

SHARI L. WILSON

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PROFILE

Accomplished, senior project director with a record of success and proven skills in strategic planning, program development and implementation, partnership building, facilitation, special event planning and logistics, and public speaking. Known for working collaboratively and providing innovative leadership in a team environment.

EXPERIENCE

PROJECT CENTRAL, LLC

Founder and President

2012-Present

- Provide services including project start-up and management, curriculum writing, grant writing and reporting, research and technical writing, event planning, and group facilitation. Primary focus areas are education, environment, healthy communities, and the arts. Projects encompass coordinating an outdoor classroom and nature trail for a middle school; working with schools on Green Schools projects and curriculum; speaking on Green Schools and U.S. environmental and agricultural policy; developing curriculum focused on STEM topics; and writing grants. Clients include the American Forest Foundation/Project Learning Tree; Rosedale Development Association; Mid-America Regional Council Solid Waste Management District; StoneLion Puppet Theatre; U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia; U.S. Embassy in Yerevan, Armenia; U.S. Embassy in Berlin, Germany; Kansas State Department of Education; and N10nt Foundation.

KANSAS ASSOCIATION FOR CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (KACEE)

Statewide Partnerships and Planning Director

1997 - 2011

- Manager of Kansas Green Schools Program, which includes curriculum, technical assistance, and grant components. Coordinate annual Kansas Green Schools Conference. Grant Program has distributed more than \$400,000 to schools since August 2008. More than 400 schools participate in the Kansas Green Schools Network.
- Leader in development and implementation of Environmental Literacy Plan for Kansas and Kansans for Children in Nature Plan, which focus on coordinating efforts of public health, recreation, and education sectors to improve children's health and increase knowledge about the environment
- Developed and implemented three organizational strategic plans, resulting in more innovative, efficient, and effective operations
- Launched a web-based community of environmental education resources, resulting in better communication with partners and educators
- Extensive contact with public and private schools, community colleges, universities, and nonformal educators statewide as well as throughout the Kansas City area
- Convened an early childhood task force to begin development of early childhood-specific environmental education curriculum materials
- Coordinated the first-ever Environmental Education Plan for Kansas, which has improved coordination and communication between conservation and environmental education providers
- Served as KACEE liaison to state, federal, and local agencies; conservation and wildlife organizations; early childhood education providers; Kansas State Board of Education; history and humanities organizations; and other stakeholders
- Organized, recruited sponsors, and marketed annual Kansas Environmental Education Conference (annual attendance approximately 100-150 educators). The conference began in 1999. Also partnered with national organizations to coordinate their conferences located in Kansas.
- Project development and management, including Kansas School Gardens Initiative and Kansas Green Schools curriculum project, four-state environmental education leadership programs, and correlating environmental education materials to state core curriculum standards
- Managed annual Kansas Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education Awards Program
- Grant writing and fund development, taking the lead or assisting in more than 30 successful proposals to foundations, private corporations, and government agencies

WYANDOTTE COUNTY LEWIS & CLARK TASK FORCE

Founder and Volunteer Task Force Chair

2001 - 2004

- Coordinated clean-up and development of a new six-acre park (Kaw Point Park) in downtown Kansas City, Kansas
- Grant writing and fundraising (more than \$3 million raised in private and public funds and in-kind materials and services)
- Liaison between task force and partners, including public, private, and non-profit companies and organizations
- Oversight and fundraising responsibility for Lewis & Clark Bicentennial event hosting more than 10,000 visitors (more than \$100,000 raised in funds and in-kind materials and services)
- Marketing, media relations, tourism promotion, and public speaking; management of local, state, and federal regulatory issues (design and construction); task force organization and recruitment

SCS ENGINEERS

Project Scientist/Project Manager

1993 - 1997

- Project management and coordination of more than 60 hazardous and solid waste projects
- Development of approximately 50 solid waste management plans for Kansas counties
- Preparation of Environmental Assessments under the National Environmental Policy Act
- Performed wetlands delineations and assessments
- Prepared endangered/threatened species and historical/archaeological assessments
- Designed vegetation and monitoring programs for wetland areas
- Analyzed program efficiency and designed improvements for school recycling programs
- Planning and permitting coordination at the local, state, and federal levels
- Technical research and writing
- Developed client proposals and marketing materials
- Professional presentations to conferences, clients, and the general public
- Company liaison to professional organizations, regulatory agencies, and the public

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Research Analyst II, Director's Office, Division of Environment

1992 - 1993

- Technical research, analysis, and writing, including revision of hazardous and solid waste regulations and community planning guidelines and grant program
- Represented Department on task forces dealing with rural development, public health, and increasing public awareness of environmental issues
- Program development and assessment, including wetlands, riparian protection, and air quality
- Designed media plans for Department events
- Coordination and review of grant proposals

EDUCATION

University of Kansas | M.A. with honors, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, emphasis on water environments
Washburn University | B.A. summa cum laude, History and Philosophy

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Kansas Health Foundation Fellows | Class VII, 2012-13
TEDxSummit 2012, Doha, Qatar | Invited Participant, 2012
International School Grounds Alliance, Berlin, Germany | School Gardens and Green Schoolyards Self-Study, 2011
International Green Schoolyards Conference | Invited Leadership Participant, 2011
KACEE | President's Award, 2011
Kansas Wildlife Federation | Conservation Achievements Program Educator of the Year Award, 2009
International Wetlands Symposium VI 2007, Matanzas, Cuba | Invited Presenter
European Union Visitors Program, Brussels, Belgium | 2006 Fellowship
Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association | Certificate of Appreciation, 2006
U.S. EPA Region 7 | Regional Administrator's Award for Environmental Excellence, 2005
Wyandotte County Convention & Visitors Bureau | Tourism Event of the Year, 2004
Ingram's Magazine Forty Under 40 | Class of 2003
Leadership Kansas | Class of 2003
Wyandotte County Convention & Visitors Bureau | Tourism Advocate of the Year, 2002
Kansas Environmental Leadership Program | Class I, 1999
Friends of the Lake | Volunteer of the Year, 1999
Wyandotte County Leadership 2000 | Class VII, 1992-93

CURRENT BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

International School Grounds Alliance | Founding Member and Conference Committee Chair
Kansas City, Kansas Chamber of Commerce Workforce Committee | Member
Kansas City River Trails, Inc. | Board Member and Co-Chair
Kansas Dialogue | Convener
Kansas Sampler Foundation | Treasurer
Owen/Cox Dance Group | President and CEO
TEDxWyandotte (Kansas City, Kansas event) and TEDxICT (Wichita, Kansas event) | Organizer and Curator
Unicorn Theatre | Vice President, Board Development

PREVIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Green Schools National Conference Advisory Board | Member, 2011-2012
Green Schools National Network | Board Member, 2011-2012
Kansas Humanities Council | Board Member, 2003-2010
Kansas Nature-Based Tourism Alliance | Member, 2004-2008
Kansas Scenic Byways Committee | Member, 2004-2010
Kansas State Historical Society, Inc. | Executive Committee Member, 2005-2011
Kansas Wildlife, Parks & Tourism Commission | Vice-Chair, 2003-2011