

Ms. Sam Grabelle, MSW

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Education

University of Connecticut School of Social Work (West Hartford, CT) 1999
Major: Community Organization *Minor:* Group Work *Degree:* Master of Social Work

Brown University (Providence, RI) 1994
Major: Educational Studies - Multicultural Issues *Degree:* Bachelor of Arts

Education Experience

Teaching and Learning Projects Administrator – Bryant University (RI) 2010-present

- Support the Director of Faculty Development in the creation of Bryant's new Center for Teaching and Learning.
- Serve as primary support for faculty using Blackboard.
- Provide writing support and workshops for faculty in the development of proposals, award nominations, and Scholarship of Teaching and Learning projects. Co-facilitate bi-annual faculty/staff writers' retreats.
- Research best practices.
- Oversee the development of a teaching and learning library.
- Develop and maintain websites for the Center for Teaching and Learning, the Academic Center for Excellence and the Writing Center.
- Research and provide access to currently available policies and resources for faculty regarding teaching at Bryant. Developed and annually update new faculty guide.

Adjunct Professor, Writing Specialist & Workshop Facilitator – Bryant University (RI) 2008-present

- Develop and facilitate Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) and Writing Center workshops for all students, including Preparing and Giving Presentations, Jumpstarting Your Research Paper, Studying in Groups and Working and Writing in Groups.
- Teach individual and small groups of students who come to the Writing Center seeking support with writing assignments, including: brainstorming, thesis development, grammatical and spelling corrections, group project support, English language learning for international students and other writing concerns. Provide writing support to business plan lab.
- Developed curricula for and taught freshmen and transfer students in Foundations For Learning (FFL) college success course (discontinued after Spring 2012).
- Teach WRIT106 Writing Workshop course to first year students.

Independent Education Consultant and Freelance Writer (RI) 2004-present

- Develop personal and small business websites including www.climbingthestairsbook.com, www.pawtopawdogtraining.com, and www.lauriehazard.com.
- Staffed Commission at RI Department of Education legislated to study options for a Statewide Student Information System. Conducted national and state research; presented findings; drafted report outline; facilitated meetings; wrote final report (455 pages) which was submitted to the Commissioner of Education and the Legislature.
- Taught teacher education workshops and an online graduate course for The University of Rio Grande (OH).
- Researched and developed a website for the Rhode Island Department of Education, detailing activities of the Highly Qualified Leaders Project (see www.ride.ri.gov/hqlp).
- Performed in Living Literature's theater program *Common Ground: What Unites Us? What Divides Us?* funded by the RI Council for the Humanities.
- Wrote grant reports on funded public education projects for the Rhode Island Foundation.
- Edited/co-wrote the FIRST organization's (For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) coffee table book on its LEGO League and high school robotics programs, published by Palo Alto Press.

- Assisted the Rhode Island Child Opportunity Zones (located in 10 cities) in creating a presence as a statewide network, including developing their pages on the RIDE website.
- Other clients include: Education Alliance at Brown University; Technology Applications Association (Charles Mojkowski); National Neighborhood Day; Embolden Design; R.C. Owen Publishers; and Ideas Consulting.

Consultant – Top Admit Application Essay Consulting - www.topadmit.com (Taiwan) 2008-2012

- Edit and critique application essays of Chinese and Taiwanese college, graduate school and PhD candidates applying to English-speaking colleges and universities in the U.S., England, Sweden, Canada, and elsewhere. Provide paragraph by paragraph critiques.
- Edit and critique professors' letters of recommendation, students' resumes and practice GRE Analytical Writing essays.

First Year Engagement Specialist & Instructor – Bristol Community College (MA) 2009

- Developed and proposed programming for first year students under the auspices of a Title 3 grant.
- Conducted research on best practices and facilitated workshops with faculty and staff. Workshop topics included: evaluating the effectiveness of the writing placement test; incorporating college success skills and strategies into first year content courses; and evaluating the engagement points prior to a students' first day of class (admissions, advisement, orientation, etc.).
- Developed unique syllabus for and taught College Success Seminar. Served as advisor to course students.
- Designed a three-session orientation program for incoming students.

Academic Support Specialist - Community College of Rhode Island Access TRiO Program (RI) 2007

- Supervised tutoring program for CCRI's first-generation students, low-income students and students with disabilities, including recruiting and training paraprofessional tutors and developing a training manual.

Assistant to the Director - Big Picture Company / The Met Center High Schools (Providence, RI) 2001-2004

- Co-authored the book, *The Big Picture: Education is Everyone's Business* (ASCD, 2004), a member book-of-the-month and the Association of Educational Publishers 2005 Distinguished Achievement Award winner.
- Co-wrote numerous articles for national education publications.
- Developed strong relationships with students/staff of six innovative public high schools in Providence, including supporting the network of principals, helping to recruit and hire teachers, mentoring students, and writing public relations materials.
- Wrote the schools' policy manual adhering to state and federal regulations.
- Provided support and resources to the national network of Big Picture Schools.
- Redesigned and rewrote the Big Picture's website. Served as webmaster from 2003-2008.

