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HIGHLIGHTS

- Cofounder of nationally-recognized nonprofit education organization dedicated to making science accessible to students of color and girls through personalized experiences with science and scientists.
- Two decades experience in education reform and nonprofit leadership.
- Extensive experience consulting on nonprofit management including: strategic planning; start-ups and organization turn-around; data-driven program development and evaluation; fundraising and board development; communications and branding; financial and annual planning and budgeting.
- Adept at organizing local and national cross-sector convenings.
- Nationally-sought consultant on issues pertaining to recruitment and retention of minority youth and girls to science, technology, engineering and math; access and equity issues affecting youth development; and nonprofit innovation and organizational capacity building.
- Teacher, writer and designer for curriculum and exhibitions.
- Participant in nine international paleontology expeditions, specializing in logistics and field-based education outreach and social media communications.

EDUCATION

2011 Certificate in Nonprofit Management, Northwestern University
2010 PhD, Curriculum and Instruction, University of Illinois at Chicago
1994 MA, History, University of Chicago
BA with Honors, History, University of Chicago

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director, Strategic Initiatives and National Partnerships. *Thirty Million Words Initiative at the University of Chicago. September 2013-*

- Strategic Planning and capacity building including: leading a strategic planning process for establishing a Thirty Million Words Center at the University of Chicago;
- Coalition building including: organizing a conference in Washington, DC in partnership with The White House office of Science and Technology Policy, the United States Department of Education and Health and Human Services agencies; drafting a national coalition campaign strategy;
- Communications and public relations: shaping key messages and a communications strategy.

Instructional Coach, Social Entrepreneurship. *University of Chicago Booth School of Business. January 2013-June 2013.*

Cofounder, Interim Executive Director. *Project Exploration. September 2012-Present.*

Cofounder, Senior Explorer, *Project Exploration. October 2011-September 2012.*

- Support board and senior leadership team as a strategist, educator, convener and communicator.
- Articulate and disseminate Project Exploration's approach to teaching and learning and out-of-school-time education through strategic projects, technical assistance initiatives and writing and speaking engagements.
- Serve as advocate and lead fundraiser with select cultural, educational, government, and philanthropic leaders.

Cofounder and Executive Director. *Project Exploration*. June 1999–October 2011.

- Built and managed program, fundraising, and earned revenue strategies for \$2.5 million, 20-person, nonprofit science education organization from the ground up.
- Established nationally-recognized model for recruiting and retaining minority youth and girls to science through out of school time programming.
- Created and managed programming reaching 300+ minority youth and girls annually with intensive youth programs, 30 teachers annually with professional development workshops, 40,000 visitors internationally via online expeditions and web initiatives, and more than one million people with traveling science exhibitions.
- Attracted more than \$7 million in philanthropic contributions for Project Exploration’s work, including organization’s first \$1+ million gift from a family foundation.
- Fostered dynamic board of directors representing Chicago’s cultural, scientific, philanthropic, and business communities.
- Lead five-and-ten-year retrospective evaluation studies of the impact of Project Exploration’s model on participants’ educational aspirations and achievement.
- Project Exploration recognized with a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (2009), by the President Council of Advisors on Science and Technology as a national model (2010) and by the National Institute for Summer Learning as one of the best programs in the country (2011).

Director, School Change Institute. *Small Schools Workshop, University of Illinois at Chicago*. 1997–99.

- Developed and delivered state-wide training programs to prepare education coaches for school improvement work based on a “whole school change” model.

Outreach Coordinator. *Small Schools Workshop, University of Illinois at Chicago*. 1996–97.

- Served as the external partner for a Chicago Public elementary school on probation. Succeeded in assisting school to eliminate probation within one year.
- Founded the Small Schools Expo, an annual conference of more than 100 small public schools showcasing school innovation and highlighting school choice opportunities for parents.

Research Fellow. *Teaching Tolerance. Southern Poverty Law Center, Montgomery, AL*. 1995–96.

- Wrote and edited articles, conducted interviews for nationally-recognized education magazine fostering interracial and intercultural understanding in the classroom.
- Developed story features and sidebar articles for *Starting Small*, an award-winning early-childhood curriculum.

Substitute Teacher, all subjects, all grades. *Chicago Public Schools*. 1995.

Researcher, expedition logistics coordinator, writer, classroom teacher. Various projects. 1991–97.

