



GRETCHEN FARACI

AREA III STATE VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE



SOUTH LAKE FFA

1124 Canopy Oaks Dr, Minneola, FL 34715 · (352)223-6144 · gretchenfaraci@outlook.com · IG: @_gretchennnn_

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Gretchen Faraci and I am honored to be one of your Area III State Vice Presidential Candidates. I have spent my whole life trying to be a bright light in rather dark situations. Throughout a year of service, I would love to bring a light to the end of any dark tunnels the Florida FFA Association and our members may face.

The last four years of my life have been spent involved all over the campus of South Lake High School, located in Groveland, Florida. I have served as the Senior Class President under our Student Government Association, welcomed every new face to our campus as a student ambassador for our new student onboarding program, and amongst many other activities, have always kept my service in FFA at my core. Either post-graduation or after a year of service, I will be attending Florida Southern College with a double major in Environmental Studies and Marine Biology with a minor in Political Science, on a track for pre-law. This will then lead to me law school to achieve my goal of being a practicing lawyer with specialization in environmental law and policy.

I have been often asked, "Why do you want to be a State Officer?" The word "why" has been the path of so much discovery for me. At one of my favorite FFA conferences we were given the task to make something called a why tag. One side displays the letter "Y" and the other side is our why statement. Without even thinking I wrote down the words "you are here to serve for a bigger purpose." To this day I carry that tag everywhere I go. I am a firm believer that everything I have done in my life is leading me to that point of serving for a bigger purpose. There is not a doubt in my mind that the point I am at now in my life is that bigger purpose. Despite all else that is ahead of me, I have never been more ready to serve and give back to this association and the members of Florida FFA that have done so much for me.

I am beyond blessed to be on this journey as a Florida FFA Area III State Vice Presidential Candidate. This journey may not be laid out exactly how any of us expected it to be, but my excitement to meet and work with such incredible members does not waiver.

I assure you that no matter what challenges our organization, members, stakeholders, and advisors alike may face, my goal of wanting to serve all of you will remain strong and only continue to grow. I promise to continue to invest my time and energy into expanding agricultural education for myself and our general public. My resume will show my accolades and achievements equipping me to be a leader, but more importantly they show how I lead as a servant.

As much of the state of our world is unknown right now, I am optimistic that this next year myself and all of Florida FFA will be able to rise above the darkness and find the light. I could not be more excited for this year to come. Please feel free to contact me via email at gretchenfaraci@outlook.com or via phone at (352)223-6144 with any questions, comments, or concerns regarding my candidacy.

Area III, it's time for us to find that light at the end of the tunnel.

Respectfully,
Gretchen Faraci



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CAREER OBJECTIVE

I plan on attending Florida Southern College with a double major in Environmental Studies and Marine Biology with a minor in Political Science. I will follow this by attending law school with intent of being a practicing lawyer with specialization in environmental law and policy.

FFA OFFICES

- 2019-2020 South Lake FFA Chapter President
- 2018-2019 Florida FFA District V Subdistrict II Chair
- 2018-2019 Secretary for State Delegate Committee
- 2017-2019 South Lake FFA Chapter Secretary
- 2016-2017 South Lake Jr. FFA Chapter President
- 2015-2016 Clermont Middle FFA Chapter Reporter

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

- 2020 FFA Capital Day
- 2019 National FFA Convention and Expo
- 2018-2020 360 Conference
- 2018-2020 212 Conference
- 2018-2019 State Leadership Summit
- 2016-2019 Chapter Presidents Conference
- 2015-2020 Florida FFA State Convention and Expo
- 2014-2019 Chapter Officer Leadership Training

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- 2019 Faith Neighborhood Center Volunteer
- 2019 Give Kids the World Village Volunteer
- 2019 Christmas Cards for Nursing Home Residents
- 2018-2019 Clermont Middle School Full-time Volunteer
- 2017-2020 Central Florida Dreamplex Volunteer
- 2017-2020 God's Work our Hands Volunteer
- 2017-2018 Central Florida Dreamplex Stargazer Volunteer
- 2016-2019 Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church VBS Camp Counselor
- 2016-2018 Beautify South Lake Member
- 2016-2018 Clermont Middle School Assistant Cheer Coach
- 2013-2015 Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church VBS Jr. Camp Counselor

DEGREES/AWARDS

- 2020 Education Foundation of Lake County Top Scholar
- 2020 State FFA Degree
- 2020 Florida Medallion Scholars Bright Future Scholarship
- 2020 South Lake FFA Alumni Scholarship Recipient
- 2019 South Lake Varsity Golf Senior Award
- 2018-2019 South Lake FFA Outstanding Junior Award
- 2018 Chapter FFA Degree
- 2017-2018 South Lake FFA Outstanding Sophomore Award
- 2017 Greenhand FFA Degree
- 2017 South Lake Varsity Golf Most Improved Award
- 2016-2017 South Lake FFA R.A. Campbell Award
- 2014 Discovery FFA Degree

SUPERVISED AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCES

- **Exploratory SAE:** Agricultural Education for audiences of Elementary, Middle School, High School, and the Special Needs. Creating lesson plans for FFA and Agricultural objectives.
- **Entrepreneurship SAE:** Raising and showing a market hog at the Lake County Fair.

SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

- **Florida Southern College:**
 - Beginning September 2020/August 2021
- **South Lake High School:**
 - August 2016-May 2020. Unweighted GPA: 3.98 Weighted GPA: 5.0678
- **Lake-Sumter State College:**
 - January 2018-April 2020. GPA: 4.00
- **University of Florida:**
 - August 2019-April 2020. GPA: 4.00
- **Agriculture CTE Program Completer:**
 - AEST Agriculture Technology Certification earned
 - AEST Agriculture Associates Certification earned
 - AEST Agriculture Systems Certification earned
- 2019-2020 Senior Class President
- 2018-2019 Junior Class Vice President
- 2018 South Lake High School Speech and Debate Historian
- 2017-2019 South Lake High School Girls Varsity Golf Team
- 2017-2018 Sophomore Class Vice President
- 2017 South Lake High School Varsity Track Team
- 2016-2018 South Lake High School National Honors Society
- 2016-2017 Freshman Class Student Government Association Representative

CAREER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

- 2019-2020 Floriculture CDE Team
 - Second in State 2019 and 2020
- 2019-2020 Ag Sales CDE Team
 - Third in State 2019
- 2019 National FFA Courtesy Corp Member
- 2019 Lake County Fair Hog Showmen
- 2018 Agriculture Education CDE
 - First in State 2018
- 2018 Ornamental Horticulture Demonstration CDE: Consumer Use
 - Second in District 2018
- 2017-2019 Parliamentary Procedure CDE Team
 - First in Subdistricts 2017-2019, Third in Districts 2018-2019
- 2016-2019 Forestry CDE Team
 - First in Districts 2017-2019
- 2016-2020 Extemporaneous Public Speaking Participant
 - First in Subdistricts 2016-2020, Third in Districts 2016-2020
- 2016-2019 Land Evaluation CDE Team
 - First in Districts 2016-2018, 6th in State 2018
- 2016 Ornamental Horticulture Demonstration CDE Marketing
 - Second in Districts 2016
- 2015 Opening/Closing Ceremonies CDE Team
 - First in State 2015
- 2015 MS Forestry CDE Team
- 2015 MS Land Evaluation CDE Team
- 2015 MS Extemporaneous Public Speaking Participant