

KEELAN WILSON

Houston, Texas, 77067, | (832) 746-5003 | keelan.wilson.2020@gmail.com

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin

Aug 2016 - May 2020

- Earned a BA degree in Sociology and Certificate for Spanish for Medical Professionals.
- Completed international studies in China, South Africa, and Costa Rica, focusing on urban economic development, social entrepreneurship, sociology, and Spanish.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Grant Writer, Houston City College, Houston, TX

(40 hrs) Aug 2025 - Present

- Research and identify external funding opportunities (federal, state, local) aligned with HCC's strategic university programs and innovation priorities.
- Lead and coordinate grant proposal development processes from ideation through submission, including technical writing, budget preparation, narrative drafting, and compliance review.
- Provide technical assistance to faculty and internal stakeholders in designing projects, crafting proposals, and articulating program impact.
- Collaborate cross-functionally with academic, administrative, and operations teams to align grant initiatives with institutional goals.

Chief Executive Officer, Aknew Approach Inc., Houston, TX

(15hrs) Jul 2020 - Present

- Secured over \$425,000 in funding from private foundations and government sources to support youth empowerment, justice-involved programs, and health education initiatives.
- Directed all aspects of grant strategy, from research and writing to compliance and impact evaluation.
- Built and maintained a digital grants management system to track deadlines, renewals, and impact metrics.
- Developed and executed programs expanding access to mentorship, leadership, and mental health resources for system-impacted youth.
- Forged partnerships with educators, city officials, and nonprofit leaders to deliver sustainable, data-driven community outcomes.
- Built and led cross-functional teams.

Wraparound Resource Specialist, Houston Independent School District (40 hrs) Jan 2024 - June 2024

- Connected at-risk students and families with essential community and academic resources.
- Collaborated with school leaders to design programs that supported social-emotional wellness and improved student performance.
- Utilized CRM platforms and data analytics to track outcomes and improve engagement strategies.

Credible Messenger Wraparound specialist, Young People in Action (20 hrs) Dec 2023 - Apr 2024

- Mentored justice-impacted youth to facilitate reentry, leadership development, and workforce readiness.
- Organized field trips and partnerships with community organizations to expand educational exposure and career opportunities.

Trauma Coach (Remote), Mind Right, New Jersey

(15 hrs) Mar 2018 - Aug 2019

- Provided on-demand emotional support to at-risk teens experiencing stress and trauma.
- Conducted one-on-one virtual sessions using evidence-based strategies to build resilience and coping mechanisms.

Management Consultant Intern, Spinach King, Cape Town, South Africa (15hrs) Summer 2018

- Introduced innovative marketing and networking strategies to strengthen brand visibility for a local social enterprise.
- Analyzed operations and proposed sustainable growth models aligned with community needs.

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Young Adult Evangelism Lead, Higher Dimension Church, Houston, TX (10hrs) Mar 2025 - Present

- Host monthly young adult bible studies.
- Plan and execute events for the young adult ministry.

Executive Volunteer, Prison Entrepreneurship Program (3hrs) Jul 2023 - Present

- Provide executive mentorship to incarcerated individuals, offering business plan support, entrepreneurial guidance, and reentry encouragement to promote successful reintegration.

Founding Member, Harris County Youth Justice Cohort (3hrs) Jan. 2023 - Present

- Collaborate with grassroots organizations to reform Harris County's youth justice systems.
- Contributed to implementation of the Credible Messenger Mentoring Movement in Houston.

Pastoral Assistant to the Executive Pastor, Higher Dimension Church (5hrs) Jul 2022 - Present

- Coordinate high-level logistics, event execution, and pastoral scheduling to ensure seamless operations during major services and programs.

Production Manager, Higher Dimension Church, Houston, TX (5hrs) Jan 2022 - Oct 2025

- Oversaw all aspects of live event production for weekly services, coordinating staff, volunteers, and technical teams.
- Responsible for making sure the entire live event is executed seamlessly.

Vice President, Houston Leadership Council, Houston, TX (5hrs) Sep 2021 - Nov 2022

- Worked to bring recent college graduates the resources and direction they need to successfully transition from students to thriving professionals.

Global Leader Fellow, DDCE Global Leadership Fellowship, Austin, TX (10hrs) Sep 2019 - May 2020

- Designed innovative programming to increase student participation in international study opportunities.

Vice President, UT SPARK, The University of Texas at Austin (5hrs) Aug 2017 - May 2020

- UT athletes, wise peers and myself spoke to over 2000 students at elementary, middle, and high schools, juvenile detention centers, youth teams, and other organizations globally, delivering motivational speeches.

Campus Leader, IMPACT, The University of Texas at Austin (10hrs) Jan 2016 - Jan 2020

- Mentored peers in faith development and community service; coordinated campuswide volunteer initiatives.

SKILLS

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|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Public Speaking | • Professional Writing |
| • Self-Motivated | • Cross-Functional Team Collaboration |
| • Resourceful | • Community Organizing |
| • Ethical Leadership | • Research |
| • Quick learner | • Creativity |
| • Business Development | • Advocacy |
| • Workflow Automation | • Strategic Planning |

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Languages:** English, Spanish.
- **Certifications:** Workflow Automation Specialist, Master Storyteller, Grant Writing, Credible Messenger Mentor, AHA CPR Instructor, Teaching English as a Foreign Language.
- **Awards/Recognitions:** Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award (2024), Youth Empowerment Champion (2023).