TaKara Gilbert
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Education

Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville (SIUE) Edwardsville, IL
Speech and Language Pathology and Audiology, Black Studies. GPA 3.5 Spring 2027

- Awarded a competitive full-tuition scholarship Community Oriented Digital Engagement Scholars (CODES)
  - Partnering with the St. Louis Missouri Botanical (MOBOT) Garden to initiate reparative justice within the Garden's history of enslavement
  - Creating an educational program for the public about the history of MOBOT and Slavery
- Attained ADEI Leadership Certificate
  - Requiring 40 hours of engagement and professional development through on campus events
- 4x Dean's List Recipient

Auburn High School Rockford, IL

- Creative and performing arts program with an emphasis on theater and technical theater. Spring 2023
- Student ambassador president
- Cum Laude GPA: 3.7

Experience

Emergent Learning Center Troy, IL
Behavior Technician/Registered Behavior Technician September 2025 - Present

- Provide Applied Behavior Analysis services to help children with autism or other developmental disabilities learn new skills and reduce challenging behaviors
- Collect and documented data on client progress and behavior
- Attained CPR Certification
- Completed 40-hour training and passed state licensure exam

SIUE Student Opportunities for Academic Results Edwardsville, IL
Peer Mentor and Tutor Fall 2024 – Present

- Provide academic tutoring and individualized support to college students in general, organic, and biological chemistry, psychology, and study skills
- Mentor students to promote academic success, confidence, and campus engagement
- Assist students with goal setting, time management, and study skills, and connect them with campus resources
- Lead peers in a classroom setting analyzing Black literary texts

SIUE Community-Oriented Digital Engagement Scholarship Program Edwardsville, IL
Ambassador Spring 2023 – Present

- Facilitate presentations, workshops, and peer networking events
- Serve as a liaison between scholars, university staff, and program leadership
- Support scholar programming, professional development, and community-building initiatives
- Share personal scholarship experiences to inspire and guide prospective applicants through mentorship
- Guide professional development and leadership training for new ambassadors

Children's Defense Fund (CDF): SIUE Freedom School Program Edwardsville, IL **Servant Leader Intern** May 2026 – August 2026

- Completed pre-, post-, and national training to lead a group of students aged 13-14
- Supported students with literacy development through interactive activities and discussions
- Created engaging, culturally relevant learning experiences
- Collaborated with staff to plan and implement daily programming

Riverbend Head Start Collinsville Collinsville, IL

Volunteer August 2025 – December 2025

- Facilitated emotional regulation strategies and language facilitation strategies to students
- Created valuable resources to provide support to teachers with the behaviors of students

SIUE Early Childhood Center Edwardsville, IL
Volunteer October 2025

- Building rapport with preschool aged students to conduct hearing screenings
- Analyzing hearing screenings and reporting any necessary referrals with supervision

OSF St. Anthony Medical Center Rockford, IL
Dietary Clerk May 2021 – May 2023

- Provided friendly and professional customer service to patients, families, and staff
- Prepared safe and nutritious meals for patients and promptly delivered them to each room while maintaining the cleanliness of all kitchen equipment and utensils.

Leadership & Activities

SIUE Kimmel Belonging and Engagement Hub: Emerging Leaders Total Experience Edwardsville, IL
Student and Facilitator November 2024 – April 2026

- Gained a deeper understanding of leadership styles
- Built inclusive communication and collaboration skills.
- Learned to recognize and challenge inequitable systems.
- Joined a community of peers passionate about making a difference.

SIUE National Black Association for Speech Language and Hearing Chapter Edwardsville, IL
Secretary and Vice President February 2025 - Present

- Assisted with planning and organizing organization events and activities
- Maintained accurate meeting minutes, records, and organizational documents
- Managed member communications, announcements, and meeting reminders
- Collaborated with members to improve engagement and communication

SIUE Kimmel Belonging and Engagement Hub: The Longest Table: Find a Place, Shape Our Space Edwardsville, IL
Student Facilitator September 2026

- Welcomed a small group of students (max of 6) to your table
- Guided conversation using provided discussion prompts
- Encouraged everyone to share their perspectives in a respectful and engaging environment
- Helped create a space where every student feels seen, heard, and valued