

Jessica R. Dreistadt

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. In Organizational Leadership Eastern University, St. Davids, PA	expected May 2019
Master of Arts in Sociology Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA	May 2007
Master of Science in Nonprofit Management Eastern University, St. Davids, PA	August 2000
Bachelor of Arts in Management and Marketing DeSales University, Center Valley, PA	May 1998

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DeSales University, Center Valley, PA

Adjunct Lecturer 2008 - Present

Design and teach traditional, hybrid, and online classes including: Leadership in the Modern Organization; Leadership Skills Development; Introduction to Sociology; New Ventures, Inc.; Introduction to Fundraising; Public Relations for Nonprofits; and Evaluation for Nonprofits

The Fruition Coalition, Easton, PA

Founding Director 2001 - Present

Promote personal, organizational, and social transformation through education, dialogue, publications, and consulting

Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, Bethlehem, PA

Senior Planner 2015 - 2017

- Secured more than \$3.5 million in private and public funding, including Project Reinvest through NeighborWorks America, CDFI Fund, HOME/CHDO, and PA DCED Keystone Communities, for a community land trust/affordable housing program, community development financial institution (CDFI), neighborhood revitalization programs, regional food bank, regional food policy council, and regional smart growth organization
- Facilitated and assisted with strategic planning for the Lehigh Valley Community Land Trust, Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania, and Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley
- Engaged stakeholders to co-create neighborhood revitalization plans for the West Ward of Easton and the Slate Belt
- Co-facilitated the launch of the first multi-municipal Neighborhood Partnership Program in Pennsylvania
- Successfully established an affordable housing organization as a CHDO
- Assisted with the development and evaluation of annual work plans
- Developed comprehensive contract compliance systems for grants and formalized partnerships; conducted internal audits and prepared programs for monitoring visits
- Designed and delivered finance, research, and data analysis workshops
- Developed campaigns to improve employee and community engagement in advocacy initiatives
- Conducted extensive research about the organization's history and organized an event to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Community Action

- Developed the agency's annual report in partnership with the executive director and graphic designer

Director, Community Action Development Corporation of Bethlehem 2014 - 2015

- Co-led the process of creating a ten-year community revitalization plan for south Bethlehem
- Created a new curriculum for the Start Your Business class
- Created a technical assistance manual for minority- and woman-owned business certification
- Created an educational event for veterans with the U.S. Small Business Administration
- Facilitated a business education workshop for artists in partnership with ArtsQuest
- Provided assistance and support to prospective and existing entrepreneurs
- Provided staff support for committees of Southside Vision, a neighborhood revitalization initiative
- Supervised, supported, and led program staff
- Partnered with the board of directors to develop and achieve agency goals

Director, Sixth Street Shelter 2013 - 2014

- Co-managed a construction project to expand the shelter's capacity by 25%
- Developed and implemented fundraising and community engagement strategies
- Cultivated relationships with donors, legislators, local businesses, and partner agencies
- Managed four buildings including 25 apartments and common areas
- Hired, supervised, and supported all staff; advised case managers and promoted the self-sufficiency of residents
- Developed and monitored progress toward annual work plan
- Co-chaired agency-wide customer service committee and created an internal customer service handbook that was replicated in partnering organizations

Coordinator of Advocacy and Outreach, Second Harvest Food Bank 2004 - 2006

- Developed and managed campaigns to improve nutrition- and poverty-related policies and public awareness of related issues
- Organized the Lehigh Valley Campaign to Raise the Minimum Wage
- Increased utilization of nutrition programs in a six-county area
- Executive produced a 10-minute video about hunger in the Lehigh Valley
- Analyzed and disseminated primary and secondary research about hunger and poverty
- Partnered with national and local organizations to accomplish advocacy goals
- Started an advocacy academy to increase civic engagement among low-income people
- Created Emergency Food Resource Guides for the Lehigh Valley and Poconos
- Published a 4-page monthly advocacy newsletter for 180 nonprofit agencies
- Piloted Food Stamp (now SNAP) application assistance and nutrition education programs
- Organized the Food Frugality Challenge to educate the community about the challenges of eating on a limited budget

Eastern University

Research and Teaching Assistant 2016 - 2017; 2012 - 2013

- Set up doctoral and master's level classes using Brightspace
- Conduct research related to race/ethnicity, education, and spirituality
- Proofread and format manuscripts for books and peer reviewed journals
- Grade quantitative data analyses and discussion forum posts
- Transcribe interviews

Research Assistant 1999 - 2000

- Conducted research to assess graduate level education in nonprofit management

- Selected and ordered books for a nonprofit management reading room at the university library

