

MANUEL ABARCA IV

438 N. Topping Ave.

Kansas City, MO

(816) 499-1155

AbarcaIV@gmail.com

Professional Competencies

A professional dedicated to building sustainable networks and communities with the creation of programs that can harmoniously satisfy the needs of various systems. Demonstrates meticulous organizational, communications, and development skills while managing multiple priorities and maintaining cross-organizational relationships, adjusting to changing deadlines in a timely and professional manner to provide necessary opportunity for discussion and success. Able to effectively manage and develop a team of executive trusted leaders to efficiently accomplish many tasks to advance strategic work and priorities for self and top leaders.

Education

- **Doctorate in Education Leadership and Policy Analysis-Candidate**, University of Missouri-Columbia, Coursework completed, '23 anticipated graduation
- **Master of Science**, Occupational Safety Management-emphasis in Environmental Sustainability, University of Central Missouri (UCM)
- **Bachelor of Arts**, Political Science, University of Central Missouri (UCM), Warrensburg, MO, Minor in Environmental Management

Professional Experience

Metropolitan Community College, Kansas City, MO

Community Relations November '19-April '21

- Led the Chancellor's Executive Cabinet, external relations strategy for the Maple Woods, Longview, and Blueriver Campuses, engaging directly with key constituencies
- Developed effective marketing campaign strategies to successfully expand the College's boundaries in three contentious elections by creating community alliances
- Successfully increased tax revenues for the college by \$1.6 Million dollars annually

Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II-District Office, Kansas City, MO

Deputy District Director April '18-Present

- Supervises the entire District casework team, which covers the entire federal bureaucracy of 15 Departments and over 137 Federal Agencies
- Manages all in-district diversity initiatives including the Black/Brown Coalition, Congressional Black Caucus programs, and strategic relations within various communities
- Recruits, develops and mentors all interns, fellows and new staff member, further expanding training and experiences to produce a high quality recruitment pipeline for the office
- Executes constituent centered programming that includes community concerts, listening sessions, and advancement of broad impacting policy changes.
- Strategically allocated up to \$22.6 Million dollars of earmarked funding to district wide stakeholders, assisting these organizations in advancing their community based impact projects across the 5th Congressional District.

Community Affairs Liaison July '14-April '18

- Assisted constituent with individual cases relating to multiple federal agencies including the Departments of: Energy, HUD, the Environmental Protection Agency and several others
- Revamped the internship and fellowship program to provide a high-quality experience
- Lead special projects and multi-level inquiries like averting cuts to the Central States Pension Fund that impacted over 400 Thousands retirees that would have caused a 50% reduction in their monthly incomes, managed complex community justice efforts including the retiring of the Bendix Federal Complex and the reverberating health challenges for many for employees, and leading over 20 deportation issues for which we were able to leverage community support, the media, legislative and nuanced activism to keep families together.

University of Kansas-Lawrence Campus, Center for Sustainability

Recycling Operations Coordinator January '13-June '14

- Managed and oversaw 30-person staff, fleet of waste collection vehicles, and a recycling processing plant to maintain recycling collections and operations for the University
- Expanded programs for all recycling efforts including composting operations, comprehensive athletic recycling program, and branding campaigns that diverted 30K pounds annually
- Advanced the University's Sustainability Plan by strategic collaborations and partnership, like with the student government, KU Athletics and food service vendor-Centerplate

University of Central Missouri, Office of Sustainability, Warrensburg, MO

Sustainability Coordinator June '09-June '12

- Expanded educational programming outreach, earth week celebrations and the 2011 largest Energy Savings Contract project investing \$36.1 Million into energy upgrades
- Created and expanded community partnerships with the City of Warrensburg and Whiteman Air Force, authoring and receiving two grant funding over \$100k for recycling efforts
- Created lasting programs, like the Teach-In, Earth Week Celebrations, and Mess on the Mall

Recycling Coordinator June '09- May '10

- Initiated first ever University wide recycling initiative, taking operations from four to 4,500 recycling bins across campus, impacting Housing, Food Service, and Facilities operations
- Secured \$125k seed funding for a pilot recycling program that would save the University \$10K annually in cost savings creating trust and establishing relationships across all colleges
- Developed the branding and educational programming for the launch of the recycling program