SELECT CONSULTING AND ADVISORY WORK

- University of Chicago Division of Social Sciences (2013)
- Voqal (2013)
- Cochair, Mayor’s Technology Diversity Advisory Committee (2013)
- Senior Advisor, Clinton Global Initiative America, STEM Education Working Group (2010, 2011)

AWARDS and HONORS

2012 Honoree, Annual Women’s Luncheon to Benefit At-Risk Girls in the Foster Care System.
Childlink.

- 2012 National After School Champion. *After School Alliance*.
- 2012 Community Service and Social Justice Award. *University of Illinois Chicago Gender and Women's Studies Program*.
- 2011 Chicagoan of the Year. *Chicago Magazine*.
- 2011 Distinguished Service Award. *Phi Beta Kappa*.
- 2011 Excellence in Summer Learning Award to Project Exploration. *National Summer Learning Association*
- 2010 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring awarded to Project Exploration. *Office of the White House*.
- 2009 Dr. Ann Lynn Lopez Schubert Fellowship. *University of Illinois at Chicago*.
- 2009 Theodore R. Sizer Dissertation Scholar. *Coalition for Essential Schools*.
- 2009 Leadership Fellow. *Chicago Community Trust*.
- 2007 "35 Under 35" Award. *Community Renewal Society*.
- 2004 Outstanding Community Leaders Award. *Association of Fundraising Professionals*.
- 2003 Best Educational Exhibit, "The Mesozoic Garden." *Chicago Flower and Garden Show*.
- 1999 Tomorrow's Leaders Today. *Public Allies*.
- 1997 Community Brick Award. *Do Something*.
- 1996 Delegate to the United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. *International Educators for World Peace*.
- 1993 Howard Hughes Research Fellowship in the Biological Sciences. *University of Chicago*.

DISSERTATION

"Project Exploration's Personalized Curriculum: Fostering Access and Equity in Science Out-Of-School." University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Education. 2010.

MASTER'S THESIS

"Henry Field, the History of Anthropology, and Franklin D. Roosevelt's 'M' Project for Migration and Settlement." University of Chicago, Department of History. 1994

MEMBERSHIPS and AFFILIATIONS

Coalition for Science After School, Executive Committee Member (since 2008)

Economic Club of Chicago (since 2006)

National Girls Collaborative Project (since 2011)

Science Makers (since 2010)

American Education Research Association (2009-2012)

Blair Thomas Theater Company, Board Member (2005-2007)

Casablanca Sister Cities Committee (1996-2006)

Illinois Girls Collaborative (2010-2012)

Legacy Charter School, Founding Director (2006-2008)

Latino Technology Association (2008-2010)

SELECT WRITINGS AND PUBLICATIONS

The State of STEM in Out-of-School Time in Chicago. *Project Exploration*. June 2013.

Beyond the Pipeline: A Pathways Framework for Engaging Youth in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math in Out-of-School Time. *After School Matters Journal*. Fall 2012.

Clinton Global Initiative and Small and Medium Sized Businesses: Hot Stuff or Hot Air? April 23, 2012.

It's 3pm. Is Your Child Discovering the World? *Catalyst Chicago*. June 9, 2011.

Lessons Learned: 10 Years of Changing the Face of Science. *Project Exploration*. March 2011.

Project Exploration's Sisters4Science: A Blueprint for Involving Urban Girls of Color in Science Out of School. *Afterschool Matters*. Spring 2010.

Can You Tell Me How to Get to Science Street? *Huffington Post*. December 23, 2009.

The Onus Is On Us. Essay 1 in *A Watershed Moment: The First National Conference on Science and Technology in Out-of-School Time*. Chicago, IL: 2009.

- Tragedy in Back of the Yards. With Maureen Kelleher. *Catalyst*. May/June 2008.
- “Modern Schools Need Modern Methods.” With Paul Sereno. *Montgomery Advertiser*, February 13, 2005.
- Gabrielle Lyon and the Fossil Hunt. With Joyce Goldenstern. On Our Way to English series. Barrington, IL: Rigby, 2004.
- A Simple Justice: the Challenge of Small Schools. Ed., with William Ayers and Michael Klonsky. Teaching for Social Justice series. New York: Teachers College Press, 2000.
- “When *Jamas* is Enough: Creating a School for a Community (A Conversation with Tamara Witzl).” Chap. 11 in A Simple Justice: the Challenge of Small Schools. Ed. William Ayers and Michael Klonsky. Teaching for Social Justice series. New York: Teachers College Press, 2000.
- “Desert Diary.” *Medicine on the Midway*, April 1999.
- “An Unconditional Embrace: An Interview with Bill Ayers.” *Teaching Tolerance Magazine*, Spring 1998.
- “Unite and Overcome! An Interview with Chicana Activist Elizabeth Martinez.” *Teaching Tolerance Magazine*, Spring 1997.
- “True Colors: An Interview with Jerry and Gloria Pinkney.” *Teaching Tolerance Magazine*, Fall 1996.
- “In Our Own Words: Exploring the Asian American Experience.” With Ting-Yi Oei. *Teaching Tolerance Magazine*, Fall 1996.
- “Public Can Take a Stand for Children Here at Home.” *Montgomery Advertiser*, June 9, 1999.
- “Let Light Be Shed: Pat Shipman’s The Evolution of Racism.” *Chicago Anthropology Exchange* (Spring 1995).
- A Walk with an Expedition Teaching Guide. With Paul Sereno. Chicago, IL: Chicago Public Library Press, 1995.
- “Circles in the Sand: The Sahara Comes to the South Side.” *Chicago Maroon*, October 18, 1994.
- “Sniffing Out Dinosaurs.” *University of Chicago Magazine*, October 1994.
- “Excerpts from the Dinosaur Journals.” *Chicago Maroon*, October 14, 1994.
- “New Dinosaur Found; Expedition a Success.” *Chicago Maroon*, May 2, 1994.
- “Travel Diary of a Saharan Adventure.” *Chicago Maroon*, February 25, 1994.

