



PROJECT SUCCESS™

Where students connect
to their purpose

Project Success alum and North High
class of 2006, Jocelyn McQuirter.
Read more and find out what she's been up to!

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2019

NOVEMBER 2019 CONTRIBUTORS

FRANCES BOEHNLEIN

Project Success Alum
Southwest High '06

CLARE EISENBERG

Project Success Alum
Southwest High '09

MAGGIE KANE

Project Success Alum
Southwest High '09

AMY BARTHEL

Project Success
Communications Manager

SAI CHANG

Project Success
Development Manager &
Alumni Newsletter Editor

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

Contact Sai Chang:
saic@projectsuccess.org
612-876-3921

We are looking for
alumni to write, edit,
take photos and more!



GET TO KNOW THE ALUMNI CONTRIBUTORS



CLARE EISENBERG

FAVORITE PROJECT SUCCESS MEMORY: I remember staying after school on Wednesdays during my senior year to work with Project Success facilitators (mostly Jeffry Lusiak!) who would be in the College and Career Center after school. They helped with everything from searching for colleges to editing my admissions essay to just helping me stay focused for an hour after a long day at school. Although applying to college was challenging, doing it with Project Success made it a lot more fun and engaging. I remember feeling so encouraged to be myself, make decisions for myself (and own them), and explore things that I was excited about.

WHAT I'M DOING NOW: I am working as a Research Associate at Search Institute in Minneapolis.



FRANCES BOEHNLEIN

FAVORITE PROJECT SUCCESS MEMORY: Attending the Chicago College Tour trip and visiting the various schools across the city. The trip was incredibly influential to me, as I knew I wanted to attend college in a major city. During the trip, I fell in love with the city and DePaul University. I was accepted into DePaul, attended, and graduated in 2010. I spent 4 years living and working in Chicago after college.

WHAT I'M DOING NOW: I am an internal consultant for Optum, currently working as a Program Manager for UnitedHealthcare Digital. I manage a team that works to make UHC's websites, mobile applications and PDFs accessible for people with visible and invisible disabilities. I am living in Nashville with my partner, Brian.



MAGGIE KANE

FAVORITE PROJECT SUCCESS MEMORY: Attending the Chicago college tour during my junior year. It was interesting to tour multiple colleges with very different campus environments and to have that experience with my peers rather than just visiting colleges with my parents.

WHAT I'M DOING NOW: I conduct research focused on improving comprehensive supports for children and families during the early childhood years, including topics such as Head Start/Early Head Start and home visiting interventions. I work for a nonprofit research organization and recently relocated from Minneapolis to Washington, D.C.

WHAT'S NEW AT PROJECT SUCCESS?

LATEST NEWS

NEW SCHOOLS ADDED

When Project Success publicly announced the Dreams to Futures program expansion campaign this year, we shared our ambitious goal to expand in Minneapolis Public Schools to serve all students in grades 6-12, and to launch new and innovative out-of-school experiences. This fall, we marked a major milestone by expanding Project Success programming to four new MPS middle schools: Anthony, Field, Justice Page and Seward. With the support of early commitments to the Dreams to Futures Campaign, Project Success has added nine schools since 2015. We now serve 23 schools in Minneapolis — reaching each of the 15,000+ students in every partner school, and supporting them to connect to their purpose!

READ MORE ABOUT OUR NEW PARTNER SCHOOLS [HERE](#).



NEW STAFF

Project Success welcomed six new members to our team this August (including two Project Success alumni), bringing the total number of staff on the Project Success team to 37. Adding these talented individuals has been a crucial part of broadening our reach to 23 schools — with four new middle schools and 2,300 students added this year.



ANDY LUPINEK

Facilitator at Anthony,
Justice Page, and Northeast



KOSEY MITCHELL

Facilitator at Anne Sullivan
and South



KYLE MUNSHOWER

Project Success alum Southwest '14
Facilitator at Southwest
and Washburn



RACHEL LINNEMANN

Facilitator at Northeast,
Seward and South



CHRISTOPHER VANG

Program Coordinator
Project Success alum
Patrick Henry '16



MITCH VOSEJPKA

Program
Coordinator

LEARN MORE
ABOUT OUR
NEW STAFF [HERE](#).

