

**Zachary Tobias**

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### **About Me:**

**Self-motivated problem solver that exhausts all possibilities before escalating to higher leadership. Well organized student who practices discipline by maintaining personal records and filing techniques. Team-oriented personable attitude with open willingness to meet and satisfy customer needs to best represent company standards.**

### **RELEVANT COURSEWORK**

- Introduction to Public Relations
- Research and Systems Thinking
- Transdisciplinary Communications
- Communication in Interviewing
- Introduction to Digital Humanities
- Interpersonal Communications
- Computer Concepts and Applicants
- Introduction to Sociology
- Introduction to Organizational Communications

### **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

- Community Volunteer

Aug 2023 - Present

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Current CODES (Community Oriented Digital Engagement Scholars) student that works with the Missouri Botanical Garden in researching and uncovering the history of enslavement and the impact from the St. Louis metro area.

Situation: Working with the Missouri Botanical Garden about the history of slavery. The situation at hand was the Missouri Botanical Garden has a deep history of slavery. I am apart of a select team of students that is in charge of bringing out the history of that enslavement from the garden, to help tell a story as to how important acknowledging our history's past and finding ways to implement changes that will have a long lasting impact not only on myself but to the people that come in contact with the garden.

Task: Doing research throughout my time at SIUE to uncover the deep history of slavery that took place at the Missouri Botanical Garden. My team's research question was "how can the documents that are already at the garden be more accessible to the public?" .

Action: This prompted me and the team to bring up ideas such as what ways could we tell the garden's story, that can include everybody and view from anywhere. Our methods of choice were, QR Codes, Flyers, and Educational Program. My team and I decided to do the QR codes because we believe that having access to these documents filled with important history related to slavery is important for not us only as the ones implementing this project but also for outsiders to get an idea and to acquire more knowledge about this type of history that is not going to be taught in schools. Developing a strategic strategy with my research team to come up with ideas in developing QR Codes with access to documents relating to slavery.

Results: Developed 40 stations across the Garden available Spring 2025 and beyond. The Missouri Botanical Garden has an annual attendance of over 901,000 people who can scan specific documents relating to slavery from the St. Louis area and the Missouri Botanical Garden including tax documents from Henry Shaw. Henry Shaw was a slaveholder who owned eight slaves as well as owned land in St. Louis and in England acquired while he was alive from 1800 to 1889.

- Community Volunteer

Chicago, IL

LINK Unlimited Scholars · Part-time

Oct 2023 - Present

As an Alumni of Link Unlimited, I have now been given the opportunity to give back to my community in regards to speaking about once being a Link student from 2018- 2023 and how I have overcome my ups and downs going through high school. Now that I'm in my second year of college, I have been more active with Link Unlimited in doing virtual interviews and giving my wisdom and advice to incoming/ current Link students.

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

**August 2025- Present On-site**

### **CODES Peer Teaching Leader at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville**

Collaborate weekly with CODES faculty and supervisor in training sessions to prepare lab activities and align on teaching strategies.

Lead two 50-minute lab sessions each week with ~10 students per group, facilitating interactive activities that reinforce course content and promote student success.

Support students in developing academic skills, adapting to college-level learning, and engaging with CODES-specific content and methodologies.

Foster an inclusive, supportive environment that encourages collaboration, critical thinking, and peer-to-peer learning.

**Customer Service Assistant**

**·Jul 2022 - Aug 2022 · On-site**

### **What's Poppin Gourmet Popcorn And Italian Ice**

- While my main role was customer service/ cashier. Other duties that were performed included, assisting the owner with the making of different flavor popcorn and providing customers with in house freshly made popcorn as well Italian Ice.
- Handling special events with birthdays and family reunions, the team and I had to work overtime in preparation so that our customers were satisfied with their orders.
- Taking calls over the phone and answering customers' questions to the best of my ability in order to give them a wonderful experience.

### **EDUCATION    GPA: 2.95/3.65**

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE)

Edwardsville, IL

Bachelor of Science in Communications with a focus in Public Relations

**Expected:** May 2027

Minor: Sociology

**Dean's List Student: Sophomore year first semester 3.65**

**Sophomore year second semester.3.8**

**National Honors Society at SIUE**

### **SKILLS**

- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams) Zoom

- Google Maps
- Geological Mapping
- Networking
- Communication