

Nancy Lerner Ruschman, MA

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Professional Summary

Research project manager with comprehensive, multifunctional background in public and private sectors. Substantial expertise in administration, research, and executive management. Driven by quality, innovation, accountability and an entrepreneurial spirit; offering specialized skills in collaborative partnerships and project management.

Key Qualifications

- 15+ years experience in project management, partnership and people development.
- Senior-level skills in reciprocal engagement with key business and community partners.
- Strategic project and grants management skills, including federal and foundation grants.
- Excellent organization and time-management habits; ensure timely project completion.

Experience

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

Feb 2015-present

Project Manager, IU School of Education and Center for Evaluation & Education Policy (CEEP)

- Direct multiple projects focused on research and evaluation of youth with emotional behavior challenges and toddlers with autism.
- Manage complex research including randomized controlled trials (RCTs), case study, and evaluation projects.
- Recruit research participants and conducts field data collection, including field observations, interviews, and focus groups, and conducts qualitative data analysis.
- Collaborate with Principal Investigators (PIs) to implement strategic initiatives.
- Co-author of 8+ publications and reports including 2018 state-wide research on the Indiana System of Care: A Case Study of Development, Implementation, and Evolution (Phase I and II); report prepared for Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA); more studies may be found [here](#).
- Serve as primary liaison for multiple partnering organizations both within and outside the university, including business, nonprofit and government entities.
- Oversight and writing support for federal and private grant proposals.
- Collaborate with PIs to provide leadership and supervision of grant budgets.
- Hire, train, and supervise an internationally diverse team of 10+ onsite and remote project staff, providing layered learning and mentoring for each.
- Craft and submit protocol for Institutional Review Board (IRB).
- Foster a professional, positive, and collaborative team culture while maintaining high productivity.
- Adhere to guidelines and regulations and provide a high level of confidentiality and discretion when managing research and datasets.
- Incorporate complex level of decision-making, taking into account the culture of the research participants, project partners, and nuances of the research projects.

Crooked Creek Community Development Corporation

July 2012-October 2015

Director of Community Partnerships (2012-2015); Interim Executive Director (2015)

- Secured funding to conduct the Rebuilding Together Indianapolis (RTI) project. Monies enabled nearly \$500,000 in repairs for 20 elder homeowners in Northwest Indianapolis when leveraged with services and supplies from multiple partners.
- Directed project and partnership opportunities for diverse community initiatives, including Indy DO Day (coordinated the Northwest side community days of service); Better Block: Michigan Road (pop-up visioning event focused on improving the quality of life Northwest Indianapolis area); Rebuilding Together Indianapolis (providing home

repairs and accommodations for elders and those living with disabilities); Crooked Creek Community Garden (promoting fresh-from-the-garden foods for neighbors); OASIS educational programs (secured the CDC as a programming location); Homeward Bound (focused on ending the cycle of poverty).

- Provided overall strategic and operational responsibility in executing the mission of the organization, in partnership with the board of directors.
- Cultivated strategic partnerships that positively impacted the community and improved the quality of life for those living on the northwest side of Indianapolis.

Peace Learning Center

Nov 2005-Oct 2011

Director, Corporate & Community Programs

- Cultivated outstanding professional development programs and custom-designed consulting services focused on conflict management, inclusion and leadership within business, education, faith-based, and nonprofit entities.
- Collaborated with executive director to influence workplace culture and set strategic direction.
- Created new revenue stream within an untapped market segment; fee for service increases resulted in a doubling of revenue over the prior year.
- Managed highly skilled professional team and AmeriCorps team members.
- Crafted innovative peer facilitation program for school staff and students, producing a 100% increase in the reach and success of the program.

Ruschman Associates

Jan 2001-Oct 2005

Independent Consultant

- Formed a consultancy specializing in promoting healthy organizational practices.
- Offered coaching and consulting for education, business and non-profit organizations, including Starbucks Coffee Company; Indiana State University: The Blumberg Center at Indiana State University; and The Centre for Servant-Leadership, Europe.
- Served as co-trainer for an Indiana statewide creative problem solving initiative for students; trained over 1000 principals, teachers and social workers in 17 school districts.
- Co-designed and delivered a train-the-trainer program on Servant-Leadership for the 2004 Starbucks Global Leadership Conference. Program delivered to over 6,500 Starbucks managers worldwide.
- Published a chapter in the 2001 anthology, [Focus on Leadership: Servant-Leadership for the 21st Century: Servant-Leadership and the Best Companies to Work for in America.](#)

Community Contributions

Irvington Development Organization, January 2012-present

- Board member; chair Communications Committees

Rebuilding Together Indianapolis, December 2013-2016

- Board member and organizer for 2014 Rebuilding Together Indianapolis event

Indy DO Day Community Service, Jan 2014-2016

- Co-Chair Indianapolis' city-wide community day of service

Education

MA, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana

Organizational Effectiveness focus in Wellness Management; Minor: Business Administration

BS, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana

Food Management