

Interview with Sarah Glaser – Chair of the Florida Students for Biden Organization

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Sarah Glaser is a student at the University of South Florida majoring in Political Science. She has been named the Chair of the Florida students for Biden organization, affiliated with the Joe Biden Presidential Campaign. She also serves as the President of the College Democrats, a USF student organization. I had the pleasure of interviewing her to learn more about her new position and how her major in political science helped better prepare her for this role.

She offers great insight on the importance of getting real world experience by getting involved beyond the classroom walls.

Q: Hi Sarah, Congratulations on your role as the Chair of the Florida Students for Biden organization. Could you tell me more about this position?

A: As Florida Students for Biden Chair, I am the head of the Biden Campaign's student outreach and youth mobilization efforts in the state of Florida. I work with 20+ College Democrats chapters across the state, as well as other Democratic Party-affiliated organizations. I coordinate with community leaders to plan campaign events, train students in digital organizing, and run statewide social and volunteer events. I also help implement national level campaign strategies and marketing campaigns at Florida college campuses, while working with campus leaders to assess the individual needs of different student populations. I create strategic plans for mobilizing young people for the Biden Campaign. My overall goal is to increase youth voter turnout in the state of Florida for Biden. Florida is an extremely important state in presidential elections, and young voters have the power to determine the direction of the state.

Q: Wow! That's great. How were you able to find out and apply for this role?

A: I was able to attain my position as Chair of Florida Students for Biden due to my involvement with College Democrats at USF. Throughout my time at USF I have served as Membership Director, Vice President, and most recently, President of USF College Democrats. USF College Democrats gave me leadership experience in event planning, marketing, lobbying, and

networking. My involvement with USF College Democrats additionally served as a stepping stone to leadership at the state level. I served as Education Caucus Chair for the Florida College Democrats organization during the 2019-2020 school year. This position allowed me to build connections with other student leaders throughout the state, as well as elected officials, and campaign organizers. Ultimately, the Florida College Democrats organization connected me to the opportunity with the Biden Campaign.

Q: Your story shows the importance of networking and getting involved with organizations on campus. How did your major in political science prepare you for this role?

A: My academic experience at USF in the School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies has provided me with the foundational knowledge necessary to understanding the inner workings of campaigns and the importance of voter mobilization and voter turnout. While I have learned valuable information about the U.S. political system, the most important way my courses have prepared me for my position is through their emphasis on developing critical thinking and writing skills. The ability to think critically is extremely important in the world of politics, and especially on the campaign trail. Campaigns are fast paced, and adaptability and creativity are key for success. In my role in the Biden Campaign, I am constantly tasked with providing creative approaches to issues and strategic plans that account for many different variables. My political science courses at USF have allowed me to practice my critical thinking skills through reading academic articles, writing, doing research, and engaging with my professors.

Additionally, written communication skills are imperative for success in any field, but particularly politics. I spend most of my days writing emails, social media posts, briefs, and presentations. I am able to communicate effectively with my colleagues and voters due to the feedback I have received from peers and professors at USF, and the practice I have had writing papers and briefs in my courses.

Awesome! Thank you so much for sharing your journey with us, Sarah! Hope this encourages students to take advantage of the opportunities available both on campus and off campus. You never know where it may take you!