

Nora Priest

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1/2000 – Present Owner, MindMoxie (Educational Projects & Consulting)

Boston, MA

Variety of educational consulting projects – organizational coaching, facilitation and training services, educational program design, web application and publishing projects. Examples:

- *School District Coach / Associate Staff Member, School & Main Institute (4/2005-Present):* Serve as project manager and deliver facilitation, training, and district coaching services for technical assistance contracts, e.g., Annie E. Casey Foundation LEAP initiative, MA ESE Wraparound Zone Initiative (Race to the Top), MA ESE MassGrad, Boston Compact sustainability plan and case study, ARRA Title IID Online Learning (Mass Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education) and the Collaborative Case Management Initiative (Rhode Island Department of Labor and other partners). Authored and did design and layout for publications including the *Wraparound Replication Cookbook; City-Wide Collaboration between District, Charter, and Catholic Schools: The Boston Compact 2010-2015*; and other reports, case studies and training materials.
- *Funding Strategy Consultant and Author, Digital Badging White Paper, Nellie Mae Education Foundation (September-December 2015):* Conducted interviews and researched status of the field, authored white paper and provided internal foundation strategy recommendations.
- *Strategy Planning & Stakeholder Input Process Facilitator:* Plan and facilitate meetings and retreats for school districts, partnerships, non-profit boards, local community stakeholder input process for state department of education.
- *Youth Leaders Video Project, New Bedford National Whaling Historical Park:* Worked with singer-song writer Erica Wheeler to help youth participating in a summer leadership program create a short video about New Bedford.
- *COO, Schools for the Future (SFF):* Operational lead for development of new school model for “far off track” students, new school development support (SFF Detroit). Includes design and development of “school implementation toolkit” and key SFF systems (performance-based advancement, unique curriculum methodology, learning management systems, staff development, etc.). Also includes resource development. **Next Generation Learning awardee, Investing in Innovation finalist 2012** (federal i3 funds, decision by 12/12).
- *Nellie Mae Education Foundation Proficiency Based Pathways Initiative:* Co-author *Making Mastery Work*. Educational consultant for 3-person research team hired by Foundation for 18-month project research competency/proficiency-based practices at 7 New England schools, districts and intermediaries. Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Included grantee selection, grantee meetings, site visits, interviews, materials and curriculum review, and final report writing.
- *Walden Woods Project:* Program and web application design for international environmental education program (World Wide Waldens). Included development of environmental ethics curriculum, teacher training workshops, and annual youth leadership summit. **2009 Web Marketing Association Award for Excellence.**
- *Federal Shared Youth Vision Partnership:* Strategic planning with interagency state teams (education, workforce development, health and human services, juvenile justice, etc.) teams to agencies create more collaborative methods for serving youth at highest risk.
- *Boston Campaign for Proficiency:* School and youth program coach, training, community partnership development, resource development and impact reports (e.g., Gates Foundation).
- *Nellie Mae Education Foundation:* Report on findings from foundation-sponsored focus group with disconnected/out-of-school young adults.
- *Mass Technology Leadership Council:* Developed business plan for new MTLC Education Foundation internship and “talent development” pipeline. Supported launch of the new program (strategic advisor to foundation board, program design, print and web collateral). Managed 2009 Above & Beyond Awards grant program for K-12 educators.
- *Partners in Health:* Writer/editor of disease-specific health curricula for community health worker projects.
- *Massachusetts Department of Education:* Planning and facilitation for state peer-to-peer training events for the Alternative Education and Trauma-Sensitive Schools division.
- *Big Picture Learning:* Lead architect / project manager for comprehensive student learning management system and alumni tracking system (longitudinal study data collection).
- *Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation / Cherish Every Child:* Strategic planning and proposal development for U.S.D.O.E. Early Childhood Educator Professional Development Program 2006, 2007.
- *Walch Education:* Product designer and author of *Expeditions*, two high school curriculum publications (Geometry, English Language Arts), and other products (Teachable Moments, ASP ELA assessments, Extraordinary Multicultural Americans,

web quest series) and a series of internal briefs on educational research for a variety of subject areas and pedagogical approaches.

- *VPG Integrated Media*: Scriptwriter for Pearson *AMP Reading* Program tutorials and Pearson Business Math business “video cases.”
- *netTrekker/Thinkronize/Knovation*: Development of web database of 2000+ ELL/ESL and multilingual educational web resources evaluated by teachers for award-winning educational product; recruited, managed multilingual teacher evaluator team and served as project editor. **2007 Codie Best Education Solution Award Winner.**
- *Farmworker Justice*: Health and pesticide safety curriculum and materials for migrant workers.
- *SCORE!/Kaplan*: Author, middle school study skills curriculum.
- *Texas Workforce Development Commission*: Writer/producer of 12 training guides on youth workforce and community partnership development topics.
- *Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce*: Strategic planning retreats for Chamber’s Board.
- *Teacher Externship Program*: Instructor for graduate level course for teachers, Fitchburg State College.
- Grant-writing and proposal development for federal and foundation sources with track record of \$6 million in successful proposals and contracts.

