

Caroline H. Nickerson, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Education and Communication, *University of Florida*

2021-2024

- Dissertation: An Examination of the Impacts of University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Services' Digital Field Experiences on Adults' Climate Change Knowledge, Thoughts, Concerns, and Behavioral Intentions
- 2024 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Graduate Student Teaching Award
- 3.88 GPA

Certificate in Analytics and Management, *American University*

2020

Master of Public Policy, *American University*

2018-2020

- 2019 American University Bill Reilly Scholarship for Environmental Policy Recipient
- 3.97 GPA

Bachelor of Arts in History, Bachelor of Arts in East Asian Languages & Literatures (Concentration: Chinese), *University of Florida*

2013-2017

- Honors: *magna cum laude, cum laude*
- 2017 University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Excellence Award, One of Three Inaugural Recipients
- 3.77 GPA

WORK EXPERIENCE

Communications Lead, *CitSci*

2025-Present

- Managed social media, write a quarterly newsletter for 7,000+ subscribers, create weekly "take action" posts about citizen science, and other communications tasks
- Supported 1,500+ citizen science projects via management of the CitSci app and website
- Created data collection protocols and tools
- Supervised undergraduate students from Colorado State University as they participate in their citizen science capstone course
- Facilitated relationships between researchers and the general public through targeted recruitment and introductions

Executive Director and Co-founder, *Florida Community Innovation*

2020-Present

- Co-founder of Florida Alliance for Response to Epidemics (FARE), later renamed Florida Community Innovation (FCI), a network of volunteers and students who do research, engage in community listening, and build civic technology to serve Florida

- Co-created the Florida Resource Map initiative, in partnership with the Central Florida Foundation, the Community Foundation of North Central Florida, the Mount Dora Community Trust, the United Way of Northwest Florida, and other organizations. Raised over \$50,000 to support the development of the Florida Resource Map
- Led educational programs at the University of Florida, American University, Georgetown, the University of Michigan, UC Berkeley, and the University of Central Florida to support young people as they work on projects related to the Map, civic technology, and other public service research. Have served over 200 students and 30 volunteers
- Mentored and supervised students as they have received grants and other support to do work addressing gentrification, environmental sustainability, anti-human trafficking, domestic violence, and other projects. The list of projects is extensive. Find them all in FCI's handbook: <https://floridainnovation.org/handbook>

Managing Editor (2018-2020), Program Manager (2019-2021), Director (2021), Advisor (2022-2024), and Program Specialist (2024-Present), *SciStarter*

2018-Present

- Directed programming for Verizon's corporate volunteer program "Become a Citizen Scientist to Protect the Planet," with over 100 virtual events
- Hosted, produced, and edited "Citizen Science" podcast with over 5,000 estimated total listeners
- Managed production of and communication about AI tool for project recommendations
- Generated engagement in citizen-driven scientific research projects for students at North Carolina State University, North Carolina State University Arizona State University, and Broward County Schools
- Produced Girls Scouts Journey program for scouts to assist with real scientific research projects
- Implemented over 100 Citizen Science Month online programs with sponsorship from Arizona State University and the National Library of Medicine
- Presented 300+ workshops and events for library staff, educators, scientists, and the public
- Led citizen science engagement for science centers and museums in partnership with NOAA and large public programs with NASA
- Co-Authoring a Quest for Earth School, an initiative with the UN Environmental Programme and TEDEd.
- Collaborated with librarians and regional event organizers to provide libraries with resources to become citizen science hubs
- Managed online content for Discover Magazine and other platforms
- Led many workshops with international and national organizations, including the Unique Mappers of Nigeria, the European Citizen Science Association, the Australian Citizen Science Association, the Association for the Advancement of Participatory Sciences, and CitSciAsia

Editorial Assistant (2016-2020), *UF Psychiatry Chair*, Research Assistant (2016-Present), *UF-VA UNESCO Bioethics Unit*, Volunteer (2016-Present), *Christensen Project*

2016-Present

- Investigated strategies for health providers to promote ethics education into clinical practice for the University of Florida Psychiatry Department
- Coordinated annual World Bioethics Day Conference and headed unit contributions to UNESCO World Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics & Health Law
- Executed textbook and curriculum creation focused on serving the underserved and homeless patients through psychiatric education. Curriculum passed peer review by American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training. Presented peer reviewed ethics curriculum at UNESCO's 13th World Conference

