

LaToya Drake

PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATOR

CONTACT

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📍 Barren County, Kentucky

PROFILE SUMMARY

Experienced, trained, and reliable educator excited and motivated to teach fellow Kentuckians about food, nutrition, and wellness through creative approaches.

EDUCATION

2018
SAYBROOK UNIVERSITY,
Oakland California
*MS in Integrative and Functional
Nutrition*

2007
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE,
Louisville Kentucky
BA in Sociology

SKILLS

- Outstanding rapport building abilities
- Rooted in and connected in my community
- Experience with facilitating a variety of groups
- Proficient writing skills
- Creative educational content development

REFERENCES

Excellent references available upon request.

WORK EXPERIENCE

**Child Care Aware Kentucky
University of Kentucky**

Early Care and Education Coach - Quality

2025 - PRESENT

- Provide individualized coaching and technical assistance to early childhood education providers across the Two Rivers Region to enhance program quality and improve Kentucky All STARS ratings.
- Support the implementation of evidence-based, inclusive early learning practices through on-site observations, professional development, and collaborative quality improvement planning.

**Kentucky Nutrition Education Program/
University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service**

Extension Specialist for Food Access and Engagement

2024 - 2025

- Lead the development, implementation, and evaluation of inclusive food access and engagement programs, focusing on research-based, interactive education for diverse and limited-resource audiences. Create supportive materials like curricula, videos, social media resources, and evaluation tools, using various in-person and virtual formats.
- Build partnerships at local, state, and national levels to enhance outreach, manage grant proposals and projects for SNAP-Ed and EFNEP, and uphold professional standards through continuous learning and commitment to customer service.

**Kentucky Nutrition Education Program/
University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service**

Program Coordinator for Nutrition Media and Marketing

2021-2024

- Manage diverse tasks including newsletter design, presentation development, content creation on nutrition and hunger, and outreach efforts focused on local food systems.
- Lead initiatives in NEP Marketing and Media, website management, social media, and provide demonstrations on nutrition, food safety, and cooking basics.

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service

Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences

2018-2021

- Lead engaging educational programs tailored to meet a range of community needs, focusing on health, leadership, and essential life skills through thoughtful development, implementation, and evaluation.
- Foster inclusivity and collaboration with stakeholders, providing leadership and maintaining high professional standards across all initiatives.

Barren County School District

Nutrition, Wellness, and Compliance Liaison/Instructional Assistant

2017-2018

- Support instructional activities and lead farm-to-table initiatives, delivering nutrition education within a middle school setting.
- Develop and implement educational programs, facilitating group sessions and lectures to enhance student learning.

Veris Inc. /Fine Arts Bistro

Hospitality Specialist

2016-2018

- Handle diverse food service tasks, including coordinating special events, catering, and providing excellent customer service in various roles.
- Perform a range of duties such as serving and barista work, ensuring a seamless experience across food and beverage services.

First Steps/LifeSkills

Service Coordinator

2011-2016

- Provide case management and administrative support for Kentucky's Early Intervention system, coordinating team meetings and conducting family assessments.
- Develop and monitor individualized service plans, ensuring effective support for families in the program.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

National Extension Association for Family and Consumer Sciences

2019 -2025

Kentucky Extension Association for Family and Consumer Sciences

2019 -2025

Kentucky Association of State Extension Professionals

2022 -2025

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky
(2024 - Present)

Board of Directors

Community Farm Alliance
(2022 - Present)

Board of Directors

Feeding America Kentucky's Heartland (2021 - Present)

Board of Directors

Mammoth Cave Biosphere Region Advisory Council (2021 - Present)

Council Member

Gtown Soul Swales Community Garden (2017-2018)

Organizer

Barren River Area Safe Space BRASS (2017 - 2025)

Board Member

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program (2024 - 2025)

UK Martin-Gatton College of Agricultural, Food and Environment

Kentucky Rural-Urban Exchange (2023 - 2024)

Art of the Rural

Kentucky Colonel (2023 - Present)
The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels

UK Urban Extension Initiative Leadership Fellows 2021

University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service

Glasgow-Barren County Leadership Class 2019- 2020

Barren County Chamber of Conference

CERTIFICATES

UK Diversity Equity and Inclusion Leadership Certificate 2021

University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences Office of Diversity.

SPECIAL INTERESTS/EXPERTISE

Nutrition

Cooking/Culinary Arts

Healthy Recipe Creation

Local Foods

KY Food and Nutrition Security

Content/Educational Materials design

Food Styling/Photography

Heritage/Traditional Foods

Graphic Design

Food Access

Digital Storytelling

Kentucky Food Resources and Systems

PUBLICATIONS/RESOURCES

Drake, L., Pratt, B., Bishop, K., (2023). **So You Want to Be Inclusive.** *University of Kentucky College Martin-Gatton of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences Office of Diversity.*

Drake, L., Pratt, B., Bishop, K., (2023). **What Does It All Mean?.** *University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences Office of Diversity.*

Drake, L., Kentucky Nutrition Education Program State Team (2022). **Commodity Food Fact Sheets.** *University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences, Cooperative Extension Service, KYNEP, planeatmove.com.*

EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL

Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program National Trip 2025

Washington State (various locations between Spokane and Seattle)

Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program Capital Trip 2025

Washington, DC

Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program International Trip 2025

Vietnam; Taiwan

Community Development Society Conference 2023

Portland, Oregon

National Expanded Food and Nutrition Program Conference 2023

Washington, DC

CONFERENCE/ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

"Celebrating Cultural Connections: Heritage Foods," **University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, Kentucky Extension Homemaker Annual Meeting**, Presenter. Lexington, KY, 2025.

"Saving Money and Eliminating Food Waste," **2nd Annual State of Black Food Summit**, Presenter. Louisville, KY, 2025.

"The Vital Role of Cooperative Extension in Strengthening Kentucky's Local Food System," **First Friday at The Food Connection at UK**, Presenter. Lexington, KY, 2025.

"It's a SNAP to Diversify Your Customer Base," **University of Kentucky Food Connection Kentucky Local Food Systems Summit**, speaker. Lexington, KY, 2024.

"Core Competencies for Social Media and Marketing Initiatives," **Association of SNAP Nutrition Education Administrators (ASNNA)**, speaker. Virtual 2024.

"Natural Disasters and Food Security," **UK Extension Disaster Preparedness Conference**, speaker. Lexington, KY, 2024.

"Food Insecurity and Access in Kentucky" and "It Takes a Village: Resources for Farms and Farmers," **Organic Association of Kentucky Annual Conference**, panel speaker. Frankfort, KY, 2024.

"Lightning Food Systems Case Studies with Cooperative Extension - Using KYNEP to Promote Local Foods," **University of Kentucky Food Connection Kentucky Local Food Systems Summit**, speaker. Lexington, KY, 2023.

"Better Health with PlanEatMove," **University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service Kentucky Extension Homemaker Annual Meeting**, speaker. Louisville, KY, 2023.

"Hunger in Kentucky," **University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service Kentucky Extension Homemaker Annual Meeting**, speaker. Owensboro, KY, 2022.

"What is an Ally?," **University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service State Extension Conference**, poster presenter. Lexington, KY, 2021.

"Farmers' Markets, Promoting Local Foods, Healthy Eating and So Much More!," **University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service State Extension Conference**, speaker. Lexington, KY, 2021.