8/1999 – 3/2005 Vice President, Educational Services, ProjectPower/KidsEnergy, Inc.

Boston, MA

First employee recruited and hired to help found company. Served as lead designer and project manager for two large scale K-12 web applications. Directed editorial for all online curriculum materials and content databases. Directed school support and onsite training. Helped set direction for key corporate strategies: sales, marketing, product design, new product development, content strategy, and partnerships. **ProjectPower: 4.4 Stars - Children's Software Review.**

7/1994 – 8/1999 Field Manager, School & Main Institute

Boston, MA

As *SMI Associate (4/2005-present)* – serve as regular team member for SMI projects. See MindMoxie above. As *SMI Field Manager (7/94-8/99)*, designed, implemented, and evaluated comprehensive strategic planning and training programs to launch and build the capacity of “uncommon” coalitions and collaborative ventures at the local, regional and state levels designed to improve outcomes for youth. Included public-private partnerships, employer groups, community/ workforce development groups, state interagency leadership teams, post-secondary institutions and others. Managed large multi-state education and youth development projects including Career Beginnings, Higher Ground, and Futures 2000. Provided extensive TA to school-to-work / youth workforce development partnerships. Developed training materials, grant proposals, program and need assessments, evaluations, reports, newsletters, and the company web site. Still serve as member of SMI’s training faculty and facilitation team. (SMI was formerly the *Center for Corporate & Education Initiatives* out of Brandeis University’s Heller School for Social Policy and Management).

1/1990 – 8/1993 Technical Assistance Specialist, Reading is Fundamental/Smithsonian

Washington, DC

Served as liaison between national office and 450-500 projects in seven states. Provided training and technical assistance in project management, fundraising, partnership development, volunteer recruitment, and reading motivation activities. Evaluated the quality and effectiveness of reading motivation programs, developed new programs, monitored and made recommendations for federal and foundation funding, and wrote state updates for congressional reports. Led site visits, regional workshops and meetings, training seminars, and conference presentations.

10/1987 – 10/1989 Orphanage Co-Director, Nos Petits Frères et Sœurs/NPH-Haiti

Haiti

Launched new orphanage, school, and clinic for 85 children, 25 Haitian employees, and an international crew of volunteers. Managed all aspects of project development including staff and community relations, childcare, medical care, education and training, construction and property maintenance, agricultural initiatives, purchasing, intake and admission records, in-house finances, and bookkeeping.

**5/1987 – 9/1987 Program Assistant, Fulbright Teacher Exchange Orientation Institute
Office of International Programs, Georgetown University**

Washington, DC

Served as primary assistant for the Fulbright Orientation program, hosted by Georgetown for the first time under a grant from the United States Information Agency (USIA), responsible for event and facility coordination, program correspondence, accounting, and other administrative duties.

**9/1984 – 5/1987 Assistant, Office of International Programs
Georgetown University**

Washington, DC

Assisted with projects, seminars, translation, and editing for office director and assistant director.

EDUCATION

6/1994 Harvard Graduate School of Education

Masters of Education (Ed.M.).

Areas of Study: Administration, Planning, and Social Policy; Human Development.

Cambridge, MA

5/1987 Georgetown University

Bachelor of Science in Language Arts (B.S.L.A.), Cum Laude.

Major: French. Certificate in Arab Studies.

Washington, DC

Borguiba Institute of Modern Languages

Intensive Arabic Study, June 1986-August 1986.

Tunis, Tunisia

OTHER SKILLS

Languages: Spanish, French, Haitian Creole. Studied Modern Standard Arabic and Hebrew.

Technology:

- Extremely strong technology skills including web design and graphic design skills (Adobe Creative Suite programs, CSS), video and audio production tools; use of online website builders and content management systems (Squarespace, WordPress, and others); survey; and database tools.
- Wide range of experience with learning management systems and instructional technology tools.
- Strong experience with project management and team collaboration tools including Slack, Basecamp, Zoho, Google apps, SharePoint, QA trackers, etc.
- Experience managing large scale web application and database projects (information architecture, functional specs, UI design, QA, site maintenance, customer onboarding and support).

Market/Field Research and Analysis: PK-12 educational market. Educational technology market analysis, product or feature research, training program needs assessment and design, and research into emerging technology, practice, or policy.