SELECT PROJECTS

- 2013 *Bridging the Thirty-Million-Word Gap*. Conference organizer for the Thirty-Million-Words Initiative. Collaborated with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, Department of Education, Health and Human Services to develop the agenda for launching a national initiative to close the early language gap, invite and prepare speakers and manage all aspects of event implementation.
- 2012 *Clinton Global Initiative America, STEM Education Working Group*. Senior advisor. Developed program format, participated in participant recruitment and program strategy, as well as benchmarking, evaluation and goal setting.
- 2011 *Preconference Symposium: Building Effective Community Partnerships for Science After School, San Diego, California*. Co-organizer with the California After School Network. Led program development, recruited presenters and moderated sessions.
- 2010 *Second National Conference on Science and Technology in Out-of-School-Time. Los Angeles, CA*. Co-organizer with the Coalition for Science After School. Lead program committee, fundraising and marketing strategies for sell-out conference for 400+ individuals from 200+ organizations nationally. Recruited plenary presenters and session presenters, raised funds and corporate sponsorships.
- 2008 *First National Conference on Science and Technology in Out-of-School-Time. Chicago, IL*. Co-organizer with the Coalition for Science After School. Designed and organized sell-out conference for 300+ individuals from 200+ organizations nationally. Recruited plenary presenters and session presenters, raised funds and corporate sponsorships. Organized conference documentation and post-conference publication
- 2006 *Digging Dinosaurs*. Multi-day scientist-in-residence program at the Portola Valley School District in Portola Valley, CA.

- 1998 *Junior Paleontologist Program*. Developed and taught a 10-day summer paleontology expedition to Big Bend, TX, for Chicago Public middle- and high-school students
- 1997 *The Sahara Connection*. Designed and coordinated curriculum project which linked Chicago-area teachers with the team of the paleontology expedition to Niger
- 1997-8 *Girl Talk*. Founded and co-led issues-oriented after-school program for girls grades 11-14 in a south side Chicago elementary school
- 1995 *Stand for Children Day*. Co-organizer; fundraiser, public relations, logistics coordinator
Take Your Kids on an Expedition. Teacher workshops (with Paul Sereno)
Postcards from an Expedition. Wrote and designed interactive children's exhibit at Thomas Hughes Children's Library, Chicago, and Cook County Juvenile Detention center.
- 1994 *Adventures of the Dinosaur Hunters*. Live electronic field trip viewed by five million students nation-wide. Co-authored corresponding curriculum booklet sent free to 10,000 schools.

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

- NetImpact. University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Education Panel. Chicago, IL. October 11, 2013.
- National After School Association. "Maximizing STEM Partnerships in Out of School Time." Dallas, TX. April 2, 2012.
- ScienceOnline2012. "Students as Messengers of Science." Raleigh, NC. January 21, 2012.
- After School Alliance . Keynote Address. After School for All National Challenge. Washington, DC. April 16, 2011.
- TedX Uchicago. Mistress of Ceremonies. Chicago, IL. April 2011.
- Women in Science Symposium 2010 "Numbers Tell a Story." Chicago, IL, April 17, 2010.
- University of Chicago. Taking the Next Step. "Community Organizing and Social Service: For the Benefit of All." Chicago, IL. January 9, 2010.
- Midwest Science After School Conference. Keynote: Science is the Future. Who Will Take Us There? Kansas City, MO. December 4, 2009.
- "Motorola Innovation Generation Conference. "Taking it Personally: Project Exploration's Sisters4Science." Schaumburg, IL. July 15, 2009.
- "Bringing it All Back Home: Summer Field Experiences that Get Students Interested in Science, Keep Students Interested in Science and Equip Students to Pursue Science." National Conference on Summer Learning, Chicago, IL, April 16, 2009. With Project Exploration alumna Edna Angeles.
- "Lessons from the Field for K-16 Curriculum for 21st Century Science Education." Pearson Strategic Advisory Board, Chicago, IL, April 2, 2009.
- "Big Ideas." Plenary session moderator, First National Conference on Science and Technology in Out of School Time, Chicago, IL, September 19, 2008.
- "Beyond Breaking Barriers: Bringing 21st Century Science to Girls." University of Chicago Women's Alliance, May 13, 2008.
- "Discoveries in the Sahara." Origins Center, Johannesburg, South Africa, November 28, 2007.
- "Capacity Building at the Center." Keynote presentation, Grand Victoria Foundation, Elgin, IL, 2006.
- "What are Funders Looking For?" Association of Fundraising Professionals, Midwest Conference, Chicago, IL, 2006. With Ann Goldman.
- "Unearthing the Hidden Curriculum." University of Chicago Physics Department, 2004.
- "Real-Life Board Development." Axelson Center for Non Profit Management, Chicago, IL, 2003. With Ann Goldman and Jamie Philippe.
- "The Prevention of Racism and the Protection of Minorities." Oral intervention presented to the 48th session of the United Nations Sub-commission on Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland, 1996.
- "Impact of Youth on Racism." Panelist, United Nations Sub-commission on Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland, 1996.

