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Top Skills

Staff Development
Fundraising
Curriculum Design

Languages

Italian

Certifications

Boater Education Card
eTIPS on Premise 3.0 Certificate
US Coast Guard Bating Safely

Honors-Awards

Teacher of the Year

Dara Liberatore-Sawczuk

Co-Founder and President at Tidal Creek Brewhouse
Charleston, South Carolina, United States

Summary

I was born and raised in Jersey City, NJ and attended Catholic schools throughout my academic career. I am a graduate of St. Peter's College where I obtained my Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing and Economics. During college, I interned at Liz Claiborne and worked as an assistant buyer for its outlet division; after graduating I was promoted to be a buyer for the company. Within a few years, I found a calling in the field of education. I returned to school to earn a Master of Arts Degree in Education with concentrations in Teaching and Administration/Supervision. While in school, I taught in Catholic elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Newark for six years. I participated for two years in the Archdiocese of Newark's "Future School Leaders Project," which identifies potential Catholic school principals and administrators. In 2001, I was the recipient of the "Teachers Recognition Award" by the Archdiocese of Newark. I was selected as an outstanding educator based on my teaching abilities, my dedication, and my commitment to Catholic education. I moved to Atlanta in the summer of 2001 to join the Holy Spirit Preparatory School, where I served as the Early Childhood Principal for over 9 years, and later served as the Associate Vice President. After leaving HSP, I have been an Executive Director for a non-profit in the local area. While in Atlanta I lived Sandy Springs, and was a parishioner at Holy Spirit Catholic Church where I did some volunteer work. I am currently the VP of Business Development & Customer Relations at Low Country Yacht Charters in Charleston, where I now reside. During my time in Charleston, I have assisted in developing a business plan for a local brewery; which we now will open in Myrtle Beach, SC. In my spare time I enjoy to volunteer for my church as well as community, and have a fond appreciation for dogs – especially our Argus.

Experience

Tidal Creek Brewhouse

Co-Founder and President

August 2018 - Present (6 years 11 months)

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina Area

Low Country Yacht Charters

Vice President of Business Development & Customer Relations

August 2014 - Present (10 years 11 months)

Charleston, South Carolina

LCYC is a Charleston based yacht charter business, focusing on overnight accommodations and local excursions.

- Manage multiple business initiatives in a start-up environment, including total rebranding effort (name, logo, website, business promotional items), package creation and pricing optimization
- Research and drive business expansion/collaboration opportunities for the market, including Make-A-Wish, Fundraisers and Chamber of Commerce
- Enhance existing client team programs and identify and pilot new program opportunities
- Develop and maintain strong client relationships on all levels; structured outbound client contact program
- Execute daily customer experience from initial inquiry through guest check-in/out
- Maintain thorough knowledge of important market trends and product / offering categories
- Overall efforts drove an increase of sales by over 90% from 2014-2016 improved operational, performance, and increase profitability

Dockery's

Office Manager / Hostess

November 2017 - August 2018 (10 months)

Daniel Island, SC

Dockery's is a local restaurant that brews its own beer and provides a live music venue.

- Act as restaurant ambassador for Dockery's
- Ensure that the office runs smoothly daily by supporting all office functions; provide administrative support to management
- Develop, maintain and manage vendor relationships, service providers, and take ownership of sourcing various office resources
- Assist with the planning and preparation of various company events
- Assist team with new hire onboarding
- Manage the supply and procurement of office and kitchen supplies
- Maintain general maintenance

- Handle other office and administrative duties as assigned
- Provide guest with courteous, friendly and efficient service to ensure high level of guest satisfaction
- Coordinate and prepare activities of dining room and personnel to ensure prompt service
- Maintain all menus to ensure they are current in Micros software

Open Arms Lutheran Child Development Center

Executive Director

February 2014 - August 2016 (2 years 7 months)

Atlanta, Georgia

Open Arms is a \$1.7M non-profit with 18 full-time employees and 10 part-time employees, as well as 3 administrators, overseeing 98 students.

- Oversaw the enrollment process and increased enrollment by 70%
- Assessed and evaluated the qualifications of the staff, then created and executed a professional development plan; maintained adequate staff levels through recruiting/hiring, on-board and orientated new staff to maintain staff at an 80% retention rate
- Developed and implemented philosophy and strategic plan, along with supporting policies, in support of Board's objectives in coordination with school's mission and programming
- Maintained NAEYC standards and comply with licensing regulations
- Responsible for developing and supervising educational programs, including the implementation of a nutritional lunch program
- Responsible for daily operations for the organization, train staff members, silicate volunteers
- Represented the organization at community events to promote school profile
- Prepared annual budget, solicited government funds, oversaw annual fundraising efforts and events
- Structured the Scholarship Program In-Need which raised \$5000 in its first year
- Developed and implemented a safety plan, with key actions and communication

Shreiner Academy

Director of Early Childhood Early Education

June 2013 - January 2014 (8 months)

Marietta, Georgia

Shreiner Academy was a private school serving PreK-8th Grades.

