

# Ms. Sam Grabelle, MSW

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## Education

- May 1999                      **University of Connecticut School of Social Work** (West Hartford, CT)  
*Major:* Community Organization                      *Minor:* Group Work                      *Degree:* Master of Social Work
- May 1994                      **Brown University** (Providence, RI)  
*Major:* Educational Studies - Multicultural Issues                      *Degree:* Bachelor of Arts

## Education Experience

### **Adjunct Professor, Writing Specialist & Workshop Facilitator – Bryant University (RI) 2008-present**

- Develop curricula for and teach freshmen and transfer students in Foundations For Learning college success course.
- Develop and facilitate Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) workshops for all students.
- Teach individual and small groups of students who come to the ACE Writing Center seeking support with writing assignments, including: brainstorming, thesis development, grammatical and spelling corrections, group project support, English language learning for international students and other writing concerns.
- Develop and update Academic Center for Excellence website.

### **Consultant, Top Admit – Taiwan ([www.topadmit.com](http://www.topadmit.com)) 2008-present**

- Edit and critique application essays of Chinese and Taiwanese college, graduate school and PhD candidates applying to English-speaking colleges and universities in the U.S., England, Sweden, Canada, and elsewhere. Provide paragraph by paragraph critiques.
- Edit and critique professors' letters of recommendation, students' resumes and practice GRE Analytical Writing essays.

### **Independent Education Consultant and Freelance Writer (RI) 2004-present**

- Taught teacher education workshops and an online graduate course for The University of Rio Grande (OH).
- Researched and developed a website for the Rhode Island Department of Education detailing activities of the Highly Qualified Leaders Project (see [www.ride.ri.gov/hqlp](http://www.ride.ri.gov/hqlp)).
- Performed in Living Literature's theater program *Common Ground: What Unites Us? What Divides Us?* funded by the RI Council for the Humanities.
- Wrote stories about teachers and students for the Rhode Island Foundation.
- Edited/co-wrote the FIRST organization's (For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) coffee table book on its LEGO League and high school robotics programs, published by Palo Alto Press.
- Assisted the Rhode Island Child Opportunity Zones (located in 10 cities) in creating a presence as a statewide network, including developing their pages on the RIDE website.
- Developed and maintain website for local author Padma Venkatraman – [www.climbingthestairsbook.com](http://www.climbingthestairsbook.com).
- Served as the webmaster for former employer, The Big Picture Company, from 2003 to 2008.
- Other clients include: Education Alliance at Brown University; Technology Applications Association (Charles Mojkowski); National Neighborhood Day; Embolden Design; R.C. Owen Publishers; and Ideas Consulting.

### **Development Assistant – Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (Providence, RI) 2008-2009**

- Conducted research, edited and wrote materials for development efforts, including capital campaign, for unique independent public middle school for students who have been held back.

### **Academic Support Specialist - Community College of Rhode Island Access TRiO Program (RI) 2007**

- Supervised tutoring program for CCRI's first-generation students, low-income students and students with disabilities, including recruiting and training paraprofessional tutors and developing a training manual.

**Assistant to the Director - Big Picture Company / The Met Center High Schools (Providence, RI) 2001-2004**

- Co-authored the book, *The Big Picture: Education is Everyone's Business* (ASCD, 2004), a member book-of-the-month and the Association of Educational Publishers 2005 Distinguished Achievement Award winner.
- Co-wrote numerous articles for national education publications.
- Developed strong relationships with students/staff of six innovative public high schools in Providence, including supporting the network of principals, helping to recruit and hire teachers, mentoring students, and writing public relations materials.
- Wrote the schools' policy manual adhering to state and federal regulations.
- Provided support and resources to the national network of Big Picture Schools.
- Redesigned and rewrote the Big Picture's website. Served as webmaster from 2003-2008.

**Project Manager / Service Director of After School Programs - Explore, Inc. (CT) 2000-2001**

- Started the first Explore after school programs in the state of Connecticut for the Baltimore-based company.
- Oversaw all operations of four after school educational enrichment programs.
- Supervised and hired teachers, oversaw licensing application, communicated with parents, enrolled students, and partnered with school staff.
- Developed staff evaluation tool and community service project outline.
- Promoted to project manager of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers grant applications for U.S. school districts.

**Instructor - Hartford College for Women and Hamden Adult Education (CT) 2000**

- Developed curriculum for and presented multi-session creative writing workshops for adults.

## Social Work Experience

**Youth Services Coordinator - Family Resources Community Action (Woonsocket, RI) 2007**

- Helped to develop a DLT-funded career center for community youth ages 14-21.
- Provided resource and referral services as well as life and job skills workshops.

