

Christine Barta

cbarta3@unl.edu

Education

University of Nebraska- Lincoln; Lincoln, NE 68588

Bachelor of Science: Horticulture- Specialty Crop Production

Boston University Metropolitan College; Boston, MA 02215

Master of Arts: Gastronomy- Communications

Career Experience

Buyer/Supervisor

Willy Street Co-op- March 2023- July 2025

- o Oversaw daily department operations, including acting as liaison between staff and management, supervising 6 full and part-time clerks, and managing team dynamics and personalities
- o Procured, organized, and managed inventory from multiple external vendors by coordinating purchasing needs with budget requirements and staff availability
- o Established and maintained customer and vendor relationships through daily interactions with individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds

Production Team Member (Seasonal)

The Cider Farm- January 2023- March 2023

- o Assisted with bottling and packaging of finished product
- o Pruned multiple varieties of trees in the orchard

Market Garden & Retail Manager

World Hunger Relief, Inc. - December 2021- December 2022

- o Managed all social media accounts and created weekly newsletters to educate and inform farm community and increase customer engagement
- o Coordinated and managed crop planning and execution while educating and instructing employees and volunteers on sustainable and responsible agricultural practices
- o Operated all retail outlets, including arranging displays for physical marketing, creating website content, and formatting and optimizing online farm store

Production Assistant

Balcones Distilling - March 2021- December 2021

- o Improved organizational systems to coordinate production with employee schedules to ensure appropriate staffing, categorize and properly label potentially hazardous materials
- o Calculated and submitted monthly orders of bulk raw materials by managing inventory and cooperating with department lead
- o Implemented biweekly presentations utilizing fresh sensory components for company education

Research & Teaching Assistant

UNL Agronomy & Horticulture Department - September 2018 - December 2020

- o Refined horticultural skills, including pruning, harvesting, and integrated pest management
- o Introduced concept, identified relevant resources, and benefits for a \$74,309 Specialty Crop Block Grant for Viticulture research
- o Guided university students in Introductory Plant Science and Fruit Production labs
- o Organized Faculty Canvas webpages and implemented online availability of files for students in the Fruit Production lab

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Program Coordinator & Garden Mentor

Grower's Leaderboard/Biggest Grower - May 2020- August 2020

- o Developed, implemented, and coordinated high school-level horticultural entrepreneurship curriculum, highlighting the importance of food and garden literacy
- o Oversaw and mentored students during interactive Zoom meetings showcasing digital media and graphics featuring horticultural topics such as soil amendments, pruning techniques, and companion planting

Wine Server & Orchardist

Armstrong Apple Orchard & Winery - May 2018- December 2019

- o Maximized positive customer interactions through demonstrable knowledge of available wines and enjoyable tasting room experiences
- o Enhanced orchard yield and quality through strategic pruning techniques and efficient irrigation system management
- o Contributed to retail operations through wine bottling, labeling, display creation, and store maintenance tasks

CLC Enrichment/Class Instructor & Nonprofit Community Garden Coordinator

Belmont Community Learning Center - January 2019- December 2020

- o Maximized food distribution to low-income and underserved community members through the local food bank
- o Implemented Community Garden & Food Literacy program and headed research and writing for a \$2,345 City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation grant
- o Expanded educational opportunities for students by designing and delivering engaging plant science and English literacy programs

Publications

Christine Barta & Charles Francis (2022) Food Town USA: Seven Unlikely Cities That are Changing the Way We Eat, *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems*, 46:2, 325-327, DOI: 10.1080/21683565.2021.1988801

Barta, C. (2020, May 13). Counting Herself Fortunate, Wisconsinite is Grateful for Her Nebraska Education. *Pots Plots and Plants*, 2020, 18.

<https://agronomy.unl.edu/AnnualNewsletter/AgroHort-AnnualNewsletter20-1.pdf>

University Involvement

Honor Societies

Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society

National Society of Collegiate Scholars (2018-present)

Pi Alpha Xi- Alpha-Gamma Chapter (2019-present); Vice President (2020)

Clubs & Service

Horticulture Club (2017-2020); Treasurer (2018-2019), President (2019-2020)

Department of Agronomy & Horticulture Curriculum Committee; Undergraduate Student Representative (2018-2020)

Gastronomy Student Association (2022-Present); Co-Chair, Newsletter Committee Head

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Academic Achievements & Awards

CASNR Dean's List (2017, 2019, 2020)

Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources Spotlight Student (2018, 2020)

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Organization Officer Nominee (2020)

Martin Massengale Outstanding Senior Award (2019-2020)

George Beadle Midwestern Student Exchange Program Scholarship (2017-2020)

Wayne C. Whitney Memorial Scholarship (2020-2021)

Clara S. Tillotson Memorial Scholarship (2017-2020)

Northern Nut Tree Research Fund Scholarship (2019-2020)

Sam & Martha McKelvie Scholarship (2019-2020)

C.C. & Martha Wiggins Scholarship (2018-2019)

Nebraska Seed Trade Association Scholarship (2017-2018)

Blanchard Excellence Fund (2017-2020)

Luther Drake Scholarship (2017-2020)

International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Scholarship (2017-2018)

Manitowoc Board of Education Scholarship (2017-2018)

Additional Coursework & Certifications

CITI Program Human Subjects Protection Training: Social and Behavioral Focus; expires June 2026; Credential ID 56246250

HarvardX Verified Certificate for Science & Cooking: From Haute Cuisine to Soft Matter Science (chemistry)

LinkedIn Customer Service Foundations; Credential ID #140940

Udemy Baking 101- The Basics of Baking- Cookies, Muffins, and Cakes