Family Connection of Easton, Inc., Easton, PA

Executive Director

2006 - 2012

- Developed innovative and effective programs to engage families and improve student achievement with a team of 20 employees
- Expanded services from three to seven schools in the Easton Area School District
- Promoted family literacy and school-community engagement through a 21st Century Community Learning Center, the Parent-Child Home Program, and school-based family support services
- Collaborated with a regional health foundation to provide dental care to uninsured children
- Launched the first Success by 6[®] transition to kindergarten pilot site in the Lehigh Valley
- Partnered to develop a community-wide transition to kindergarten plan
- Developed positive collaborative relationships with families, staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners to meet organizational goals
- Created a school-based family support training manual and replication guide; presented at a regional conference and shared with a neighboring school district
- Analyzed program data to evaluate the effectiveness of programs in partnership with program coordinators and external evaluators
- Collaborated with the board of directors to establish and refine policies, procedures, and plans to assure organizational stability and sustainability
- Organized board development, orientation, and training process
- Aligned organizational culture with the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations' Standards of Excellence, Association of Fundraising Professionals Code of Ethics, and other models of best practices
- Secured support from individual, corporate, government, and foundation donors through an annual fund, special events, government contracts, and grant funding
- Expanded organizational communications through an intranet, website, social media, newsletter, annual report, and media coverage
- Implemented and monitored progress on strategic plans
- Created program and financial reports for internal and external stakeholders
- Supervised and coached five program coordinators; collaboratively designed and implemented high quality programs for children and families
- Supervised and coached finance and administration coordinator; monitored finance, administration, and human resources functions
- Planned and organized professional development opportunities for 15 employees

The PEAK Center, Lansdale, PA

Director of Development and Accounting

2002 - 2003

- Coordinated all fundraising and bookkeeping activities
- Researched and wrote corporate, foundation, and government grant proposals
- Managed and expanded donor base
- Developed annual appeal
- Entered daily financial transactions
- Processed employee payroll
- Prepared financial statements, grant reports, and payroll taxes

Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

Social Researcher

2002

- Surveyed community to identify participants for the study
- Interviewed working mothers about childcare issues for sociology department

YWCA of Bucks County, Trevese, PA

Program and Administrative Assistant 2003 - 2004

- Helped families sign up for free and low cost health insurance
- Assisted with human resources and special events

ESL and Computer Instructor 2000 - 2002

- Taught English as a Second Language class at family center site
- Taught basic computer skills including Windows and MS Office

Public Relations Assistant 2000 - 2002

- Assisted with special events, mass mailings, and promotional materials
- Created flyers for programs and fundraising events
- Created and managed donor database
- Planned and organized two annual fundraising events and annual meeting
- Supervised and worked with volunteers to prepare newsletter and special event mailings

Project H.O.M.E., Philadelphia, PA 2000

Intern

- Researched, compiled, and analyzed organizational policies and procedures
- Created policy and procedure manuals for residential facilities with program directors

Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA 1998 - 1999

Office Manager, Mercy Hospice

- Managed escrow account for women who were homeless
- Developed budgets with residents
- Prepared daily and monthly participation and financial reports
- Managed entry to soup kitchen and facility with receptionist

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

International Leadership Association Conference, Denver, CO 2012

Roundtable Discussion: Critical Conversations: Social Transformation through Language

Panel: "Appreciative Inquiry" - A Leader's Most Powerful Tool for Visioning and Planning

Poster: A postcritical existential phenomenological study about experiences of empowerment and liberation in social justice organizations

Early Childhood Summit, State College, PA 2011

Presentation: Transitions: Facilitating a Successful School Start for Students, Parents, and Teachers

Peace, Justice, and Conflict Resolution Conference, Northampton Community College, PA 2011

Workshop: Building Bridges in Social Change Organizations

Panel: Teaching Social Justice through Service Learning

Family Involvement Conference, Lake Harmony, PA 2007

Presentation: Family Support Handbook and Replication Guide

PUBLICATIONS

Author and publisher of the following books:

- The People Pages: Resources for Social Change
- Whole Happy and Healthy: A Revolutionary Approach to Understanding and Thriving with Mental Illness
- Ashley and Tiana
- Limitless Loving Leadership: 28 Essays to Inspire Sustainable Change
- The Fruition Coalition Board Development Workbook
- The Fruition Coalition Marketing Plan Workbook
- The Fruition Coalition Grant Proposal Workbook
- Contemplative Activism
- Incandescent Leadership
- Affirmations for Mindful Leaders
- Creating a Peaceful Life: Affirmations for Hope, Love, and Harmony

Dreistadt, J. (2013). A generous expression of volunteerism: The Sixth Street Shelter expansion project. *Lehigh Valley Women's Journal*. <http://lehighvalleywomansjournal.com>.