ALUMNI PROFILE



NOW

Jocelyn McQuirter North High School '06

“There’s far and few organizations from high school that I can look back on that still give me joy,” says Jocelyn, reflecting on the role Project Success played in her life during high school. Jocelyn, a 2006 graduate of North High School, participated in Project Success for three years and credits the program with prompting her to go to college.

“I grew up seeing my father as an entrepreneur with some college experience and my mother successfully working her way up in health care proudly with a high school diploma,” she said. Participating in activities like the Chicago college tour exposed her to higher education opportunities she had not seen as possible.

According to Jocelyn, however, the power of Project Success stems not only from the college access side of the program, but also in its holistic approach to supporting children’s development and talents. In addition to college visits, Jocelyn distinctly remembers attending a performance of the *Lion King* at the State Theater. “I was familiar with plays to some degree, but never before had I seen so much diversity on a single stage,” Jocelyn said. “It was an invigorating experience, especially since the *Lion King* connected so well with my cultural roots.”

Through experiences like this, Jocelyn’s appreciation of the arts and her ability to navigate cultural differences grew. “The organization’s connections to the arts and [the] supporters who contribute to the organization’s sustainability help fuel the work so critical to underserved communities,” she said.

PROJECT SUCCESS EXPERIENCE:
Monthly In-class Workshops
Theater Experiences
College Tours

Jocelyn’s own path after high school has reflected her diverse array of interests and talents. These days, Jocelyn is working on a Master’s in Education at Hamline University and recently started a position with Hennepin County’s Center for Innovation and Excellence, where she builds capacity and trains people on human-centered and continuous improvement methods to support disparity reduction. In addition, she takes writing classes at the Loft, working toward a goal of one day publishing a children’s book or two focused on body positivity and cultural identity.

Along the way, she has had the opportunity to explore multiple fields. Jocelyn attended the University of St. Thomas, where she majored in marketing and took classes in education and journalism before ultimately going into advertising. After realizing she was not fulfilled by that line of work, she spent three years working as a cosmetologist, which she said gave her a strong creative outlet.

Afterward, she moved into positions focused on introducing and guiding youth through multi-industry career pathways, including paid internships with The BrandLab and BrookLynk. Jocelyn considers herself a continuous learner: “My career paths are ever evolving and I love how I’ve moved towards work with greater social responsibility and impact.”

Jocelyn’s message for more recent Project Success alumni is that it’s okay to be interested in and pursue more than just one major or career. “Experience is one of the best teachers in life and will guide you to your life purpose,” Jocelyn said. “Your self-purpose will find itself with self-discovery of why you are here and what value, mark and meaning you want to leave. Go big and keep shining.”

PROFILE WRITTEN BY **MAGGIE KANE**

“My career paths are ever evolving, and I love how I’ve moved towards work with greater social responsibility and impact.”



THEN

JOCELYN AND FORMER PROJECT SUCCESS FACILITATOR CARA AT NORTH HIGH’S PROM IN 2006

FIVE QUESTIONS

Whitney Emmanuel
Southwest '06



WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE MAKES PROJECT SUCCESS POWERFUL?

The fact that Project Success comes to the classroom for students rather than waiting for students to come to them. Project Success also makes the idea of college accessible to all students.

WHAT NEW SKILLS OR LIFE TOOLS DID PROJECT SUCCESS HELP YOU DEVELOP, AND HOW DID THEY HELP PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR FUTURE?

Project Success challenged me to think outside the box. Today, I have my own business and I do a lot of problem solving for my clients and I couldn't succeed without that skill. Project Success also helped me develop critical thinking and questioning skills, and appreciation of the arts which is huge for success and brain development.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

Creatively, I sing, write poetry and draw. Professionally, I own Strategic Visionaries Financial Planning. Personally, I am the mom of the best 5-year-old on earth, Miss Zuri.