Bridging the Gap Environmental Non-For-Profit, Kansas City, MO

Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator Aug. 10-Feb. 12

- Facilitated environmental canvassing and strategic planning operations with the KCMO Targeted Recycling Environmental Education Program
- Coordinated community outreach and partnerships to double curbside recycling rates in targeted neighborhoods within the Kansas City area

Internships & Fellowships

- **Energy Works KC Intern**, Metropolitan Energy Center, Kansas City, Missouri, '12
- **Legislative Intern**, Missouri State Rep. Mike Talboy-District 37, '10
- **McNair Scholar Research Fellowship**, University of Central Missouri, '10

Presentations & Panel Participation

- Panelist, Smart and Sustainable Campus Conference, "Students Leading Campus Projects," University of Maryland-College Park, 12
- Presented, Second Nature, Webinar, "Campus Sustainability Day-Ask A Question", 11

- Presented, Neighborhood Works Conference, Kansas City, 11
- Presented, Clinton Climate Initiative/Second Nature, Webinar, “Economic and Environmental Benefits at UCM”, 10
- Presented, Show Me Sustainability Conference, Jefferson City, MO, 10
- Presented, Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, Annual National Conference, Denver, CO, 10

Trainings

- **Political Boot Camp, Congressional Black Caucus Institute**, Washington D.C., 13
- **Campus to Congress**, Bard Center for Environmental Policy, Athens, GA, 12
- **Campaign Training**, United States Hispanic Leadership Organization, Chicago, IL, 09
- **Campaign and Advocacy Training**, National Council of La Raza, Washington D.C., 08

Boards and Commissions

Currently Serving

- Board Member, Samuel U. Rodgers Community Health Centers, Kansas City, MO, 18-
- Mentor, Men of Color Honor and Ambition (MOCHA), Kansas City Public Schools, 17-
- Board Member, ReDiscover Mental Health Provider, Kansas City Metro, 16-20
- Board Member, Historic Kansas City Foundation, Kansas City, MO 16-
- Secretary, Northeast Chamber of Commerce, Kansas City, MO 16-
- Board Member, Goodwill of Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas, Kansas City MO 15-20
- Member, Black/Brown Caucus, Congressman Emmanuel Cleaver, Kansas City, MO 13-

Political Campaigns

- Convention Delegate, Vice President Joe Biden National Delegate-5th Dist., 2020
- Successful Candidate, Kansas City Public School Board-Dist. 3, 19-21, 21-25
- Successful Candidate, Jackson County Democratic Committeeman-Ward 12, 18-20, 20-22
- Candidate, Missouri House of Representatives Candidate-Dist. 19, 2016
- Staff, Cass County Coordinated Campaign, Belton, MO, 2012 Season
- Volunteer, Re-Election, U.S. Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, Kansas City, MO 2014-
- Convention Delegate, President Obama National Delegate-4th Dist., 2012
- Staff, Re-Election, U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill, Kansas City, MO, 2012 Season

Honors & Awards

- Ink Magazine’s 30-Under-30, Kansas City, 15
- Sybil Daniels Young Democrat of the Year Award, Jackson County Democrats, 14
- Second Nature National University Climate Leadership Award Winner, Second Nature, 12
- Missouri House of Representatives & Senate, Resolution of Exemplary Service, 09
- City of Warrensburg, MO, Proclamation for Outstanding City Contribution, 09

Media Coverage

- [KCPS Vaccine Mandate](#), KC Star, 21’
- [Latino Caucus](#), KOMU 8 News, 21’
- [VozKC Supports BLM](#), KCMO TV5 News, 20’
- [UCM Teach-In on Sustainable Solutions](#), University of Central MO, 17’
- [Save Thacher School](#), KMBC 9 News, 14’
- [Rock Chalk Recycle](#), University Daily Kansan, 13’
- [UCM Recycling](#), Planet Forward, 12’
- [Warrensburg Recycling Center](#), Daily Star Journal, 12’