

Claudia R. Merson

18 Everit Street – New Haven, CT 06511 – 203-314-7416

Profile:

- A passionate concern for young people and their education expressed through innovative programming, skillful coalition-building, a strategic vision for long-term sustainability, and an on-point administrative style that ensures logistics never impede true creative progress.
- Sixteen years of international experience as a teacher, librarian, and curriculum developer, including three years at the American School in Dhaka, Bangladesh and thirteen years at the International School of Geneva, Switzerland.
- Twenty-nine years of administrative experience in the U.S. as the Director of Public-School Partnerships at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.
- Strong computer skills, proficient in French and a great sense of humor.

Professional Experience

Director of Public School Partnerships, Yale University, New Haven, CT

1995 to Present

Serve as Yale University's representative to the New Haven public school community; work with superintendent, teachers, parents, and local communities. Interpret the New Haven public school community to University administration faculty and students.

Design and implement programs and professional development for Yale students, faculty and New Haven teachers. Curricular areas include science and technology, the arts, language exposure and instruction, reading and mathematics. Create pathways for public high school students to broaden their opportunities and ultimately pursue careers in STEM, arts, and humanities through curriculum design, internships, independent study and articulation agreements.

Serve as education advisor to Dwight Hall at Yale, a student-led social justice and service organization. Develop intern training and oversee placement of university students in public schools and youth-service public service organizations. Provide direct supervision, advisement and evaluation.

Key Accomplishments:

- Established a broad array of sustainable programs and partnerships between Yale University and the New Haven Public Schools.
- Created, and now manage, comprehensive partnerships with multiple New Haven public schools. Oversee the network of over 400 university faculty, staff and students involved in these programs. This network assists teachers with curriculum development and provides resources and learning opportunities for students.
- Convened and chaired a K-12 science advisory committee; reached consensus and established a rich coordinated university-wide science outreach program. Managed the design and development of a new Yale STEM Outreach website ([www.yale.edu/science outreach](http://www.yale.edu/science%20outreach)). Negotiated data-sharing agreement with public school systems and oversaw the development of a longitudinal database that runs from pre-college participation in Yale STEM Outreach through graduation from college.

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Librarian/Instructional Coordinator/teacher, International School of Geneva, Switzerland 1982-1995

Created model primary school library that became the educational and social hub for staff, students, and parents. Developed library collections in multiple formats to meet the needs of the student body, which included 85 nationalities and 52 separate languages. In 1994, returned to the classroom to serve as a middle school teacher for the pilot of a dual-language program. Served on several school-wide committees, including accreditation steering committee.

Key Accomplishments:

- Convened key staff and principals to plan and implement a foundation-wide library program and policy. Supervised the creation of a central catalogue and full library automation.
- Created large and successful parent volunteer program.
- Worked collaboratively with teachers to design and implement new curricular programs including a course for gifted students and a school-wide dual-language program.

Education

- Diploma, Global Education, University of York, England, 1987
- Ed.M., Psycholinguistics, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 1976
- B.A., Education, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, 1974
- Educational Theater Studies, New York University, New York, NY, 1970-1973

Board Memberships

- Board Member New Haven Free Public Library, 2004-2013,2018-2024
- Vice-Chair, Ulysses S. Grant Foundation, Present
- Chair, School Committee, Common Ground Charter School, 2000-2008
- New Haven School Readiness Council, 2002-2004
- Mayor's Task Force on Reading, 2002-2003
- Gateway Community College Foundation, 1998-2002

Awards

- Connecticut Business Times 20 Notable Women, 2006
- Public Education Fund-Superintendent's Award, 2003-2004
- New haven Association of Volunteer Administrators Award, 2002