**Development Coordinator - Leadership, Education and Athletics in Partnership, Inc. (LEAP) (CT) 1999-2000**

- Grant writer for statewide youth development organization.
- Researched funding opportunities and wrote proposals and reports for corporations and foundations.
- Conceived and prepared event and fundraiser materials and developed grant-tracking system.
- Communicated regularly with program staff and funders.
- Lead writer on \$1.65 million AmeriCorps grant award.

**Founder / Director of Student Support - University of Connecticut School of Social Work (CT) 1998-1999**

- Proposed, implemented, and independently ran individualized academic support program for fellow students
- Held open office hours and group workshops.
- Developed mentor program for non-matriculated students.
- Surveyed participants and presented program proposal to the Dean.

**University of CT School of Social Work Graduate Intern – The Bridge Family Center (CT) 1997-1999**

- Founded and supervised a committee of 20 teens working to start a local teen center.
- Assisted in grant writing and organized community forums on teen issues.
- Hired in 1999 to continue youth leadership and run a support group for 6<sup>th</sup> graders transitioning out of ESL.

**Program Assistant - JTPA Summer Youth Employment Training Program, YWCA of Hartford (CT) 1997**

- Developed and implemented orientation and job skills training program.
- Monitored youth worksites and assisted with federal grant responsibilities.
- In 1995, worked with JTPA in Woonsocket, RI as Project Supervisor for an anti-violence and multicultural education job skills program.

## Honors & Awards

- 2006 **Volunteer Merit Award for Mentoring Youth**  
*Presented by The Met High School and the Rhode Island Foundation*
- 2005 **The Association of Educational Publishers 2005 Distinguished Achievement Award**  
*Presented for the book The Big Picture: Education is Everyone's Business (ASCD, 2004)*
- 1999 **Student of the Year**  
*Presented by the National Association of Social Workers (CT)*
- 1994 **Graduation with Honors**  
*Presented by Brown University*

## Volunteer Work

- **Speech and Interview Judge** - Rhode Island Academic Decathlon (2007 - present)
- **Prospective student interviewer** - Brown Alumni Schools Committees, Providence, RI (2007-present)
- **Student and alumni mentor** - The Met Schools, Providence, RI (2001 - present)
- **Board member** - The Friends of Rochambeau Library, Providence, RI (2005-2008 -now webmaster)
- **Mentor** - Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program middle school, Providence, RI (2008)
- **Board member** - Young Voices, Providence, RI (2008-2009)
- **Mentor** - Year Up, Providence, RI (2005-2006)

## Publications

### Books:

- Grabelle, Sam (Writer and Developmental Editor). (2007). *FIRST: Chronicles of Inspiration, Competition and Changing the World*. CA: Palo Alto Press.
- Littky, Dennis with Samantha Grabelle. (2004). *The Big Picture: Education is Everyone's Business*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.
- Grabelle, Sam (contributor). (2003). *Teaching with Fire: Poetry That Sustains the Courage to Teach*. Intrator, S. and Scribner, M. (eds.). San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

### Articles:

- Grabelle, Samantha. "Diving In – The Real Goals of Education." *The Virginia Journal of Education*. (October 2008).
- Grabelle, Samantha. "My Father's Wisdom – Reconsidered." *The Ohio ASCD Journal*. (Spring 2005).
- Littky, Dennis with Samantha Grabelle. "The World is Integrated!" *The Curriculum Technology Quarterly* (February 2005).
- Littky, Dennis with Samantha Grabelle. "Voting for Homecoming Queen Does Not Prepare Students for Democracy." *Horace*, Volume 21, No. 1 (Late Fall 2004 - Special 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue).
- Littky, Dennis with Samantha Grabelle. "If We Love Our Children More Than We Love Our Schools, the System Must Change." *Educational Horizons, Pi Lambda Theta* (Summer 2004).
- Dennis Littky, Nancy Diaz, Danique Dolly, Chris Hempel, Charlie Plant, Phil Price, and Sam Grabelle. "Moment to Moment at The Met." *Educational Leadership* (May 2004).

### Other:

- Grabelle, Sam. *The Met Portfolio*. (2001-2002). 34-page report on The Met high schools.
- Grabelle, Sam. *Welcome to The Met*. (2003-2004). 15-page brochure for The Met high schools.

## Skills

- **Computer:** Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Suite including Dreamweaver and Photoshop, web design/navigation, Content Management Systems, databases, Development software, Blackboard, Banner
- **Writing and editing:** Web content, publicity materials, annual reports, grants/grant reports, articles, books
- **Education:** College success, first year experience, high school success, curriculum development, teacher education, workshops, training, academic and creative writing, public speaking, job skills