- Authored and edited 2018 University of Florida Department of Psychiatry Annual Report

Graduate Assistant and Researcher, *University of Florida (UF) Department of Agricultural Education and Communication, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)*
2021-2023

- Member of the engagement team for the IoT4Ag multi-state project by the National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center on the Internet of Things for Precision Agriculture
- Teaching assistant for multiple classes, including a public policy course, a social media course, and media technology courses. Received the 2024 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Graduate Student Teaching Award
- Hosted and managed communications for “AI in Action” podcast series
- Engagement with the public on science programming across the state related to the environment and climate change in partnership with UF/IFAS Extension
- Team member, including data analysis work, on a pollinator-friendly plant certification project
- Conducted data analysis related to sustainable shorelines and food insecurity among international students

Co-founder, *Commission on Local Debates*
2017-2020

- Co-founded nonpartisan nonprofit organization aimed at regulating, moderating, and broadcasting local political debates in efforts to increase voter education
- Organized four debates in Orlando metropolitan area in advance of 2018 local state house election
- Produced 2020 local election debates throughout Central Florida

Graduate Assistant, *The Lab @ DC*
2018

- Engaged in resident-centric design, randomized evaluations, and administrative data analysis to design policy interventions for District of Columbia residents through DC Mayor’s Office
- Revised and tested forms with DC citizens to systematically improve DC government forms as part of “Form-a-Palooza” event
- Served as teaching assistant for upper-level undergraduate statistics course at American University

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Changemakers for the Planet USA/Canada, ChangemakerXchange: *2025*
- Participant in GatorLead, the University of Florida’s leadership development program for graduate students and postdocs: *2024*
- Finalist in the 11th Annual University of Florida Three Minute Thesis Competition: *2024*
- Mentor Award, North American Association for Environmental Education, Civics and Environmental Education (CEE) Change Fellowship: *2024*
- Rally Fellow, a social enterprise accelerator program with the City of Orlando: *2024*
- CEE Change Fellow, a program with support by the Cedar Tree Foundation and ee360+, in cooperation with the U.S. EPA: *2023*
- President’s Medal for Social Embeddedness at Arizona State University: *2022*
- Alpha Tau Alpha Agricultural Education Honor Society Membership: *2022*
- ATHENA NextGen Leadership Class Orlando: *2022*
- UF College of Agricultural and Life Sciences William C. and Bertha M. Cornett Fellowship: *2021*
- Grand Prize Beauty for a Cause Scholarship Winner as Miss Louisiana Earth at Miss Earth USA:

2021

- Pi Alpha Alpha Public Affairs and Administration Honor Society Membership: 2020
- Chen Xiangmei Scholarship for Excellence in Chinese Studies Recipient: 2017
- Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society Membership: 2017
- University of Florida Reitz Leadership Scholar: 2016
- University Scholars Program Recipient: 2016
- 2nd Lt. Michael McGahan Scholarship Recipient: 2015
- Reubin Askew Scholar: 2014
- Graham Civic Scholar: 2014

