

## Contact

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## Top Skills

Spanish  
Creative Writing  
Sustainable Agriculture

## Languages

Italian (Professional Working)  
Spanish (Limited Working)

## Honors-Awards

Fletcher Scholarship  
Trustee Honor Scholarship  
Midwest Conference All-Academic Team  
ITA Scholar-Athlete

# Toby Cain

Chief of Staff - USDA-RMA  
Decorah, Iowa, United States

## Summary

Committed to inspiring folks to become active stewards of democracy and the environment.

## Experience

Risk Management Agency - USDA  
Chief Of Staff  
May 2022 - Present (1 year 3 months)

Franken for Iowa  
Field Director  
March 2022 - August 2022 (6 months)

Unemployed at this time  
Lymphoma Patient  
February 2021 - February 2022 (1 year 1 month)  
Rochester, Minnesota, United States

I was diagnosed with Primary Mediastinal B-Cell Lymphoma in April 2021 after a rapid period of declining health. I went through aggressive chemotherapy and proton beam radiation therapy over the course of eight months. I am including this experience on my LinkedIn because being a cancer patient is a full time job and I want to let folks know that I am open to talking about my time as a patient.

Abigail Spanberger  
Field Director  
May 2020 - November 2020 (7 months)  
United States

Won re-election with a 1.82% margin, outperforming Vice President Biden. Earned 230,893 votes for Congresswoman Spanberger, an all-time high for the 7th District.

Hired and managed a 12-person field team that trained 2,500 unique volunteers to complete over 13,000 volunteer shifts, the most of any frontline Congressional race in the country.

Created an innovative digital organizing program that successfully adapted to the pandemic.

Led efforts that contributed to the highest voter turnout of any Congressional district in Virginia.

## Pete for America

6 months

### Utah State Director

February 2020 - February 2020 (1 month)

Salt Lake City, Utah, United States

Supervised state operations for Pete Buttigieg's presidential campaign in Utah. Built and hosted the campaign's largest town hall to date. Recruited and trained more than 200 volunteers. Secured local political endorsements. Managed state budget, organizing staff and earned media efforts. Designed and hosted a political forum, Republicans for Pete, that was featured in the Associated Press, New York Times and Washington Post.

### Regional Political Director

September 2019 - February 2020 (6 months)

Des Moines, Iowa Area

During my time as Regional Political Director with Pete for America, I worked with rural and agricultural constituents throughout the state of Iowa to campaign for sustainable change in the places we call home. I assisted Pete for America's Political Team with securing endorsements, conducting constituency outreach and engaging elected officials and community leaders through policy proposals. Hosted a rural listening tour throughout the state that connected with hundreds of Iowans. Hosted policy online policy discussions with leading agricultural and rural development scholars. Supported rural organizing staff. Implemented rural Letters to the Editor program. Served as Staging Location Director and Precinct Captain during GOTC.

## Luther College

### Sustainability Coordinator

September 2018 - October 2019 (1 year 2 months)

Decorah, Iowa, United States

Contributed to Luther College's Center for Sustainable Communities by recruiting, managing and inspiring student leaders who transformed the culture and habits of over 2,000 undergraduates and 450 staff. Managed more than 20 students working on projects dedicated to: carbon reduction practices, clean energy investment, recycling infrastructure, waste management, food

security, wastewater management, local food production and sustainable building practices.

Compiled and submitted Luther College's STARS report, a comprehensive sustainability assessment administered by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). Thanks to the score of that report, Luther College now ranks #9 on AASHE's list of sustainable baccalaureate institutions. (6+ month reporting process.)

### Sundog Colorado

Co-Founder and Designer

December 2015 - July 2019 (3 years 8 months)

Buena Vista, Colorado

Sundog Colorado is an independent retailer for art and antiques in rural Colorado. In 2011, I started a small antiques business with my mom, Julie Czech. Over the past several years, we have grown this business into my mom's full-time job and my family's livelihood. We opened a store in Buena Vista, Colorado in July of 2016! In addition to helping with the management decisions and marketing for Sundog, I manage the online storefront and design/maintain the store's website.