Project Manager / Service Director of After School Programs - Explore, Inc. (CT) 2000-2001

- Started the first Explore after school programs in the state of Connecticut for the Baltimore-based company.
- Oversaw all operations of four after school educational enrichment programs.
- Supervised and hired teachers, oversaw licensing application, communicated with parents, enrolled students, and partnered with school staff.
- Developed staff evaluation tool and community service project outline.
- Promoted to project manager of 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant applications for U.S. school districts.

Instructor - Hartford College for Women and Hamden Adult Education (CT) 2000

- Developed curriculum for and presented multi-session creative writing workshops for adults.

Social Work Experience

Youth Services Coordinator - Family Resources Community Action (Woonsocket, RI) 2007

- Helped to develop a DLT-funded career center for community youth ages 14-21.
- Provided resource and referral services as well as life and job skills workshops.

Development Coordinator - Leadership, Education and Athletics in Partnership, Inc. (LEAP) (CT) 1999-2000

- Grant writer for statewide youth development organization.
- Researched funding opportunities and wrote proposals and reports for corporations and foundations.
- Conceived and prepared event and fundraiser materials and developed grant-tracking system.
- Communicated regularly with program staff and funders.
- Lead writer on \$1.65 million AmeriCorps grant award.

Founder / Director of Student Support - University of Connecticut School of Social Work (CT) 1998-1999

- Proposed, implemented, and independently ran individualized academic support program for fellow students
- Held open office hours and group workshops.
- Developed mentor program for non-matriculated students.
- Surveyed participants and presented program proposal to the Dean.

University of CT School of Social Work Graduate Intern – The Bridge Family Center (CT) 1997-1999

- Founded and supervised a committee of 20 teens working to start a local teen center.
- Assisted in grant writing and organized community forums on teen issues.
- Hired in 1999 to continue youth leadership and run a support group for 6th graders transitioning out of ESL.

Honors & Awards

- 2006 **Volunteer Merit Award for Mentoring Youth**
Presented by The Met High School and the Rhode Island Foundation
- 2005 **The Association of Educational Publishers 2005 Distinguished Achievement Award**
Presented for the book The Big Picture: Education is Everyone's Business (ASCD, 2004)
- 1999 **Student of the Year**
Presented by the National Association of Social Workers (CT)
- 1994 **Graduation with Honors**
Presented by Brown University

Publications

Books:

- Grabelle, Sam (Writer and Developmental Editor). (2007). *FIRST: Chronicles of Inspiration, Competition and Changing the World*. CA: Palo Alto Press.
- Littky, Dennis with Samantha Grabelle. (2004). *The Big Picture: Education is Everyone's Business*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.
- Grabelle, Sam (contributor). (2003). *Teaching with Fire: Poetry That Sustains the Courage to Teach*. Intrator, S. and Scribner, M. (eds.). San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Articles:

- Grabelle, Samantha. "Diving In – The Real Goals of Education." *The Virginia Journal of Education*. (October 2008).
- Grabelle, Samantha. "My Father's Wisdom – Reconsidered." *The Ohio ASCD Journal*. (Spring 2005).
- Littky, Dennis with Samantha Grabelle. "The World is Integrated!" *The Curriculum Technology Quarterly* (February 2005).
- Littky, Dennis with Samantha Grabelle. "Voting for Homecoming Queen Does Not Prepare Students for Democracy." *Horace*, Volume 21, No. 1 (Late Fall 2004 - Special 20th Anniversary Issue).
- Littky, Dennis with Samantha Grabelle. "If We Love Our Children More Than We Love Our Schools, the System Must Change." *Educational Horizons, Pi Lambda Theta* (Summer 2004).
- Dennis Littky, Nancy Diaz, Danique Dolly, Chris Hempel, Charlie Plant, Phil Price, and Sam Grabelle. "Moment to Moment at The Met." *Educational Leadership* (May 2004).

Other:

- Grabelle, Sam. *The Met Portfolio*. (2001-2002). 34-page report on The Met high schools.
- Grabelle, Sam. *Welcome to The Met*. (2003-2004). 15-page brochure for The Met high schools.

Certifications and Trainings

- 2010 Certified Learning Center Professional – Level 1 (National College Learning Center Association)
- 2007 BEST Youth Worker Certificate (Health Resources in Action)
- Rhode Island Higher Education Training Consortium full and half-day trainings on: Managing Conflict, Write It Right!, Managing Change, and Project Management

Volunteer Work

- **Speech and Interview Judge** - Rhode Island Academic Decathlon (2007 - present)
- **Prospective student interviewer** - Brown Alumni Schools Committees, Providence, RI (2007-2012)
- **Student and alumni mentor** - The Met Schools, Providence, RI (2001 - present)
- **Board member/webmaster** - The Friends of Rochambeau Library, Providence, RI (2005-2009)
- **Mentor** - Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program middle school, Providence, RI (2008)
- **Board member** - Young Voices, Providence, RI (2008-2009)
- **Mentor** - Year Up, Providence, RI (2005-2006)

Skills

- **Computer:** Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Suite including Dreamweaver and Photoshop, web design/navigation, Content Management Systems, databases, Development software, Blackboard, Banner
- **Writing and editing:** Web content, publicity materials, annual reports, grants/grant reports, articles, books
- **Education:** College success, first year experience, high school success, curriculum development, teacher education, workshops, training, academic and creative writing, public speaking, job skills