

Education

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Education and Leadership. Drake University, Des Moines, IA.	2018
Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Social Studies & Mathematics Education. Drake University, Des Moines, IA.	2007
Master of Arts (MA) Emphasis in post-1945 United States History. DePaul University, Chicago, IL.	2003
Bachelor of Arts (BA) Emphasis in United States History. Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN.	2002

Professional Experience

State Director, Iowa, Best Buddies International, Des Moines, IA.	2018-Present
Develops and implements strategic annual state plan through overseeing day-to-day operations, securing funding for programs and special projects, overseeing programs to ensure program consistency and success, managing local Advisory Boards and associated committees, and supervising state staff. Assists and directs Program staff to ensure program consistency and success in the over 40 schools across the state of Iowa. Assumes overall operational management responsibility for all fundraising activities statewide for the half a million dollar annual budget, including, but not limited to, foundation and corporate giving, individual giving, major gifts, special events, annual giving, and alumni/parent relations. Implements special events which produce a net revenue of over \$400,000, including the Chef Challenge, accounting for \$193,000 in 2018, BBIA Friendship Walks, BBIA Friendship Balls, Birdies for Buddies, and Biking for Buddies Events. Creates a strong presence for Best Buddies in the local area through public speaking, community involvement, public service announcements, social media, special events, news releases, and other media initiatives. Implement a successful Jobs Program (integrated employment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities) through securing both corporate and individual gifts, but also working cohesively with the state legislature.	
Co-Professor, School of Education, Drake University, Des Moines, IA.	2017-Present
Co-teach Special Education 120/220, Introduction to Special Education. Course designed for special and general educators, and other professionals who have need of knowledge and experience in adapting and accommodating classroom learning environments (socio-emotional, behavioral, and physical) for students with disabilities, with a focus of low-incidence disabilities.	
Adjunct Professor, School of Arts and Sciences, CCAC, Pittsburgh, PA.	2017-2018
Director, Fundraising and Special Events, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa, Des Moines, IA.	2016-2017
Implement the key fundraising initiatives of Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Iowa. Coordinate and implement special events that advance the annual strategic fundraising plan and manage all aspects of the Annual Gift Campaign. Manage numerous special events and donor outreach programs throughout the year, from the annual golf tournament to smaller stewardship events such as cocktail parties at private homes, luncheons for major donors, and events that raise funds and/or friends for BGCCI. Meet aggressive annual giving revenue goals to support a 3.2 million dollar budget, and track results. Supervise all fundraising staff. Prepare copy for and oversee the productions timelines, preparation and publishing of all solicitation mailings. Manage all special events programming and develop new opportunities that align with the strategic plan and annual goals around major gift fundraising. Develop and integrate donor cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship strategies into the Annual Gift Campaign and all special events. Implement annual development plan that includes short- and long-range goals for funding sources. Work with the Board of Directors to coordinate, plan and execute all special events. Seek out and develop innovative funding partnerships with organizations that further the goals of BGCCI. Assist with reconciling donor records. Oversee gift acknowledgment and donor recognition programs. With the CEO, represent BGCCI at public events and present to donor groups, civic groups, and special events.	
Associate Director, University Advancement, Drake University, Des Moines, IA.	2014-2016
Regional Outreach and Development, Alumni Career Services/Central Iowa Outreach and Development Manage outreach events, programming and volunteer management for Drake's regional alumni engagement nationwide. Provide additional leadership for the Director and Vice President with staff and within the University. Develop and maintain a regional alumni engagement strategy. Provide leadership and support to regional strategic initiatives. Provide leadership for Drake's regional campaign and presidential events in various alumni markets. Provide additional management support for the Director and Vice President with staff and alumni volunteers. Responsible for ongoing planning and execution of the National Alumni Board of Directors Strategic Plan, and Drake University's Continuous Improvement Plan.	
Career Coordinator, University Career Center, Truman State University, Kirksville, MO.	2012-2014
Assisted individuals and students with professional development needs by implementing over 40 presentations per academic year. Counseled university students and alumni on career decision making topics including defining professional goals, resume/cover letter suggestions, interviewing, choosing a major/career, job/internship search, and tips for applying to graduate/professional school. Provided leadership to over 20 Career Center employees annually, including student advisors, mock interviewers, one Human Resources Intern, and one Outreach Intern. Implemented positive faculty relations structure by discussing opportunities to collaborate to prepare students for post-graduate career plans, specifically with the School of Education by providing direct instruction during their internship orientation. Managed and coordinated all events sponsored by the Career Center, including Career Week activities which provide over 90 employers bi-annually who recruit students and alumni.	

