

NICKI SALFER, M.A., M.S.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OPERATOR

Senior Operating and Administrative Executive with a record of leadership, experience and dynamic skills in developing educational programs in both the private and public sector. Dedicated, resourceful education professional with proven ability to: create and oversee efficient administration practices that: promote excellent educational options, safe learning environments for special needs and at-risk students, and; a school atmosphere that encourages open communication with colleagues and the community. Superior strategic aptitude and visionary leader with a clear sense of purpose and urgency and a keen ability for rapid assessments of situational challenges and implementation of action plans for effective, outcome-based solutions. Key qualifications include:

- Educational Administration
- Communications
- Information Resources
- Skilled Knowledge in Federal Programs and On-Line Grants
- Individual Education Plans
- Training and Professional Development
- Educational Program Development
- Special Education
- Budgeting and Forecasting

Masters of Science • Special Education, Nova Southern University, Miami, FL

Masters of Jewish Studies • Education • Cleveland College of Jewish Studies, Cleveland, OH

Bachelor of Arts • Communication • John Carroll University, Cleveland, OH • Graduated Summa Cum Laude • Alpha Sigma Nu National Honor Jesuit Society • John Carroll University Dean's List

Advanced Graduate Study in Psychology and Special Education • Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH and Endicott College, Beverly, MA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

LEARNING CONCEPTS, Cleveland, OH

2006 to Present

Founder & CEO

Senior Administrative Executive and founder of Learning Concepts, an educational management organization (EMO) that provides leadership expertise in the areas of educational program development, special education, professional development, communication and information resources, federal programs, and on-line grants. Developed Learning Concepts to be a leader in providing operators of K-12 schools with the tools and resources necessary to operate successful educational facilities. Learning Concepts was created and is maintained as a female business enterprise.

VIRTUAL SCHOOLHOUSE, Cleveland, OH

2004-2005

Founder & Principal

Founder of a bricks and mortar school designed to address the needs of students in grades K-12 who are at risk of dropping out due to economic, environmental and/or emotional challenges, including physical and mental health illness, social disadvantage, learning disabilities and other special needs.

FAIRMOUNT PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

1998 to Present

Psychologist Assistant. and Mediation Consultant, (Under the supervision of Melvin E.Allerhand, Ph.D.)

Responsibilities include; provision of testing for MFE evaluations for Cleveland area public schools, participation in the IEP process, and divorce mediation.

ASHLAND UNIVIERSITY

2003 to Present

Adjunct faculty for Ashland University

Professional development training courses in Visualizing Verbalizing for reading comprehension training, Authentic Assessment, Phonics Made Easier, Understanding the MEB and IEP Process.

TREE OF KNOWLEDGE LEARNING CENTERS

1998 - 2004

Director of Educational Services

Founded and directed an educational service organization providing psycho-educational services to children who are at-risk academically and/or physically enabling them to achieve academic success and develop hope for a rewarding life. Coordinated with over twenty five special education directors of both districts and community schools to provide services mandated by IEP. Specialized in Mediation services between districts and parents in avoiding a due process hearing.

HELPING HEARTS PROGRAM

1999 – 2004

Founder, Case Manager of Services

Founded and directed an educational service organization that is designed for children who cannot be in a regular school setting due to illness, hospitalization, behavioral or emotional issues. (Continues to volunteer for this program.)

JEWISH EDUCATION CENTER OF CLEVELAND

1995 to Present

Teacher Trainer, Judaic software and Methods of Teaching

HEBREW ACADEMY OF CLEVELAND

1992 – 1995

Judaic Studies and Hebrew Language Teacher for new American students

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY, Professor Jim Schuerger 2000 – 2001
16PF Adolescent Assessment for Orthodox Jewish Adolescents 2001

Rewrote the 16PF Adolescent Assessment for Orthodox Jewish adolescents. Tested over one hundred adolescents for this project.

Predicting Ohio Proficiency Test Score 2000

Conducted research for *Predicting Ohio Proficiency Test Score* by collecting and analyzing fourth grade students' test scores from five Cleveland Jewish day schools. Analyzed which and why such subject scores best predicted grade outcomes on the Ohio Proficiency Tests.

TREE OF KNOWLEDGE LEARNING CENTERS 1999 – 2000

At-Risk Children Summer Psychological Education Program 2000

Received State of Ohio Excellence in Education Grant of \$100,000 for two years to this program. Assessed fifty at-risk children with the WISC III and the Woodcock Johnson Cognitive and Achievement tests. The parents and teachers were interviewed and involved in the child's development. Weaknesses were identified and psychological-educational therapies were developed and administered to develop the children to succeed in school. Simulated classroom and school experiences that were identified as problematic were among those that were developed, and an evaluation was written up for the State of Ohio. Assisted with assessing the key elements of the program such as the psycho one-on-one assessments, psychological counseling and tutoring.

At-Risk Children Pilot Program (Under the supervision of Melvin E. Allerhand, Ph.D.) 1999

Coordinated a pilot program as a prelude to the Summer 2000 Program. Administered the psychological/educational assessments to thirty-five at-risk inner-city children. Interviewed the parents and teachers and discussed potential interventions that might prove successful. Studied which settings were unsuccessful in causing the children to develop. Explored many of the social/emotional issues of the children's parents and teachers.

HONORS/CERTIFICATIONS

- **Cleveland State University Dean's List** (2000 to Present)
- **Cleveland Jewish Community Federation Volunteer Award** (1998 to Present)
- **National Teacher's Certificate** (1996 to Present)
- **Alternative Intervention Specialist License** (certified K-12)
- **Wilson Certified Level Trainer** (Wilson Reading Program)
- **Psychologist Assistant** (Under the supervision of Melvin E. Allerhand, Ph.D.)
- **Praxis Exam** (Scored in top ten percent)