HOW DID YOU GET THERE? WHAT WAS YOUR CAREER OR CREATIVE PATH LIKE?

It was not planned! I went away freshman year of college to Hillsdale. I then came back and completed sophomore year of college at MCTC and then finished with a degree in Linguistics at the University of Minnesota. After graduating, I wanted to go to Mexico and help with orphanage work and perhaps start one (I speak Spanish). But I knew I needed to earn some money so I went on Monster.com, checked the 'financial advisor' box not knowing what it meant, and was recruited and trained by Ameriprise. Four years later, I went out on my own and started Strategic Visionaries shortly thereafter.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE NEW PROJECT SUCCESS ALUMNI?

Do not put yourself or your dreams/goals in a box. Set realistic but audacious goals. Do not let other people's paths guide your own. You never know where you'll end up, and it does not have to look like everyone else.

PROJECT SUCCESS EXPERIENCE:

Theater Experiences
Monthly In-Class Workshops

PROJECT SUCCESS IMPACT:

Project Success challenged me to think outside the box regarding what I wanted to pursue after high school, and got me thinking about it early.

FIVE QUESTIONS

Nora Kane
Southwest '12



WHAT IMPACT HAS PROJECT SUCCESS HAD ON YOU?

Project Success made thinking about my future exciting but also manageable. It can feel like there are so many pressures and decisions to consider after high school and you have to figure out the one correct choice. Project Success broke those decisions down to a digestible size. It helped me understand the steps I would need to take to do different things and helped me see there's not just one correct choice.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE MAKES PROJECT SUCCESS POWERFUL?

Project Success doesn't tell you what to do, it tells you how to do. Working with the same person all four years makes a difference too. It was kind of like post-secondary group therapy once a month!

IS THERE A PARTICULAR STORY OR EXPERIENCE THAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF PROJECT SUCCESS?

There was one night on the Chicago College Tour when a small group of us – 6-8 students and two Project Success staff – went to the Pilsen neighborhood for the evening. I think everyone else was at a baseball game. We ended up at this small basement restaurant with amazing tamales. I live in Chicago now and whenever I'm over in Pilsen, I keep an eye out for that restaurant.

HOW DID PROJECT SUCCESS HELP YOU PREPARE FOR YOUR FUTURE?

Project Success taught me to plan for my future: to think about what I'm interested in and what I'm good at – as well as what I'm not interested in and not so great at – and to start from there.

WHAT IS YOUR DREAM NOW FOR YOUR FUTURE?

Well that's a heavy one—I guess I'm still figuring that out!

PROJECT SUCCESS EXPERIENCE:

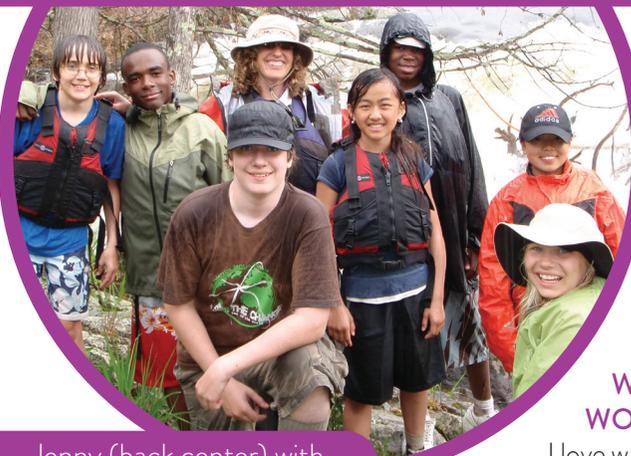
Theater Experiences
College Tours
Monthly In-Class Workshops

LIFE TOOLS LEARNED AND DEVELOPED THROUGH PROJECT SUCCESS:

Project Success taught me how to break a complicated process down into manageable steps.