Teacher, Scotland County R-1 High School, Scotland County R-1 District, Memphis, MO.	2011-2012
Teacher, Waukee Middle School, Waukee Community District, Waukee, IA.	2009-2011
Teacher, Ankeny High School, Ankeny Community District, Ankeny, IA.	2007-2009
Project Manager, Downtown Events Group, Des Moines Partnership, Des Moines, IA.	2004-2006
Assistant Director, Carnegie Library Museum, Hometown Perry Iowa, Perry, IA.	2003-2004

Activities and Involvement

Special Olympics of Iowa Volunteer, Des Moines/Ames, IA	2016-present
Central Iowa Shelter Volunteer, Des Moines, IA	2015-present
Iowa Food Bank Volunteer, Des Moines, IA	2015-present
Community Youth Concepts Board Member/Mentor, Des Moines, IA	2016-2017
Staff Council Member, Truman State University, Kirksville, MO	2013-2014
Homecoming Court Interview Committee Member, Truman State University, Kirksville, MO	2012-2014
Transfer Student Task Force Member, Truman State University, Kirksville, MO	2012-2013
Student Affairs Critical Thinking HLC Project Member, Truman State University, Kirksville, MO	2012-2013
Black and Gold Pageant Interview Committee Chair, Truman State University, Kirksville, MO	2012-2013
Head Varsity and Head Junior Varsity Campus Bowl Coach, Scotland County R-1 High School, Memphis, MO	2011-2012
Head Varsity Tennis Coach, Waukee High School, Waukee, IA	2010-2011
Assistant Varsity Volleyball Coach, Waukee High School, Waukee, IA	2009-2011
Assistant Varsity Tennis Coach, Urbandale High School, Urbandale, IA	2009-2010
Assistant Varsity Volleyball Coach, Waukee High School, Waukee, IA	2009-2011
Assistant Varsity Tennis Coach, Ankeny High School, Ankeny, IA	2007-2010
Assistant Varsity Volleyball Coach, Ankeny High School, Ankeny, IA	2007-2010
Facilitator, Climate and Culture Faculty Committee, Ankeny High School, Ankeny IA	2008-2009
Faculty Sponsor, Ankeny High School Student Council, Ankeny, IA	2008-2009

Affiliations and Awards

UCB Epilepsy Scholarship, National, 2018.
Sapphire Award, Drake University, Des Moines, IA, 2016
Greater Des Moines Partnership Leadership Institute Nominee, Des Moines, IA, 2016.
Call to be True Blue Award, Drake University, Des Moines, IA, 2015
Council for Advancement and Support of Education member (CASE), 2014-Present.
National Education Association member (NEA), 2007-2012.
State of Missouri Social Science Endorsement Grades 5-9. 2011-Present.
State of Missouri Social Science Endorsement Grades 9-12. 2011-Present.
State of Iowa All Social Sciences Master Educator Endorsement, Grades 5-12. 2009-Present.
Secondary Advanced Placement Certification, United States History. 2009-Present.
State of Iowa Athletic Coach Endorsement Grades K-12. 2009-2015.
Heartland Area Education Agency, 2007-2011.
Ankeny Area Education Agency, 2007-2009.
Phi Alpha Theta, Psi Lambda Chapter, National Honor Society for History. 2002-Present.

Conferences and Workshops

Global Leadership Summit. Graduway Annual Conference. Los Angeles, CA, 2016.
Higher Expectations. Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) IV Annual Conference, Denver, CO, 2015.
What Makes Them Stay? A Look at Rural Teacher Retention. Truman State University Student Research Conference, Kirksville, MO, 2014.
Emma J. Westin, Dr. John Y. Jones, Faculty Mentor.
Learning More about the Degree Qualifications Profile, Truman State University Conference Day, Kirksville, MO, 2013.
Equipping Talent (Students) For a Whole New World of Work. Laura Evens, Director of Talent Development, Cerner. Truman State University Conference Day, Kirksville, MO, 2013.
Standards and Communication in Teaching, National Education Association, Des Moines, IA, 2011.
The Role of Data, Assessments and Instruction to Raise Student Achievement, National Education Association, Des Moines, IA, 2011.
OLLIE: Online Assessment, Feedback and Evaluation, Area Education Association, Des Moines, IA, 2010.
Instructional Coaching and Administrator Partnerships, Area Education Association, Des Moines, IA, 2009.
Bullying Prevention and Intervention – The Why, The What, and the How, Area Education Association, Ankeny, IA, 2007.
Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training, Area Education Association, Ankeny, IA, 2007.