



**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF  
VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Government Affairs has been created to advocate for Youngstown State University regarding local, state, and federal legislative priorities; and

**WHEREAS**, Sarah Keeler was appointed on February 5, 2024, as the Special Assistant to the President to lead this Office. The Office provides strategic leadership in building effective relationships with federal, state, and local officials as well as key community stakeholders to advance the University; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office monitors, analyzes, and determines the impact of pending legislative, policy and funding proposals originating from state government on the university's educational mission as well as impacting students, facilities, financing and funding, labor relations, and staffing; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office meets regularly with members of staff of the Ohio General Assembly, the Ohio U.S. Congressional Delegation, and key state and federal administrative offices regarding the implementation of university priorities and public needs and interests; and

**WHEREAS**, University Policy 3356-9-01, Selection, Appointment, and Evaluation of Executive Officers, requires board approval prior to the employment start date; and

**WHEREAS**, Sarah Keeler has uniquely specialized skills, knowledge, and experience in government affairs and since being appointed she has increased the University's awareness of state and federal government affairs issues that now or in the future will directly impact YSU, both from a policy and financial impact analysis; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Youngstown State University does hereby approve the appointment of Sarah Keeler as the Vice President of the Office of Government Affairs effective June 10, 2024, attached hereto.

**Board of Trustees Meeting  
June 7, 2024  
YR 2024-70**



# SARAH KEELER

## Experience

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Youngstown State University  
Special Assistant for Government Affairs  
*02/2024 - Present*

- Serve as YSU's chief government affairs officer; act as senior policy advisor and strategist to position YSU for its greatest impact within local communities, Northeast Ohio, the state, and the nation.
- Provide strategic leadership in building effective relationships with federal, state, and local officials as well as key community stakeholders to advance the university.
- Assist leadership in the development of legislative priorities, positions, and action strategies on legislation that impact YSU and/or its programs.
- Oversee campus activities and interactions with elected and public officials in consultation with campus and university officials.
- Serve on committees and boards within the university and externally to enhance YSU's system initiatives and projects.
- Work directly with a collaborative development team to strategically position YSU to receive government grants, budget allocations, and other government funding.

U.S. Congressman Bill Johnson  
**District Director**  
*11/2014 – 02/2024*

- Strategic Planning: worked with Chief of Staff and campaign consultants on district-wide political and official office strategy.
- Managed the congressional district's coordination and communications load to national leaders for numerous major events and issues that occurred in-district, including the nationally known East Palestine Train Derailment.
- Developed process and ran point on Community Project Funding / member directed spending appropriations requests. This resulted in nearly \$50 million in federal funding directed to OH-6.
- Presented Best Practices to the GOP Conference as requested (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2022).
- Managed and provided advice regarding high priority issues for the Congressman and the entire OH-6 district, including Energy, Environment, Health Care, and Telecom.
- Supervisory: Directly supervised nine employees; carried out responsibilities in accordance with office policy and applicable laws. Responsibilities included interviewing, hiring, and training district office employees; planning, assigning, and directing work; appraising performance; rewarding and disciplining district office employees; addressing complaints; and resolving problems.
- Advocated for local communities and organizations and worked with local, state, and federal officials on high-priority issues.
- Personally planned, coordinated, and executed large-scale congressional events, including the Collaboration Forum, Manufacturing Your Future, and The Bill Johnson Leadership Institute.

Bill Johnson for Congress  
**Campaign Manager**  
06/2014 - 11/2014

- Routinely spoke publicly on behalf of the Congressman.
- Built a broad, effective grassroots network and developed a comprehensive grassroots messaging plan.
- Hired, managed, and directed a high-performance campaign staff.
- Oversaw all aspects of the campaign.
- Created and managed the campaign budget.
- Interacted with media and spoke on behalf of the candidate.
- Assisted with fundraising efforts and presented fundraising leads to finance team.

U.S. Congressman Bill Johnson  
**Director of Constituent Services/  
Field Representative**  
02/2011 - 06/2014

- Oversaw and managed all caseworkers, who interact directly with government agencies on behalf of constituents.
- Gave public speeches on different areas of constituent services.
- Personally handled VIP issues and reported updates directly to the Congressman.
- Managed, researched, and composed grants and grant letters of support for constituents.
- Acted as the representative for the Congressman and spoke on his behalf.

WKBN/WYTV Youngstown  
**Web Producer**  
10/2009 - 01/2011

- Managed and edited online content for three news websites.
- Created online content for special sections.
- Managed assignment desk in executive producer's absence.
- Promoted television stations through social media.
- Devised creative and user-friendly features on five websites.

## Education and Training

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Youngstown State University  
**Master of Arts** in English, 2010

Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania  
**Bachelor of Science** in Communication, 2007

## Volunteer, Professional Experience and Achievements

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Daughters of the American Revolution  
11/2013 to present

- Ohio Society State Chairman
  - Flag of the USA, 2018-19
  - Junior Membership, 2019-2022
  - America 250!, 2022-present
- 2019 Ohio Outstanding Junior Member
- Honorary Chapter Regent, Mahoning Chapter NSDAR
- Senior Society President, Point of Beginning Society, Children of the American Revolution, 2020-2022

JoAnn Davidson Ohio Leadership Institute  
09/2019 – 05/2020

- Graduate

Canfield Parent Teacher Association  
08/2022 to present

- Member
  - Weekly classroom library volunteer
  - Monthly afterschool STEAM volunteer
  - Annual Fun in the Sun Event Chair