- Responsible for Toddler through 1st grade programs with 110 students and 20 faculty and staff, with a 90% staff retention rate
- Oversaw all faculty and staff training and assess performance for proper implementation of the curriculum programs
- Ensured facility operates according to Bright from the Start Rules and Regulations, as well as school specific policies and procedures; improved quality standard to Low
- Implemented staff appreciation programs; reduced faculty turnover by 70% and improved morale and camaraderie
- Improved student attrition rate and overall parent satisfaction levels; recent survey noted significant improvement in parent, student and academic experience over prior year
- Optimized cost efficiency by ensuring proper staffing levels; reduced overall staff costs by 30% while complying with state ratios
- Managed cost control through inventory and supply usage best practices; improved overall material quality while reducing waste and excess inventory by over 50%

The Phoenix School

Executive Director

September 2012 - June 2013 (10 months)

Decatur, Georgia

The Phoenix School is a \$1M non-profit with 10 full-time employees and 5 part-time employees, as well as 2 administrators, overseeing 65 students.

- Developed and implemented innovative programs, products and services
- Worked with constituent groups including boards, committees, volunteers, and community
- Built and retained exceptional staff and created excellent work environment
- Oversaw and coordinated all aspects of budgeting and financial management
- Led organization through period of substantial transition

Holy Spirit Preparatory School

11 years 3 months

Associate Vice President

November 2010 - September 2012 (1 year 11 months)

Atlanta, Georgia

Holy Spirit Prep is a private, non-profit Catholic school serving PreK-12th Grades.

- Responsible for overseeing the Development Office, supervised staff of 4

- Planned and executed over 3 major fundraising efforts per year: Fun(d) Run, Annual Fund and Spring Gala; raising ~\$5M/year
- Developed and implemented multiple monthly community and parent events
- Designed and delivered communications to the School's Administration, Faculty/Staff, and Parent Community
- Enhanced critical relationships with Parent Community, Students, Executive Board, Administration, and Faculty/Staff
- Created concepts for incentive and promotional items for school and fundraising activities
- Supervised and provided coaching for the Preschool's academic programs and strategic planning

Early Childhood Principal

July 2001 - November 2010 (9 years 5 months)

Atlanta, Georgia

- Responsible for Mother's Morning Out to Pre-K 4 programs with 156 students
- Achieved the highest enrollment in Preschool's history - increased enrollment by over 300% in 5 years
- Obtained SAIS/SACS accreditation
- Implemented National Catholic Educator's Curriculum, Handwriting without Tears and Orton-Gillingham programs, as well as Gesell Developmental Observation for Preschool/Kindergarten Admission
- Established Preschool extended day programs, as well as extra-curricular programs
- Designed and implemented a Mother's Morning Out, PreK-2, and Junior Kindergarten programs
- Managed overall financial and operational performance
- Employed, managed and supervised a staff of up to 27 individuals, with a 95% retention rate
- Provided appropriate intervention for children exhibiting special needs
- Established Preschool Parent Volunteer Association

Saint Vincent dePaul School

3rd Grade Teacher

September 1999 - June 2001 (1 year 10 months)

Bayonne, New Jersey

- ~Responsible for 3rd Grade Homeroom and lessons including: Language Arts, Mathematics, Penmanship, Phonics, Reading, Religion, Science, Spelling and Social Studies
- ~Prepared and executed all lesson plans
- ~Developed, administered, and graded all quizzes, tests, and projects

- ~Responsible for individual and group tutoring
- ~Moderator of the Reading Club
- ~Lunch Monitor
- ~Member of the Crisis Plannning Committee
- ~Chairperson of Middle States Association Committee
(Consolidated to All Saints Catholic Academy in 2008)
- *Recognition Award Recipient of 2001 Teacher of the Year

Mount Carmel School

4th Grade Teacher

September 1998 - June 1999 (10 months)

Bayonne, New Jersey

- ~Responsible for 4th Grade Homeroom and lessons including: Language Arts, Mathematics, Penmanship, Reading, Religion, Science, Spelling and Social Studies
- ~Prepared and executed all lesson plans
- ~Developed, administered, and graded all quizzes, tests, and projects
- ~Responsible for individual and group tutoring
- ~Moderator of the Cheerleading Squad
- ~Co-coordinator of Catholic Schools Week
(Consolidated to All Saints Catholic Academy in 2008)

Our Lady of Assumption School

4th/5th Grade Teacher

September 1997 - June 1998 (10 months)

Bayonne, New Jersey

- ~Responsible for 4th Grade Homeroom and lessons including: Language Arts, Penmanship, Phonics, Reading, Religion, Science, Spelling, Social Studies and Art
- ~Responsible for 5th Grade Science lessons
- ~Prepared and executed all lesson plans
- ~Developed, administered, and graded quizzes, tests, and projects
- ~Responsible for individual and group tutoring
- ~Assisted in implementing a foreign language program
- ~Responsible for 6th-8th Grade Italian lessons
- ~Co-editor of the "Assumption News"
(OLA closed in 1998)

Education

St. Peter's University

Master of Arts, in Education: Concentration on Teaching and Administration & Supervision · (1999 - 2001)

St. Peter's University

Bachelor of Science, Marketing Management; Economics · (1989 - 1993)