

Michelle Morrison

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Montessori Certified Leader, Innovator, and Educator

Innovative, visionary and passionate leader with thirty years of experience using the Montessori Method in roles of ever increasing responsibility that have provided the opportunity to work with faculty, families, and children and make a positive contribution to their future.

Skills

Program Management	Business Acumen	Collaborative, Team-Building Style
Strategic Planning	Financial Expertise	Confident Decision-Maker
Faculty Oversight	Budgeting and Planning	Efficient Delegator
Teacher Training Program Leader	School Ambassador	Effective Communicator
Servant Leadership Mindset	MS Office, Google Drive and	
Confident public speaker	FileMaker skills	

Key Accomplishments

- Effected a 12% increase in enrollment over nine years by program quality initiatives, community engagement, better promotion of our value, rebranding school identity, implementing online marketing plan, and making strategic changes to existing admissions and retention practices
- Realized 31% net revenue increase over a nine-year period, evolving from financial crisis to financial stability, through cost containment, improved retention, increased enrollment and the successful cultivation of community relationships
- Achieved optimal staff performance by structuring annual goal setting and performance review metrics and by enabling faculty and staff access to quality professional development programs
- Ensured adherence to standards of excellence in key areas by enacting prudent administrative staff changes and identifying and developing new talent
- Enhanced community outreach efforts by renewing/expanding memberships and relationships in various school associations, partnering with local businesses and educational service providers, escalating use of press releases and increasing school presence at area events

Leadership Experience

- Fulfilling my current leadership role at Princeton Montessori School following American Montessori Society's standards of excellence
- Leading team tasked with developing two three-year strategic growth plans

- Serving on AMS Secondary Task Force to address concerns about member schools' compliance with 2020 standards and criteria; led a subcommittee and presented analyses and solutions to committee co-chairs
- Directing Princeton Montessori professional development, focusing on leadership and communication
- Frequent presenter at AMS Annual Conference, including March 2018 event, sharing leadership development program successfully implemented at Princeton Montessori School under my leadership
- Contributing author for Montessori Life publication including a research paper on Secondary math education Successfully led school through lengthy AMS reaccreditation process
- In capacity of Professional Development Coordinator, cultivating opportunities for parents and teachers to collaboratively review and formulate annual goals, provide educational insights and revisit Montessori principles and philosophy with teachers
- Experience teaching adults and facilitating meetings. Most recently - 2020 Taught 'Personal Growth & Development to adult students through the Princeton Center for Teacher Education & facilitated the 'School Leadership' session for New Jersey Association of Independent Schools (NJ AIS) Trustee Enrichment Day..

Employment Narrative

Princeton Montessori School, Princeton, NJ	1993 – Present
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Head of School, July 2014 – Present

- Through collaborative and visionary leadership enhancing a stellar reputation of this fifty-year strong Montessori school that provides exceptional care and education for children ages infant through middle school
- Spearheading organizational culture change, moving school from founder model to institutional best practices paradigm
- Preparing students for modern-day challenges by integrating Montessori methodology with emerging 21st century educational principles that include core competencies such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity
- Furthering school mission by identifying and harnessing faculty talent
- Enhancing student success by developing good rapport and educational partnerships with parents
- Maintaining clear understanding of AMS, MSA and MACTE mission and principals
- Directing, administering, and overseeing leadership team and all educational programs
- Leading three-year strategic planning project for years 2017 to 2020 and 2021-2024
- Serving as Executive Director for school's teacher training program, offering courses that blend Montessori methodology with 21st century concepts; utilize best practices in adult learning
- Maintaining fiscal soundness by effectively managing \$6 million budget

- Engaging in extensive public speaking that includes presenting at national conferences, addressing 60-person staff and leading parent education sessions
- Proposing amendments to 2020 accreditation standards for MACTE accredited and AMS affiliated Secondary programs as member of AMS Secondary Task Force
- Overseeing member school accreditation, accreditation process and recommending accreditation policy to AMS Board of Trustees as an appointed Commissioner of the School Accreditation Commission (SAC),

Executive Director, Princeton Center for Teacher Education, July 2014 - Present

- Creating vision and strategy for teacher training program that contributes to increased participation
- Ensuring adherence to program mission
- Sourcing, hiring and fostering the success of the training program Director
- Fully Accountable for program's financial performance

Director of Middle School Programs, 2006 - 2014

- Developed and founded the program in 1994
- Ensured consistency of Montessori curriculum and a decorous academic and social image
- Initiated and headed experiential, inquiry-based middle school program that included a focus on community service
- In collaboration with conference teachers, established standards of excellence for integrated multi-age programs and arranged personal and team goals
- Contributed to team success by providing staff oversight and counsel germane to classroom observations of teaching methods, instructional objectives, learning activities and materials
- Continually communicated with the Head of School and Director of Student Services to evaluate efficacy of programs and discuss possible changes.
- Piloted and chaperoned educational visits to international destinations to South America and Europe

Middle School Humanities Teacher, 1993 – 2014

- Transformed class into a multi-faceted learning experience that fostered a continued love of learning, history, geography and literature for last-form middle school students by using TCI's *History Alive!* curriculum in conjunction with Montessori methodology

Education

Master of Arts in Teaching - 1993
College of New Jersey

Bachelor of Science, Business Administration/Marketing - 1988
University of Northern Colorado

Certifications

Certificate in Advanced Leadership - Harvard University - 2020

Montessori Administrator Certification - Princeton Ctr. for Teacher Education - 2014

Montessori Secondary I Certification - Washington Montessori Secondary Training Ctr. - 2009

Montessori Elementary I and II Certification - Seacoast Training Ctr. - 1992

Outward Bound for Educators Certification - Dillon, Colorado - 1994

Professional Participation

American Montessori Society - School Accreditation Commissioner - 2018 - present

American Montessori Society - Secondary Task Force Member - 2019

American Montessori Society - Research Task Force Member - 2019

Mentor to new Montessori Heads of School - 2019-2021