RESEARCH and FIELDWORK

- 2012 State of STEM in Out-of-School Time in Chicago. A year-long community-based initiative to document the STEM landscape in Chicago in terms of access and equity for Chicago youth in grades K-12.
- 2011 Paleontology Expedition to Niger
- 2009 Paleontology Expedition to Niger
- 2008 Researcher, “Mud-trapped herd captures evidence of distinctive dinosaur sociality.” Varricchio, D. J., P. C. Sereno, L. Tan, X. Zhao, J. A. Wilson, and G. H. Lyon. *Acta Palaeontologica Polonica* 56.
- 2006 Paleontology Expedition to Niger
- 2005 Project Lead, *Project Exploration Youth Programs Evaluation*.
<http://www.projectexploration.org/youth-program-evaluation.htm>.
- 2003 Paleontology Expedition to Niger
- 2001 Paleontology Expedition to China
- 2000 Paleontology Expedition to Niger
- 1998 Researcher, “A Long-snouted Predatory Dinosaur from Africa and the Evolution of Spinosaurids.” With Paul Sereno, et al. *Science* 282.
- 1997 Researcher, *A History of the Kurds* by Susan Meiselas. Random House Press.
- 1996 Researcher, “Predatory Dinosaurs from the Sahara and Late Cretaceous Faunal Differentiation.” With Paul Sereno, et al. *Science* 272.
- 1996 Paleontology Expedition to Patagonia, Argentina
- 1995 Paleontology Expedition to Morocco
- 1994 Researcher, *After Tyler: British Social Anthropology 1885-1915* by George Stocking. University of Wisconsin Press.
- 1993 Paleontology Expedition to Niger
- 1991 Researcher, *Memories of the Southern Civil Rights Movement* by Danny Lyon. University of North Carolina Press.

EXHIBITION PREMIERS and HIGHLIGHTS

Exhibitions co-created with Dr. Paul Sereno.

- 2005 GIANTS: African Dinosaurs, Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin, Illinois**
- Reached more than 200,000 visitors, including more than 10,000 school children.
 - Effectively served as a catalyst for engaging regional schools and community organizations.
- 2003 GIANTS: African Dinosaurs, Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago, Illinois**
- Designed and developed new exhibition and associated education and training materials. Major 10,000 square foot exhibition premiering new dinosaur discoveries from Africa, including the premier of the first modern reconstruction of a new winged pterosaur.
 - Attracted more than 100,000 visitors; included 24,000 school children, the most to visit the Conservatory since it opened in 1912.
- 2001 The Science of SuperCroc, Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, Illinois**
- Designed and developed new exhibition and associated education and training materials.
 - Designed free-access website.
 - Successfully attracted an 11% increase in audience attendance during exhibit’s run.
- 2000 African Giants, Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois**
- Attracted 600,000 visitors over three months to a free-access exhibition premiering the discovery of the most complete sauropod dinosaur and the first predatory dinosaur from the early Cretaceous period of Africa.

1997 Dinosaur Expedition, *Chicago Children's Museum, Chicago, Illinois*

- Developed and implemented successful proposal for the creation of the first permanent dinosaur exhibit in the country designed especially for young children.
- Designed, developed, and installed a permanent exhibit that recreated the site of the 1997 discovery of *Suchomimus*, a 110-million-year-old fish-eating dinosaur from the Sahara.
- Developed authentic, hands-on explorations based on real-life problems encountered during an expedition to the Sahara.

1995 African Dinosaur Castaways, *National Geographic Explorer's Hall, Washington, DC*

1994 A Walk with an Expedition, *Harold Washington Public Library Center, Chicago, Illinois*

- Proposed, designed, wrote, and installed free public exhibit showcasing the discovery of the first predatory dinosaur from the early Cretaceous of Africa.