### IOWA ORGANIC ASSOCIATION

Education And Outreach Coordinator

November 2016 - November 2018 (2 years 1 month)

Iowa

As the Education & Outreach Coordinator for the Iowa Organic Association, I planned, hosted, and evaluated educational workshops for organic and transitioning farmers. I managed two \$70,000+ USDA Risk Management Agency grants. My work included lobbying for organic research funding in the 2018 Farm Bill. I coordinated communications, designed print materials, and built farmer networks. The programming that I organized brought together over 500 farmers across the state of Iowa. I wrote and published the first ever Iowa Organic Resource Directory, an extensive inventory of organic service providers in the Midwest.

### Austin Frerick for U.S. Congress

Campaign Manager

August 2017 - March 2018 (8 months)

Des Moines, Iowa Area

I worked with candidate Austin Frerick to develop his congressional campaign in Iowa's 3rd District. As the manager of a small campaign team, I wore many hats. My responsibilities included: event planning, graphic design for digital and print media, writing and editing website copy, directing video projects, managing volunteers, assisting with fundraising efforts, writing and editing our weekly newsletter, managing contract employees, growing our grassroots support network, managing endorsements, meeting with donors, and acting as the campaign's media and publishing contact. Our campaign received coverage in The Intercept, The Financial Times, The Nation, Food Tank, Civil Eats, and many regional news sources.

### WWOOF-USA®

Midwest Ambassador

June 2017 - October 2017 (5 months)

In the summer of 2017 I traveled around the Midwest to interview farmers in WWOOF-USA's network. Part storytelling adventure and part outreach/education project, this contract position allowed me to combine my background in ethnographic research with my love of food, farming, and agricultural networks. I had the opportunity to visit over forty farms in Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, and Nebraska.

### Seed Savers Exchange

2 years 10 months

Education and Outreach Coordinator

September 2014 - November 2016 (2 years 3 months)

Decorah, Iowa

As the Education and Outreach Coordinator at Seed Savers Exchange, I develop and deliver educational programming for gardeners and seed savers across the country. I manage the Community Seed Resource Program, a national network of community seed organizations, by promoting the program and supporting participants. I help manage The Seed Exchange, an international network of thousands of gardeners who share over 16,000 unique varieties of plants with each other. I work with Iowa State University and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture on the steering committee of their pioneering initiative, the Agricultural Urbanism Toolkit. I am currently coordinating a group of international seed library leaders who hope to form a non-profit organization committed to supporting seed libraries and seed legislation. I am Seed Savers Exchange's lead for off-site events and organizational partnerships. I will create and implement our organization's

interpretive plan, I assist with website development, and I maintain hundreds of unique plants in our display gardens.

#### Education Assistant

February 2014 - September 2014 (8 months)

Decorah, Iowa

As the Education Assistant at Seed Savers Exchange, I helped the Public Programs staff with educational events, created and installed an exhibit in the Lillian Goldman Visitors Center, participated in conferences throughout the Midwest, and created educational resources. Additionally, I planned and planted the diversity garden at Seed Savers Exchange, installing and maintaining 40 raised beds that contained over 120 different varieties of plants.

#### University of Gastronomic Sciences - Pollenzo

Master's Student

March 2013 - March 2014 (1 year 1 month)

#### Smithsonian Institution

Education Contractor

October 2012 - April 2013 (7 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Designed and implemented public programs and assisted in the development of a website/portal for the museum's online database. Conducted Civil War research at the Library of Congress and National Archives.

#### Grinnell College

Grinnell College Preschool Laboratory Instructor

August 2010 - April 2012 (1 year 9 months)

Grinnell, Iowa

Assisted the preschool by teaching students, leading art classes, and guiding field trips.

#### Grinnell Local Foods Cooperative

Coordinator

April 2010 - April 2012 (2 years 1 month)

Grinnell, Iowa

Organized monthly orders of local food at Grinnell College, contacted farmers, hosted free community meals, helped establish website for the coop, distributed food.

#### Guidestone Colorado

### Agricultural Intern

May 2010 - August 2010 (4 months)

Buena Vista, Colorado

Worked as an agricultural assistant for an organic farm collective, managed the organization's local foods cooperative, assisted with planting, harvesting, dairying, and farmers markets.

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## Education

### Grinnell College

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Anthropology · (2008 - 2012)

### Università di Scienze Gastronomiche

Master's, Food Culture and Communication · (2013 - 2014)