Dreistadt, J. (2012). Interfaith social justice coalitions and the faith at work movement. *COMM-ORG Papers Collection*. <https://comm-org.wisc.edu/papers.htm>.

Dreistadt, J. (2012). Transforming organizations and communities through appreciative inquiry. *COMM-ORG Papers Collection*. <https://comm-org.wisc.edu/papers.htm>.

Dreistadt, J. (2012). Book review: On the commerce of thinking: Of books & bookstores by Jean-Luc Nancy. *Theory in Action*, 5(1), 127.

Dreistadt, J. (2006). Voting rights: The struggle for democracy. *Lehigh Review*, 14, 133-150.

Additional articles have been published at Huffington Post, College Central, PsychCentral, and Elephant Journal.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Peer reviewer, Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations Standards for Excellence
- Peer Reviewer, MERLOT
- Member, board of associates, Lehigh Valley Health Network
- Member, advisory board, and former treasurer, Northampton County Cooperative Extension
- Former volunteer instructor, entrepreneurship class, Pan African Studies Community Education Program at Temple University
- Former member, board of directors, and former Voters Guide editor, League of Women Voters of Northampton County
- Former member, Northeast Regional Homeless Advisory Board
- Former member, Justice and Advocacy Committee, Lehigh County Conference of Churches
- Former co-board recording secretary/documentarian, Creating the Future

- Former member, board of directors, Forum for Ethics in the Workplace, DeSales University
- Former member, advisory council, Northampton and Lehigh County Community Engagement Group and LEARN Committee, United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley
- Former member, parenting education committee, Project Child/Valley Youth House
- Former AID Team member and former chair of Education and Youth Development Committees, Easton Weed and Seed
- Former volunteer, Learning for Life, Minsi Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, International Leadership Association

Member, Social Pedagogy Association

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2016 – Community Action Association of Pennsylvania Symposium and annual conference
 2016 – Pennsylvania Data User Conference, Pennsylvania State Data Center
 2016 – Building HOME webinar series, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
 2014 – Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations Community Development Leadership Institute
 2014 – Reinventing Older Communities, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia
 2013 – Homes within Reach Conference, Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania
 2012 – International Leadership Association Conference
 2006 to 2012 – Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations annual conference
 2011 – International Integral Leadership Collective
 2011 – Yale Schools of the 21st Century Conference
 2011 – Appreciative Inquiry Facilitator Training, Company of Experts
 2011 – Field Instructor Training, Marywood University School of Social Work
 2010 and 2011 – Early Childhood Education Summit
 2006 to 2010 – Promising Practices - Proven Strategies, PA Department of Education
 2008 and 2010 – National Conference, Coalition for Community Schools
 2008 and 2009 – Annual conference, Association of Fundraising Professionals – Eastern PA
 2006 to 2009 – 21st CCLC Summer Institute, U.S. Department of Education
 2009 – Standards for Excellence Clinic Series, PANO
 2007 – National Center for Family Literacy annual conference
 2007 – Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training (GIFT) Action Training
 2006 – The Art and Science of Grant Writing, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
 2006 – Healthy Communities*Healthy Youth, Search Institute
 2006 – Food Research and Action Center annual conference

SELECTED COURSES COMPLETED

- Leadership, Justice and Servanthood
- Strategic Leadership
- Leading in Community: People, Conflict, and Problem Solving
- Advancement, Fundraising, and Philanthropy for the Nonprofit Sector
- Nonprofit Strategic Management
- Marketing and Public Relations for Nonprofit Organizations
- Capacity Building in Nonprofit Organizations
- Nonprofit Financial Management and Control

- Human Resources Management of Nonprofit Organizations
- Legal and Government Issues Affecting Nonprofit Organizations
- Urban Communities
- Social Stratification and Public Policy
- Social Basis of Human Behavior
- Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methodologies
- Applied Social Theory
- Statistics
- Training and Development
- Organizational Leadership, Governance, and Accountability
- Models of Organizational Behavior

RESEARCH AND PROGRAMMATIC INTERESTS

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|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| ● Urban communities | ● Critical theory |
| ● Women's leadership | ● Integrative theory |
| ● Activism and social movements | ● Meaning-making |
| ● Social cohesion | ● Food justice |
| ● Personal and collective identity | ● Affordable housing |
| ● Equity and inclusion | ● Public education |
| ● Social psychology | |

COMPUTER PROFICIENCIES

- SPSS
- Dedoose
- PolicyMap
- Community Commons
- Microsoft Office – Excel, Access, Word, PowerPoint
- Wordpress
- Quickbooks
- Mac and Windows OS