

Renee C. Brown (Zientek)
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EDUCATION:

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Rackham Graduate School

M.A., Concentration: American Cultural Studies

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-FLINT

B.A., Major: English

EXPERIENCE:

Strategy

- Created, launched and managed several new programs, offices, and institutional departments/units based on changing environments, research and evaluation, shifting resources, and need for innovation
- Initiated, fostered, led, and sustained multi-sector partnerships focused on specific community opportunities and/or identified challenges
- Developed and implemented organizational systems to meet specific strategic outcomes

Leadership

- Consistently raised 1M+ dollars per fiscal year through federal, state, foundation, corporate and private funds to support campus and community partnerships and civic engagement
- Developed partnerships, collaborations, and coalitions that advanced state and national civic engagement and community development initiatives
- Led national higher education initiatives that address identified stakeholder strategies through formal and informal networks
- Strengthened the state infrastructure for civic engagement by connecting appropriate and strategic partners and aligning their shared visions to create a platform for service and engagement across multiple key organizations

Management

- Effectively directed teams of up to 30+, employees, including executives, employees, volunteers, and both undergraduate and graduate students.
- Experienced and effective in fund advancement and prospect management
- Demonstrated record of fiscal responsibility and experience managing complex organizational budgets including those with multiple revenue sources (restricted and unrestricted)
- Successful in maximizing the intended purpose of organizational systems such as human resource development and grants management

- Conceptualized, implemented, and managed several large (over 500 participants) events and conferences for multiple institutions
- Managed increased responsibility in every professional position held with integrity, resourcefulness, and success
- Successfully led multiple organizations through periods of change
- Focused on professional development, both personally, and with teams, as a method for continued organizational achievement

Professional Accomplishments

- Secured and managed several multi-year, large scale (1M+) sponsored programs that led to institutional and cultural changes at the University of Michigan-Flint, Michigan Nonprofit Association, and Michigan Campus Compact
- Created and established state-level recognition opportunities for Michigan's colleges and universities
- Transformed and transitioned state-wide civic engagement work through state level research, programming, and partnerships
- Led a complex urban river corridor alliance and several large scale revitalization projects in a city with declining population and severe fiscal struggles
- Successfully transitioned and redesigned the work of Corporation and Foundation Relations and Alumni Relations at the University of Michigan-Flint
- Founded the Academic Service Learning Program at the University of Michigan-Flint

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

Director, Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement, Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan, July 2013- present

- Responsible for the overall direction of team promoting, developing, advancing, supporting, recognizing, and building scholarship around community engaged learning at through the Center for Service-Learning and Civic Engagement at Michigan State University

Senior Director of Civic Engagement and Fund Advancement, Michigan Nonprofit Association
Lansing, Michigan, January 2011-July 2013

- Responsible the overall direction of and leadership of the affiliates and programs that comprise the Civic Engagement Unit at the Michigan Nonprofit Association.

Executive Director, Michigan Campus Compact
Lansing, Michigan, January 2010-July 2013

- Directs the association of 40+ Presidents and their campuses committed to the public purpose of higher education

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement, University of Michigan-Flint
Flint, Michigan, 2008-2010

- Provided direction and oversight of the University Outreach, Alumni Relations, Corporate and Foundation Relations, and Unit Operational Services units

Executive Director of University Outreach, University of Michigan-Flint
Flint, Michigan, 2005-2008

- Directed the Center for Service Learning, Center for Applied Environmental Research, and LAUNCH (student business incubator)

President and Managing Partner, Happy Dreams, Inc
Petoskey, Michigan, 1999-2005

- Owned and operated a family-owned business with 3 retail storefronts in Northern Michigan and an web-based store

Director, Office of Service Learning & School Partnerships, University of Michigan-Flint
Flint, Michigan, 1997-1999

- Founded the Office of Service Learning and & School Partnerships and developed the first cohort of faculty engaged in this work for the University of Michigan-Flint Campus

Director of Health and Fitness, Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Greater Flint
Flint, Michigan, 1996-1997

- Directed the operations and community programming of the Health and Fitness Center

Program Manager, University Outreach, University of Michigan-Flint
Flint Michigan, 1994-1996

- Supported grant programs and events designed to engage faculty and students in campus outreach and engagement

Budget Analyst, Cadillac Luxury Car Division
Flint, Michigan, 1989-1994

- Managed the budgets and financial record-keeping for a multimillion dollar engineering department

Staff Writer (Intern), Mott Community College
Flint, Michigan, 1988-1989

- Wrote policies and procedures for multiple units within the campuses and in preparation for accreditation

Affiliations, Representations, and Service:

Capital Area United Way – Volunteer Services Workgroup Chair 2016-present

Michigan Campus Compact – Advisory Committee 2016-present

IARSLCE Practitioner Scholar Forum – Planning Committee 2016-present

Tallories Network – Campus Representative 2014-present

Campus Compact, The Research University Civic Engagement Network (TRUCEN) 2013-present

Michigan Campus Compact, Network Committee and Faculty Development Chair 2013-2016
Community Relations Coalition (CRC), Board of Directors, 2011-2017
Midwest Representative for Campus Compact Executive Committee (NEXCOM), 2013
National Campus Compact – College Access and Success Chairperson, 2011- 2013
Keep Genesee County Beautiful, Board of Directors (past)
Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Committee (past)
Flint River Corridor Alliance, Board of Directors, President (past)
CEO's for Cities, Flint CEO Cluster Leader (past)
Shelter of Flint, Board of Directors and Fund Advancement Chair (past)

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION:

University of Michigan-Flint, Staff Award Winner
Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce, Athena Award Program
YWCA Women of Achievement Award
University of Michigan-Flint, General Education Reform Recognition
University of Michigan-Flint, Chancellor Special Recognition for Distinguished Service

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS:

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Executive Leadership for Women, Eli Broad College of Business
Crucial Conversations
Crucial Accountability
Practitioner-Scholar Forum, International Association for Research on Service-Learning and
Community Engagement 2015, 2016

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Center for the Education of Women
Advanced Leadership Program

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Foundations of Supervision I
Foundations of Supervision II

PRESENTATIONS:

International Professional Meetings

Schichtel, C.L, Springer, N.C, & Zientek, R.C. (September 26 -28, 2016). "What comes first? Process, structure, or culture..." International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement—16th annual conference. New Orleans, LA.

Zientek, R.C. (September 30, 2014) "Service with Purpose: Building a Culture of Engagement through Commemoration, Celebration, and Collaboration." International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement 14th Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

National Professional Meetings

Zientek, R.C. (October 16, 2014) "Building Campus-Community Partnership through Honor and Commemoration." Eastern Region Campus Compact 2014 Conference – Moving Us Forward – Fifty Years On: From Civil Rights to Critical Engagement

State or Regional Professional Meetings

Springer, N.C. and Zientek, R. (November 3, 2016). "Community Engaged Teaching and Learning". Michigan Campus Compact Institute. Dearborn, MI.

Stanlich, S. and Zientek, R. (November 3, 2016). "Advancing Service Learning and Community Engagement on Your Campus". Michigan Campus Compact Institute. Dearborn, MI.

Zientek, R.C. (February 3, 2014) "Lessons from the Field: Key Strategies in Impactful Community Partnerships." Michigan Campus Compact 16th Civic Engagement Institute

Faculty Seminars or Colloquiums-

Schichtel, C., Springer, N., Smith, E., & Zientek, R. (February 19, 2016). "Part two: Put your theory into practice with service-learning." Michigan State University—Service-learning faculty development series. East Lansing, MI.

Schichtel, C., Springer, N., & Zientek, R. (October 14, 2016). Community engaged teaching & learning: Getting Started!" Michigan State University—Service-learning faculty development series. East Lansing, MI.

Springer, N.C., Zientek, R.M, Doberneck, D.M. (June 6, 2016) "Community Engaged Teaching and Learning" Michigan State University Graduate Certificate in Community Engagement summer intensive program. East Lansing, MI.

Zientek, R., & Schichtel, C. (October 7, 2016). "Sustaining Community Partnerships." Michigan State University Graduate Certificate in Community Engagement program. East Lansing, MI.

Zientek, R. C. (June 3, 2014) "Service-Learning Course Development." Delegation Visit, Lingnan University

Zientek, R.C. (June 2, 2014) "Service-Learning and Civic Engagement in American Higher Education." MSU Visiting International Professionals Program

Conferences and meetings where presentations have been given over the last 20 years on various outreach and engagement topics:

American Association of State Colleges and Universities

American Democracy Project

Association of American Colleges and Universities

Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities

Michigan Campus Compact (various venues/events including The Institute)

Michigan Nonprofit Association (various venues/events including Superconference)

National Conference on Volunteerism and Service

PUBLICATIONS

Fitzgerald, H. E. & Zientek, R. (2015). Community engagement scholarship, systems change, and learning cities. In L. Scott (ed). *Learning cities for adult learners. New Directions for Adult and Continuing Education*. 145,

Fitzgerald, H. E., Bargerstock, B., Van Egeren, L., & Zientek, R. (2015). Community engagement scholarship, research universities, and the scholarship of integration. In J. Sachs and L. Clark (eds). *Learning through community engagement: vision and practice in higher education*.