STAFF PROFILE

Jenny Batten Program Manager – Experiential Learning and Global Experiences



Jenny manages Experiential Learning and Global Experiences at Project Success. These ever-expanding programs include outdoor adventure days in fall, winter and spring, week-long Boundary Waters canoe trips in the summer, trips to the Science Museum of Minnesota, and global travel experiences.

Jenny was introduced to Project Success while working as a Stage Manager at the Guthrie Theater. Seeing first-hand how Project Success students and families energized an audience, and having the opportunity to introduce even more families to theater, made for an easy transition to the Project Success team.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT WORKING AT PROJECT SUCCESS?

I love watching students interact with programming and I am inspired by their reactions and what they discover. During one of our Outdoor Adventure Days, I took a hike with some 6th grade students at Fort Snelling State Park this fall. There were some really cool things to check out like

great blue herons in the river and trees that have been gnawed in half by beavers but what they really got excited about was a snail they discovered on the trail. They watched it as it slowly moved its way along the path. I had asked them to notice as many things as they could while on this hike and they noticed everything – even a creature I had overlooked.

HOW DOES EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING MAKE AN IMPACT FOR PROJECT SUCCESS STUDENTS?

Experiential learning takes students out of their seats and gives them the opportunity to actively participate in learning. When a student is immersed in an experience, they take in information using all their senses. For example, students may learn about a forest in the classroom, but until they have the opportunity to wander through a forest, it's difficult to imagine how it really looks, feels, sounds, and smells. Learning by doing engages students who may have different learning styles and fosters curiosity. Curiosity leads to a continued interest in learning even after that one experience is over.

Experiential learning opportunities are meant to inspire students to take what they have learned and apply that knowledge moving forward in other aspects of their lives. For example, during the River Adventure Day expeditions, students have the chance to learn about environmental stewardship. They discover living organisms that inhabit the river and learn what makes the river a place where they can thrive. We discuss actions that people can take to keep our waterways healthy. We then ask students to think about their classroom environment, their school, local community and even our global community. What makes those environments healthy so that everyone can thrive? What can they do as individuals to promote and protect a healthy environment in those communities?

WHAT'S NEXT FOR EXPEDITIONS AT PROJECT SUCCESS?

This year we are taking students to Boston, Washington D.C. and Mexico. In June, 150 students will be canoeing and camping with us in the BWCA. In addition, we are partnering with Wilderness Inquiry to offer 2 new summer adventures: an 8 day backpacking trip in the Beartooth Mountains, and an Apostle Islands kayaking trip designed for students with physical, developmental and other forms of cognitive accessibility needs. Getting out in nature has an amazing power to calm, heal, energize and inspire. We continue to assess our programming in order to create opportunities for inclusive access to outdoor recreation activities.

INTERVIEWED BY CLARE EISENBERG

EXPEDITION PROGRAMS

GET INVOLVED! Jenny invites Project Success alumni to get involved with experiential learning and expeditions at Project Success by volunteering with outdoor adventure days or being a volunteer leader on a Boundary Waters Canoe Trip. **To learn more, contact Jenny at jennyb@projectsuccess.org or 612-874-1277.**



LOCAL-TO-NATIONAL COLLEGE TOURS



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE DAYS

GLOBAL EXPERIENCES



BWCA ADVENTURES



UPCOMING EVENTS

PROJECT SUCCESS AND SANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESENT:



SHREK

THE MUSICAL JR.

Join Us!

Friday, December 6, 2019 | 7pm
Saturday, December 7, 2019 | 7pm

\$5 TICKETS | Free for children 5 and under

Contact Sai Chang at 612-874-3921 or saic@projectsuccess.org to reserve your tickets.

Directed by JEFFREY WELLS
Choreography by TRUDY MONETTE
Musical Direction by CHERYL REEVES

PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT
WITH MUSIC THEATER INTERNATIONAL

SANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL
3524 42nd Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55406

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