southern%20Region/2022SouthernConference/2022SouthernAAAE_ResearchProceedings.pdf
- Ahn, J., **Zickafoose, A., & Baker, M. (2022).** Random forest algorithm for the identification of factors contributing to food insecurity [Poster presentation]. American Association for Agricultural Education, New Orleans, LA, USA.
http://aaaonline.org/resources/Documents/Southern%20Region/2022SouthernConference/2022SouthernAAAE_ResearchProceedings.pdf

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS

Panelist, Peace Corps Service: My Experience

February 2024

The Ohio State University

Pay It Forward

Building Community Partnerships

February 2024

The Ohio State University

COMLDR 5380- Internship

Social Issues: Your Role & Responsibility in a Different Culture

October 2023

The Ohio State University
FAES 3797- Study Abroad to the Dominican Republic

Cross-Cultural Communication

April 2023 & November 2022
Texas A&M University
ALEC 105- Introduction to Agricultural Communication

The Dynamics of Change for Women in Development

March 2023
Texas A&M University
GLCD Seminar Series
Collaboration with Drs. Valerie Hudson and Theresa Murphery

Quality Education

March 2023
Texas A&M University
ALEC 450: Global Social Justice Issues in Agriculture

Research Productivity and Currency

December 2022
Texas A&M University
STAIRS Seminar

Barriers and Motivation for Gender Equality in International Agricultural Contexts

September 2022
Texas A&M University
ALEC 644- The Agricultural Advisor in Developing Nations

Introduction to Machine Learning

April 2022
Texas A&M University
ALEC 681- Seminar

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Edward J. Ray Travel Award for Service and Scholarship February 2024
The Ohio State University

AIAEE Conference Student Attendance Scholarship April 2023
Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education

Outstanding Student Award April 2023
Gamma Sigma Delta

Mary Nell and Frederick P. Cherry '41 Memorial Scholarship August 2022
Department of ALEC, Texas A&M University

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Treasurer

June 2022- May 2023

Aggie West Coast Swing Dance Club

SPECIALIZED SKILLS

Foreign Languages: Spoken Georgian, Beginning Bengali, Beginner Spanish

Project Design and Management: Organization, prioritization, and evaluation skills, project design using evidenced-based practices.

Technology: Microsoft office suite, SPSS, social media marketing, Minitab