PUBLICATIONS

- A Model for Success: How SciStarter's Partnerships with Eclipse Soundscapes and SunSketcher Engaged Communities and Amplified Impact in Participatory Science. Severino M, Perrett K, Giles E, Arbuckle D, Emslie A G, Hudson, HS, Nickerson C, Moundalak R, Arbuckle G, Galloway J, Cavalier, D. *Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society*: 2025
- Attitudes Toward and Preferences of Florida Consumers and Growers Regarding a Proposed Scientifically Based University Certification Process for Wildlife-friendly Plants. Nickerson C, Krebs C, Warner L, Baker L, Daniels J, Dale A. *HortTechnology* 33(5): 2023
- Restore the shore: online STEM engagement impacts on youths' conceptualizations of living shorelines and connection to water. Loizzo J, Nickerson C, Barnett C, Nash T, Warner L, Barry S, Allen M. *Applied Environmental Education and Communication*: 2023
- Streaming Science #4: Using Podcasts for Engagement with your Target Audience. Loizzo J, Krebs C, Nickerson C, Vu A, Stokes P, Kandzer M, Milligan L. Department of Agricultural Education and Communication, UF/IFAS Extension, *Publication AEC771*: 2023
- Citizen Science, Civics, and Resilient Communities: Informing Community Resilience Policies Through Local Knowledge, Community Values, and Community-Generated Data. Sittenfeld D, Farooque M, Helmuth B, Benson S, Hostetler E, Choi F, Weller N, Nickerson C, Todd K, Cavalier D. *Citizen Science: Theory and Practice*, 7(1): 2022
- Media Interview Skills. Telg R, Nickerson C. Department of Agricultural Education and Communication, UF/IFAS Extension, *Publication WC114*: 2021
- Working With the News Media. Telg R, Nickerson C. Department of Agricultural Education and Communication, UF/IFAS Extension, *Publication WC112*: 2021
- Editor and designer of "A Conversation with the Reilly Scholars" Anthology, which includes an introduction from Bill Reilly, the former Director of the Environmental Protection Agency: 2021
- Spring Into Action This April with Global Citizen Science Month. Cavalier, D, Nickerson, C, Nugent, J. *Connected Science Learning*, 2(1): 2020
- Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact: Coordinating Climate Change Response Through New Government Structures. Nickerson C. *The Public Purpose Journal* by American University, Volume 18: 2020
- Citizen Science and Libraries: Waltzing towards a collaboration. Ignat T, Cavalier D, Nickerson C. *Mitteilungen der VÖB* 72(2): 2019
- Act Now: Engaging in Citizen Science. Nickerson C, Butler K, Travers J. Chapter in *Human Impact: Our Relationship with Climate, the Environment, and Biodiversity*: 2019
- Ethics in Psychiatric Practice Curriculum. Yergen C, Turner A, Thomton J, Tandon R, Fleisch S, Nickerson C, Bussing R, Hobbs J. American Association of Directors of Psychiatry Residency Training (AADPRT): 2018
- Editor of *Let's Talk GNV* Magazine sponsored by the Bob Graham Center for Public Service: 2017
- Authored the Graham Civic Scholars Cumulative Report on the Provision of Children's Mental

Health Services with the State of Florida: *2016*

- Editor-in-Chief of *Prism*, the University of Florida Honors Program Magazine: *2014-2016*

VOLUNTEER WORK

- Volunteer for Canvassing for Jesus: *2025-Present*
- Volunteer on Accessibility Committee for the Association for the Advancement of Participatory Sciences Conference: *2025-Present*
- Volunteer at 4Roots Farm: *2025-Present*
- Volunteer at the Porter's Quarters Community Farm: *2024-Present*
- Community Service Leader, Cherry Blossom Princess Program: *2022-Present*
- Judge for Broward County Schools Science Fair: *2025*
- Judge for UF Innovate International Warrington College of Business Case Competition: *2025*
- Judge for Future Farmers of America Media Competition: *2022*
- Member of the UF/IFAS Department of Agricultural Education and Communication (AEC) Advisory Council: *2021-2023*
- Vice-President of Academics and Scholarship Awards for the DC Gator Alumni Club: *2019-2021*
- Poll worker in Brevard County for 2020 Election: *2020*
- Represented Florida in the Cherry Blossom Princess program hosted by the National Conference of State Societies. Created and organized a "dignity bag" drive in Panama City, FL as Hurricane Michael relief: *2019*
- Director of Communications (*2016*), Conference Assistant Chair (*2017*), and volunteer advisor (*2018 & 2019*) to the Future of Florida Summit, an annual statewide public policy conference
- One of two recipients of a grant award to establish a multi-year garden and weekly mentoring at Lake Forest Elementary, an under-resourced school: *2015-2017*
- Received a full scholarship to accompany Dr. Thomas Emmel to Mexico to observe the migration of Monarch butterflies; periodically assisted with collections research in the museum: *2015*
- At the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings historic state park, gave two tours a week and worked in collections management: *2015-2016*
- While studying abroad in Beijing at Tsinghua University, volunteered with former prostitutes by helping them practice English: *2014*