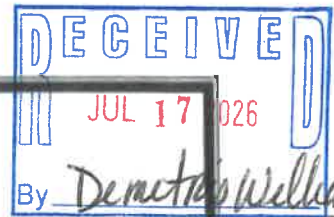


HERNANDO COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BOARD/COMMITTEE APPLICATION



Please type or print clearly

Name of Board/Committee Library Advisory Committee
Check one: ☒ Full Member Position
☐ Alternate Member Position

Name Sophia Watson
(Your name must be listed as it appears on your voter registration card)

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS REQUIRED FOR COUNTY RECORDS AND BECOMES PUBLIC RECORD UPON SUBMITTING THIS APPLICATION. IF YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU QUALIFY FOR AN EXEMPTION TO THE RELEASE OF THIS INFORMATION, PURSUANT TO F.S. 119.07, PLEASE STATE THE BASIS OF YOUR EXEMPTION. YOUR FAILURE TO ANSWER FULLY AND TRUTHFULLY ALL QUESTIONS COULD RESULT IN YOUR APPLICATION BEING DENIED OR YOUR SUBSEQUENT REMOVAL FROM ANY BOARD/COMMITTEE IF APPOINTED.

Address 1194 Three Leaf Lane

City Brooksville Zip 34604

Telephone 352-398-3817 (home) _____ (business) _____

E-mail address sophiawatson425@gmail.com

Are you a resident of Hernando County? yes

Voter Registration Number 104474016

Education MA Education Administration
(Please include any certificates, awards, diplomas, degrees, professional license numbers, etc.)

Please see attached resume.

Employment History _____
(Attach a resume if available)
Please see attached resume.

Licenses or Certificates Held Please see attached resume.

Have you ever previously applied for a position on any County Board/Committee? yes

If yes, please state the Board(s)/Committee(s) you applied for, when you applied, and whether you were appointed.
Affordable Housing Committee, EDATAC, CareerSource Workforce Board

Have you ever been convicted, plead guilty or no contest, or entered into PTI for a felony or 1st/ 2nd degree misdemeanor? no
Answering yes does not automatically disqualify you for consideration.

If yes, what charges? _____

Are you currently involved as a defendant in a criminal case? no

If yes, what charges? _____

Have you ever been named as a defendant in a civil action suit? no

If yes, when and describe action. _____

Please state your reasons for applying to this Board/Committee As a lifelong educator, I feel strongly in
preserving the integrity of the local library system.

Please list three character references of persons NOT related to, NOT an employer, NOT an employee of you or your company, and whom you have known at least one (1) year. Please include addresses and phone numbers.

1. Barbarita Hinton, 11556 Norvelle Rd, Spring Hill, FL 34608, 727-742-8418
2. Gerry Whitted, 357 Royal Palm Way, Spring Hill FL 34608, 203-241-8398
3. Lauren Swiatek, 14059 Cooper Rd, Spring Hill FL 34609, 352-263-9029

I hereby request consideration as a committee/board appointee. It is my intention to familiarize myself to the duties and responsibilities of the office to which I may be appointed, and to fulfill the appointment to the best of my ability, exercising good judgement, fairness, impartiality, and faithful attendance. By my signature below, I hereby authorize Hernando County to check my references and my background, including, without limitation, obtaining a criminal history check. I also agree to file a Financial Disclosure form as required by State law, if applicable, and abide by provisions of the State Sunshine Law.

I hereby swear and affirm, under Penalty of Perjury, that the above information is true and correct.

Applicant's signature



(Please direct all inquiries to the County Administrator's Office at 754-4002.)

Completed applications may be submitted to the County Administrator's office, 15470 Flight Path Drive, Brooksville, Florida 34604, or faxed to 352-754-4025 Attention: Jessica Wright.



Hernando County Background Consent / Release Form

As a volunteer applicant, I understand and acknowledge that an investigative report may be compiled on me. This report may include information regarding any criminal records, and from various public and private sources including law enforcement agencies at the Federal, State or County level, courts record repositories, sexual offender registries and any other source required to verify information that I have voluntarily provided.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Legal Name: Sophia Watson
Date of Birth: 01/06/1976
Other Names Used: Sophia Xenos
(Legal Name) First M.I. Last
Dates Used (from/to): 1/6/76 thru 4/25/99
Home Phone #: _____
Cell Phone #: 352-398-3817
E-mail Address: sophiawatson425@gmail.com
Are you 18 years of age or older? ☒ Yes ☐ No

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Current Address: 1194 Three Leaf Lane
City, State, Zip : Brooksville, FL 34604
Time at this address: 18 Years 1 Month
Previous Address: 4338 Dewberry Street
City, State, Zip : Spring Hill, FL 34608
Time at this address 8 Years 4 Month

By signing below, you hereby authorize, empower and release from all liability, without reservation, any agency contacted by Hernando County to furnish the above-mentioned information. You further authorize ongoing procurement of the above-mentioned information at any time during your relationship with Hernando County. You agree that a fax or photocopy of this authorization is to be considered and accepted with the same authority as the original.

