

Leyan Albustami

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EDUCATION:

University of Florida, Undergraduate

Major: B.A. Political Science and International Studies

Minor: Arabic Language, Literature, & Culture and Sociology of Social Justice and Policy

Dean's List: Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025

Anticipated Graduation: May 2026

GPA: 3.97

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

U.S. House of Representatives, Office of Congresswoman Sara Jacobs (CA-51)

May 2025 - Aug 2025

Legislative Intern

- Assisted senior legislative staff in researching and drafting questions for the Congresswoman to pose to Secretary of Defense Hegseth during a hearing before the House Armed Services Committee (HASC)
- Researched and drafted an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that was debated during the HASC's NDAA markup
- Researched U.S. relations with foreign country to compile a briefing binder for the Chief of Staff ahead of her travel
- Supported communications staff by capturing videos and creating content for the Congresswoman's social media and by compiling daily press clips for the Congresswoman and her staff
- Completed an in-depth policy proposal on the Health Equity and MENA Community Inclusion Act and briefed senior staff
- Answered phone calls, organized constituent correspondence, staffed the front office, and attended hearings on behalf of senior staff

National Network for Arab American Communities

Sep 2024 - Dec 2024

Public Policy Research Intern

- Conducted in-depth research on legislation affecting Arab American communities, focusing on civil rights, immigration, and social justice, and provided policy recommendations to enhance advocacy efforts.
- Conducted in-depth research on 20+ pieces of legislation affecting Arab American communities, focusing on civil rights, immigration, and social justice.
- Provided 5+ policy recommendations to enhance advocacy efforts, influencing organizational strategy.
- Collaborated with senior policy experts to create 3 high-impact reports and 2 policy briefs that informed 50+ stakeholders and policymakers.
- Analyzed local, state, and national policies, identifying key gaps and proposing new research projects to address underserved areas.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Science and Data Policy

June 2024 - Sept 2024

Health Policy Research Intern

- Contribute to high-level policy recommendations by conducting in-depth research, analyzing data, and synthesizing findings into reports for senior decision-makers.
- Lead research efforts for 5 high-priority policy initiatives, generating 300+ pages of analysis that guided executive decisions impacting 3.5 million Americans.
- Draft policy briefs and reports to address health disparities within the MENA community, informing decision-making and summarizing key findings and trends from research data.
- Engage in federal, state, and local policy discussions, deepening expertise in public policy issues and strengthening strategic decision-making capabilities.
- Propose research projects to address gaps in existing policy literature, ensuring data-driven outcomes.

Hillsborough County Public Schools

Aug 2020 - May 2023

Equity and Diversity Taskforce

- Pioneered the inclusion of the Middle Eastern/North African (MENA) ethnic subgroup on official county documents, improving representation for over 235,000 students.
- Led research initiatives analyzing 100+ datasets to identify systemic inequities, resulting in 3 district-wide policy changes to reduce disparities.
- Designed and facilitated over 15 workshops and training sessions on diversity, equity, and inclusion, reaching over 500 staff and students.
- Collaborated with over 30 senior administrators and community leaders to develop long-term strategies for inclusive education and equitable outcomes.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Students Organize for Syria, University of Florida – President

Aug 2024 - Present

- Pioneered the activation of the University of Florida chapter following 3 years of inactivity.
- Spearheaded the Refugee Mentorship Program, reaching over 100 Syrian refugees.
- Raised over \$3,000 for non-profit organizations supporting Syrian refugees.

Florida Innocence Initiative, University of Florida – Vice President

Aug 2023 - Present

- Raised over \$5,000 for wrongfully convicted individuals and associated non-profit organizations.
- Pioneered 5+ policy reform efforts aimed at reducing wrongful conviction rates.
- Organized speaker events with the Innocence Project of Florida and exonerees.

AWARDS & SKILLS

Scholarship: UF CLAS University Scholar, Islamic Scholarship Fund 200 MWWC Scholar, Congressional Leadership Development Program Fellow, Arab American Leadership Program Fellow, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, Tampa Gator Club Scholar,

Languages: English (fluent), Arabic (fluent), Spanish (beginner)

Computer: Microsoft Office Suite, Indigov, Adobe Acrobat, iMovie, Canva