BLAKE ZIEGLER

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EDUCATION

University of Notre Dame
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science & Philosophy (Dual Honors) | Magna Cum Laude | Phi Beta Kappa
Thesis, "Jews for Jesus? Evaluating American Orthodox Jewish Sociopolitical Preferences Between Jews and White Evangelical Christians"

EXPERIENCE

Union for Reform Judaism, New York, NY — January 2025 - Present

Field Organizer, Texas and National Campaigns (June 2025 - Present)

- Direct campaigns aligned with Reform Jewish values to mobilize 50,000+ members in 38 congregations across Texas
- Oversee organizing strategy for advocacy on Israel and Reform Zionism for 2.2 million members in 850+ congregations
- Empower 550+ Texas leaders (82% growth) through grassroots organizing to translate moral commitments to civic power
- Navigate and lead multifaith coalitions across lines of difference to maximize impact
- Successfully coordinated campaigns on religious freedom, immigration, and democracy protection
- Coordinate with senior leadership to identify best opportunities for impact and serving the needs of congregations

World Zionist Congress New York/Connecticut Campaign Director (January 2025 - May 2025)

- Increased vote totals by 55% in largest population center of American Jews for global election in the Jewish community
- Managed 7 team members and 200+ volunteers to mobilize voters through communications, events, tabling, and more
- Planned and provided support for 50+ events, communications, phone banking, and other efforts for 100,000+ voters
- Increased synagogue (147%) and volunteer (87%) recruitment, developing relationships for long-term engagement

Jewish on Campus, New York, NY — September 2021 - Present

Student Union Coordinator (June 2023 - Present; part-time)

- Collaborate with chief executives to develop strategic initiatives and training programs across 80+ campuses
- Draft and edit advocacy materials, action plans, and campaigns to educate and mobilize 1,200+ student leaders
- Monitor and document high-profile antisemitic incidents, providing real-time strategy and communications support
- Develop policy and strategy reflected in local, state, and federal laws and guidelines for campus antisemitism

Ambassador Program President (May 2022 - June 2023)

- First elected president of American Jewish students to represent their interests in university, government, and other forums
- Leveraged media training in documentaries, public statements, op-eds, and speeches to advocate for Jewish students

The Delores Taylor Arthur School for Young Men, New Orleans, LA — July 2023 - December 2024

Director of Debate and Speech (May 2024 - December 2024)

- Oversaw 4 coaches and 30+ students for public speaking competitions after one year as Assistant Director
- Achieved 300% recruitment growth, 2nd statewide ranking, and Top 30 nationally, earning state "Coach of the Year" award
- Coordinated with CEO on communications strategies, including media interviews, to highlight debate-focused curriculum
- Drafted speeches and talking points on sensitive, high-stakes topics for diverse audiences, adapting to speaker's style
- Generated 100+ pages of research monthly on domestic and foreign issues to provide comprehensive, real-time support
- Raised and administered $25,000+ budget and travel logistics for 25+ local, regional, and national tournaments
- Spearheaded marketing strategy for 500% increase in fundraiser participation, drawing 500+ participants from 28 states
- Taught social studies classes focused on debate, deliberation, and dialogue as pedagogical techniques

Department of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame, IN — January 2020 - May 2023

Teaching Assistant Coordinator (May 2022 - May 2023)

- Provided administrative support to 50+ teaching staff, ensuring effective internal communications and policy compliance

Co-Head Teaching Assistant (May 2021 - May 2022)

- Oversaw grading calibration and ensured consistency across 24 teaching assistants in 8 courses
- Established and chaired Philosophy Majors Advisory Council for departmental advisory and student support

Teaching Assistant (May 2020 - May 2023)

- Promoted from Dialogue Leader to assist introductory philosophy course to 4,000+ students
- Supported senior professors with academic research, scheduling, curricular strategic planning, and grant administration
- Managed progress on multiple research projects simultaneously while ensuring on-time deliverables
- Developed digital essays on core philosophical texts, taught classes, graded assignments, and held office hours

SKILLS

Public Speaking: regular conference and group presentations on religious freedom, Zionism, antisemitism, dialogue, and more
Writing and Editing: op-eds (60+); issue briefs; research papers; newsletters; literature review; indexing; Chicago Style
Research: knowledgeable on research databases and data analysis to craft real-time deliverables in organized, time-efficient manner
Cultural Sensitivity: effective person-first relationship-builder experienced in navigating high-level, diverse diplomatic spaces
Technical: Microsoft Office; Google Workspace; Canva; Adobe; Slack; Salesforce; Raiser's Edge; Zoom; Stata; Qualtrics