Applicant's Signature

7/17/24
Date

SOPHIA WATSON

Executive Leader | Workforce Development | Career and Technical Education Talent Strategy

CONTACT

☎ 352-398-3817

✉ sophiawatson425@gmail.com

📍 1194 Three Leaf Lane
Brooksville, Florida 34604

SKILLS

Strategic Planning & Partnerships

Executive Leadership

Credential Development

Grant Development

Public Policy

Program Development

Workforce Innovation

Technical Education Leadership

Economic Development

Industry Engagement

Federal and State Funding

Apprenticeships

Workforce Development Strategy

AWARDS

FSI, Director's Award, 2026

*FLATE Distinguished Manufacturing
Partners Service Award, 2025*

ACE of Florida, President's Award, 2023

Kiwanis, Kiwanian of the Year, 2017 &
2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Workforce development executive with 20+ years of experience leading strategic partnerships, technical education, and economic development initiatives. Successfully secured \$19M+ in external funding and built talent pipelines supporting semiconductor manufacturing, advanced manufacturing and other high demand industries.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Assistant Director, Workforce Development

Florida Semiconductor Institute, University of Florida 2024 - present

- Developed and implemented a workforce development strategy encompassing early education awareness through large-scale initiatives with semiconductor and manufacturing industry partners.
- Coordinated the formation of an industry workgroup to advance the development of four new certifications in the semiconductor field.
- Led statewide partnerships among industry, education, workforce, and government stakeholders to strengthen Florida's semiconductor talent pipeline and workforce strategy.
- Co-authored three publications advancing semiconductor workforce development, talent pipeline strategies, and education-industry partnerships.
- Contributed to nine competitive state and federal grant proposals to expand semiconductor workforce initiatives and education capacity.

Director, Adult and Technical Education

Hernando Schools 2013 - 2024

- Lead a team of up to 90 instructors and staff in overseeing Workforce Development programs within the school district.
- Oversaw the inception, growth, and physical expansion of Wilton Simpson Technical College, which included the creation of 27 new programs.
- Secured \$19,140,000 in external funding to support the expansion of Wilton Simpson Technical College.
- Managed the state appropriation process, ensuring optimal allocation and utilization of funds for organizational initiatives.
- Successfully navigated an Incubator project through the initial stages of the federal appropriation process, positioning it for further advancement.
- Established a partnership with the local state college and county government to develop a new training complex, fostering community and workforce development.
- Developed comprehensive marketing materials for the college, increasing visibility and engagement.
- Actively participated in local economic development initiatives and committees.
- Assisted in the founding of a local college access network, expanding educational opportunities for the community.
- Co-chaired District Rezoning Committees in both 2015 and 2023.
- Contributed to the development of programs for overage students and a Drop Back In Academy

SOPHIA WATSON

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 2023 - present, *YMCA Togetherhood*, member
 - 2017 - 2026, *PACE School for Girls Hernando*, Board of Directors
 - 2021 - 2025, *ACE of Florida*, Board of Directors
 - 2021 - 2024, *South Brooksville Tax Redevelopment Advisory Committee*, founding member
 - 2020 - 2024, *Economic Development and Aviation Technical Advisory Committee*, appointed Board position
 - 2022 - 2024, *Region 16 Workforce Development Board*, appointed Board position
 - 2023, *PHSC Presidential Search Committee*, member
 - 2019, *Women's Leadership Summit*, Co-Chair
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EDUCATION

MA Education Administration,
Grand Canyon University

BA Philosophy, University of
Florida

CERTIFICATIONS

**Florida Professional Educator's
Certificate**

Education Leadership All Levels

General Science 5 - 9

Middle Grades Integrated Curriculum 5 - 9

2024 - 2029

WORK EXPERIENCE

Instructional Leader

Florida Virtual School

2010 - 2013

- Led up to 160 instructors in the day-to-day operations of a virtual school environment ensuring effective instruction that resulted in student achievement.
- Monitored the effectiveness of FLVS training programs as they related to preparing and supporting online instructors.
- Developed a comprehensive teacher handbook for summer school, improving instructional consistency and effectiveness.
- Assisted in creating an Instructional Leader Induction Program, supporting the professional growth of new educational leaders.
- Led a team to develop a proposal for a Common Core diploma option for the federal government, enhancing standardized education pathways.
- Contributed to the establishment of a Leadership Academy for aspiring leaders, fostering future educational leadership and development.

Instructor

Florida Virtual School

2008 - 2010

- Taught Earth Space Science and Physical Science, designing and delivering engaging curriculum to enhance student understanding and performance.
- Completed the Emerging Leaders Program, gaining advanced leadership skills and knowledge to drive educational excellence and innovation.

Instructor

Hernando Schools

2003 - 2008

HEART Literacy/Adult Education

- Served as an Adult Education Instructor, delivering comprehensive literacy and adult education programs.

Nature Coast Technical High School

- Coordinated the dropout prevention program, implementing strategies to improve student retention and success.
- Participated in various committees to disseminate data, driving informed instruction and enhancing school climate.

Fox Chapel Middle School

- Led the science department, managing a team of 7 teachers and fostering a collaborative educational environment.
 - Served as Team Leader for a team of 5 teachers, promoting teamwork and effective instructional practices.
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