

Brise Serena Tencer

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Professional Experience

Organic Farming Research Foundation, Santa Cruz, CA 2014-present
Executive Director

- Led the organization through major organizational transition to rebuild its standing as a national leader in the field of organic agriculture
- Worked in partnership with Board of Directors to set new 3 and 5-year strategic plans
- Ensured the organization is fiscally sound and grew and diversified revenue sources, including securing seven prestigious Federal grants
- Developed tactics and oversaw implementation and expansion of research, education, and advocacy programs to support the improvement and widespread adoption of organic farming systems across North America
- Ensured OFRF is translating research findings to diverse audiences and supporting adoption of best agricultural practices
- Oversaw the development of 13 major technical publications and their distribution to research, policy, and farmer audiences
- Built OFRF's reputation as a leading and reliable voice in Federal policy
- Led campaign to champion the introduction and inclusion of the Organic Agriculture Research Act, in the 2018 Farm Bill, which grows the USDA Organic Research and Extension Initiative to \$50 million dollars per year..
- Influenced cutting-edge thinking around emerging trends in organic agriculture, including best soil health practices for climate mitigation, adaptation and carbon sequestration

CCOF, Santa Cruz, CA 2011-2014
Director of Policy and Programs

- Directed team responsible for government affairs, grower education, events, and member engagement
- Participated in organization-wide strategic planning and budgeting as part of the management team
- Led grassroots campaigns focused on organic farmer engagement in State and Federal Policy
- Coordinated and participated in meetings between CCOF growers and their Congressional Representatives
- Developed positions, strategies, and advocated on issues including national organic standards, food safety, farm bill, international trade, invasive pest management, water quality, and GMOs

Union of Concerned Scientists, Washington DC 2007-2011
Washington Representative/Lead Lobbyist, Food Agriculture and Environment

- Lobbied for Federal legislation and strong regulations to support safe food and sustainable farming practices
- Worked with coalitions to build support for organic agriculture, agriculture research, and conservation
- Managed staff and consultants as the lead project manager in legislative campaigns 2006-2007

City and County of San Francisco Department of the Environment 2006-2007
Environmental Outreach Specialist

- Managed and implemented outreach efforts for County environmental programs
- Prepared legislative agenda for all programs within the Department

Organic Farming Research Foundation, Santa Cruz, CA 2000-2006
Legislative Coordinator/ Policy Program Director

- Shaped public policy through direct lobbying of Federal legislation
- Influenced regulation and implementation of USDA programs relating to organic agriculture
- Provided testimony and presented legislative briefings to Congress, USDA, NGOs, and industry
- Initiated the Organic Agriculture Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives

San Francisco Weekly, San Francisco, CA. 2000-2001
Freelance Editorial Writer

- Evaluated remediation of Hunters Point Naval Shipyard *Superfund* site and wrote about environmental implications of property transfer to the City of San Francisco

Peace Corps, La Union, Guatemala 1997-1999
Agricultural Extension/Crop Diversification

- Designed and implemented courses for 150 farmers and 45 teachers on sustainable agriculture

Additional Skills and Experiences

Leadership Experience:

University of CA Agricultural Sustainability Institute: External Advisory Board

California Climate and Agriculture Network: Executive Committee

The American Society of Agronomy -Crop Science Society of America -Soil Science Society of America: Committee on Organic and Sustainable Agriculture, nominated member

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition: Organizational Council, Board Secretary, Chair of Research and Extension Committee, Policy Committee

University of California, Santa Cruz, Politics Department: Guest Lecturer/Teaching Assistant

Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides: Vice President of the Board of Directors, Board Executive Committee, and Program Committee Chair

The National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture: Steering Committee

The Organic Trade Association: Government Affairs Committee

Conservation Coalition, Keep Antibiotics Working Coalition, National Organic Coalition, Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Coalition: Active member

California Coalition of Food and Farming: Policy Advisory Committee

Peace Corps: Volunteer Action Committee (elected official); editor of *Agro-Chimes*, a Peace Corps Guatemala publication

Writing:

- Media: Press releases, blogs, news articles
- Fundraising: grant proposals, reporting

- Policy: position papers, written testimony to Congress, draft legislative report language and bill amendments
- Regulatory: public comment to proposed federal rule-making, comments to the National Organic Standards Board.

Speaking:

- Invited testimony to the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture and Research, public comments to United States Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration, and presentations to the Congressional Organic Agriculture Caucus
- Numerous radio interviews/podcasts including FoodSleuth, and Natural Products Insider
- Presentations at conferences and meetings including the USDA Agriculture Outlook Forum, USDA Organic Working Group, USDA Market News, the Organic Grower Summit, MN Organic Conference, EcoFarm, Organicology, Natural Products Expo West educational program, Supply Side West trade show, ShiftCon
- Press interviews including Politico, Capital Press, Civil Eats, The Packer, Fresno Bee, Santa Cruz Sentinel, USA Today, New York Times.

Language: Spanish, Certified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages/Educational Testing Service as having advanced proficiency level.

Volunteer Work:

Life Lab, Santa Cruz CA & Commonwealth of Dominica: school gardens and environmental education

Environmental and Coastal Resources, Commonwealth of Dominica: environmental educator

Seeds Of Hope, Guatemala: medical translator

Habitat for Humanity, Guatemala: home construction

Education

Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS), Monterey, California **Master of Arts in International Environmental Policy** December 2001; **Certificate in Conflict Resolution** December 2001
* Two-Year Merit Scholarship

University of California, Santa Cruz, California
B.A. in Community Studies June 1995