



Career Week 2008

Something for Everyone!

Professional Volunteer Careers

The Marquette University Career Services Center strives to assist all students and alumni in discerning, developing, and pursuing meaningful traditional and non-traditional career paths.

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Thank you to our panelists and their respective employing organizations.

Kara Klein, State Program Specialist

Wisconsin State Office of Corporation for National & Community Service

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Kara Klein, State Program Specialist for the Wisconsin State Office of Corporation for National & Community Service, brings nine years of volunteer program management and development experience to the Corporation's Milwaukee office. For the past six years, she directed the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) at ADVOCAP, Inc., in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. In her biggest career success, she managed, trained and coordinated some 360 volunteers contributing services worth over half a million dollars to their communities. Her biggest career challenge includes facing the prospect of the state ending RSVP funding in the 2001 budget. She worked with Wisconsin program directors to document RSVP's impact. Funding was restored in a unanimous vote by the state's joint finance committee. She served as an AmeriCorps*VISTA with ADVOCAP in 1999-2000; coordinating a volunteer reading program. She volunteered for Mississippi's Sacred Heart Southern Missions during 1998-99. Active in the community, she served on ADVOCAP's Leadership Team, was a mayoral appointee to the Oshkosh Committee on Aging during 2004-07, and co-chaired the Winnebago County Housing Conference Planning Committee. She was secretary of the Wisconsin Association of RSVP Directors in 2005-07. Kara has a degree in Human Services from UW-Oshkosh and has been working for the Corporation for National and Community Service since December 2007.

Wendy Cipolaro, Volunteer Coordinator and Special Events Assistant

Milwaukee Christian Center

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Wendy received her undergraduate in Visual Communication from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. After graduation she moved home to the Phoenix area and worked odd jobs while attempting to decipher a meaningful career path. She was feeling stagnant and decided she needed a change of scenery. Her eyes were opened to diverse cultures while backpacking solo through Europe for two months and she became increasingly disillusioned with American society. Wendy decided to combine her love of new experiences with her passion for service and joined the Peace Corps. She was sent to Bangladesh as a youth development volunteer, which required teaching English to unemployed young adults at a government training center. She also became involved with an elementary art program, taught graphic design at a technical institute and established community youth clubs during Peace Corps service. She decided to stay in Bangladesh for an additional six months to work on an HIV/AIDS prevention project with other Peace Corps Volunteers. Her experience living and volunteering abroad was very energizing and led her toward a career in nonprofit work. Wendy was fortunate enough to be accepted to Marquette's Trinity Fellows Program where she is currently earning her master's degree in Public Service. As part of her program, she was placed at the Milwaukee Christian Center (MCC) as Volunteer Coordinator. At MCC, she recruits and places volunteers in the agency's various program areas. Wendy also volunteers as a tutor for an after school program. She plans to graduate in May, spend a month in China this summer, and then move to Portland, OR to begin a career in nonprofit management.

Christina Counselman, Partner

The New Teacher Project

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The New Teacher Project (TNTP) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to improving teacher quality in high-need schools. We partner with districts and states to create innovative programs that hire or train thousands of teachers every year— about 28,000 so far—and to change the policies that keep schools from hiring the best teachers possible. As a Partner in Teaching Fellows Programs, I oversee three of TNTP's highly-selective alternate route to teaching programs – in Milwaukee (*Milwaukee Teaching Fellows*), Phoenix (*Phoenix Teaching Fellows*), and New Orleans (*teachNOLA*, a program that recruits both alternate route and certified teachers).

I would identify one of my greatest career challenges, and one of my greatest career successes, as the same item. In 2008, TNTP launched four new Teaching Fellows programs in four new cities – including two of the sites which I oversee: Milwaukee and Phoenix. In a matter of months, we launched recruitment campaigns in both cities designed to generate over 900 applications for the 50 teaching positions available, reached out to the community in both areas to gain investment and support for these programs, and oriented new TNTP staff members to manage the day to day operations of both programs. Although this required a great deal of focused work in a short period of time, our success can be measured in the outstanding, dedicated Teaching Fellows that are currently enrolling in these two programs – changing careers to make a greater difference as educators.

Prior to becoming Partner, I worked as Site Manager for TNTP's program in Miami, before serving as Communications Site Advisor, contributing to recruitment messaging and coordinating website development for Teaching Fellows programs across the country. Before joining TNTP, I worked as Events Coordinator at the Center for Global Development in Washington, D.C., and Outreach Coordinator at the Brookings Institution. I hold a Bachelor's degree in history from Northwestern University and a Master's degree in education policy & management from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education.

Lauren Cardwell, Jesuit Volunteer

Notre Dame Middle School

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I was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri and I am the oldest of four children. I went to Incarnate Word Academy high school, an all-girl Catholic high school in St. Louis. Following high school, I attended Rockhurst University, a Jesuit school, in Kansas City, Missouri. I studied Mathematics and Nonprofit Leadership as an undergraduate student at Rockhurst and graduated in May 2006. I knew I wanted to work in education so I began looking for high school math teaching positions. Little did I know at the time that I would discover my true passion for working with at-risk youth in an urban setting. I accepted a math teaching position at an urban high school in Kansas City and within weeks applied to the the Master of Education (M.Ed.) program at Rockhurst University. I spent the next 12 months in graduate school and in my first year of teaching. I never knew how much I would learn from my students. At their young ages, they had already faced more turmoil and disappointment than I could imagine. I wanted to continue to work in urban education, but had always been interested in the Jesuit Volunteer Corp. After visiting with friends who were current volunteers last year, I knew it was my turn to give a year of my skills in an urban school. I am currently serving at Notre Dame Middle School on the south side of Milwaukee. As a Jesuit Volunteer, I am teaching math while also working with both the Graduate Support Program and the Enrichment Program. The Jesuit Volunteer Corp has provided me the opportunity to work in other areas of education outside of teaching. At the culmination of the program in August, I plan to teach for a couple years before pursuing additional graduate work in educational administration and urban leadership.

Carrie Clark, Jesuit Volunteer

Walker's Point Community Center

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I am volunteering in Milwaukee with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC). I moved here in August 2007, from my home in Newport Beach, CA, shortly after graduating from Santa Clara University with a degree in Combined Sciences and minors in Spanish and Chemistry.

Combined Sciences is a broad pre-health major that allowed me to complete all of the pre-med prerequisites while also taking classes in a variety of the social sciences. My biggest career challenge has been to apply all of the myriad components of my undergraduate education to my first "full time

job". I encountered a huge gap in my knowledge between the science I studied in the laboratory and the medicine that is practiced at the clinic.

As a recent college graduated, and a 22 year old, I am still at the early stages of my career. Thus my biggest career success has been determining which career I want to pursue. There are myriad career options within healthcare and it has taken much reflection and fact gathering to determine which fits me best. Both here and in California, I have done research about, shadowed, and had intentional conversations with various types of providers. Also, being at a free clinic has enabled me to observe first hand some of the difficult realities of providing health care to the underserved, the type of healthcare I most envision providing.