

Mark R. Wentzel

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Professional Overview: Empowering, innovative educational professional with over 20 years of results-oriented administrative leadership expertise. Collaborative and resourceful strategic planner and facilitator with experience in development of US and international partnerships to support human capacity development in the areas of ESL, US K-12 school and university development, teacher training, career and student counseling services, quality assurance, EHS, budgeting, program development, and human resources, in the US, the Middle East, and SE Asia.

EDUCATION:

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT USA

Doctoral studies in Counseling Psychology, magna cum laude, ABD 1999.

- Completed all doctoral coursework; withdrew from program during dissertation phase, after passed comprehensive exams with distinction in the 3 required areas of Counseling Psychology, Quantitative Analysis and Multicultural Education and completion of dissertation research.
- Presented dissertation research at the American Education Research Association national conference.
- National Honor Society: Pi Lambda Theta.

Master of Public Administration, cum laude, 1984.

- Administrative Law, Policy Analysis and Budgeting.
- Graduated with distinction. National Honor Society: Pi Alpha Alpha.

School for International Training, Brattleboro, VT USA

Bachelor of Arts, Cross-cultural Communication, 1980.

- Interned with US Refugee Program, US Embassy, Thailand.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Al Durrah International School, Sharjah, UAE, September 2016 – Present

Head of Well-Being & Inclusion, Head of Boys Section, Strategic Partnerships, 2019-current.

Head of Planning, Finance and Quality Assurance, 2016-2019.

- Lead the teaching and learning environment, including distance (DL) and blended (BL) learning of boys Middle and High School Grades 5 – Grade 12.
- Lead the School's Inclusion and Well-Being Team in the development and delivery of a research based "total well-being" framework, through the alignment of developmental assets and academic core curriculum standards with all core subjects, out-of-classroom time blocks and school activities.
- Lead intervention services, and serve as guidance counselor with a focus on inclusion intervention including SEN, on English as an Additional Language (EAL), socio-emotional development, career and university counseling and High School student leadership programs,
- Establish strategic connections, conduct ongoing research, and screen opportunities for further growth and expansion within the national and international arena.
- Served as Chair of the school's NEASC US Accreditation Inclusion and Wellbeing Committee.
- Led the first two phases of the NEASC accreditation process to achieve "candidate status".
- Led the development of central administrative departments: Finance, Human Resources, Purchasing, Facilities, EHS and Activities during the start-up phase from 2016 – 2019.
- Led the quality assurance reviews, with oversight of managers planning the budget, financial and strategic studies, 2016-2019.

Education Consultant, International Resource Group, LLC, Brandon, FL, 2007 – 2016

- Assisted clients with strategic planning and quality assurance review of educational and training products and/or services;
- Advised prospective international high school students regarding US Higher Education options, assist in the application process, test preparation, and arrival logistics;
- Collaborated on feasibility studies with: Dr. Aldrige Vaillant, Peace and Humanitarian Foundation, related to development of private educational initiatives. Conducted research, budget projections and report writing; Dr. Abdulrahman Cluntun, King Saud University / Saudi Education Mission to the US, on the development of outreach educational services for students in Gifted Education, and; Mr Mohammed Riad El Merabi on feasibility studies related to the development of K-12 US curriculum schools in the UAE.

Director, International Services, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, 1987-2007

- Directed services with oversight of over 1,800 international students and scholars.
- Managed department budget of USD 600,000+, immigration visa, counseling, advocacy, international recruitment and program activity services, including cross-cultural training and intervention services for international families and K-12 educators.
- Researched and developed commercial business structure and pedagogy for an intensive English institute, UConn American English Language Institute (UCAELI), fully supported by student fees.
- Served as a State Training Resource for K-12 teachers and administrators in cross-cultural counseling, and mental health, alternative learning styles and cross-cultural teaching methodologies. Conducted workshops, training sessions, peer mentor groups, and assisted with interventions as requested by administrators, teachers, and parents.
- Developed and managed mentor programs to promote high school students to pursue higher education
- Served as Data Automation Project Lead for beta-test project for one of five approved US Immigration tracking database systems, TracUSoft and subsequently trained in PeopleSoft SEVIS interface.
- Served as Project Liaison for university development projects in Dubai, UAE and Thailand.
- Developed training and program budgets for education programs delivered locally and globally;
- Managed operations of ESL institute, including US NEASC accreditation, US visa issuance approval through the US Immigration Services, teaching and administrative staff, curriculum standards, enrichment activities, and an independent 24-bed housing unit.
- Researched and developed a teacher-training program, ITAP, based on best practices, microteaching and ‘worldview theory’ of communications.
- Developed and taught COMS 202, Cross-Cultural Communication and First Year Experience classes

Project Coordinator/Liaison, Dubai Knowledge Village – UConn, 2004 - 2005

- Served as UConn Project Liaison to Dr. Abdulla Al Karam, Dubai Knowledge Village:
 - Researched and evaluated comparative US regional accreditation protocols and standards, which resulted in the selection of NEASC as accreditation partners with KHDA.
 - Researched and conducted reports on various US institutions regarding articulation agreements, testing and curriculum standards.
 - Developed school budget models as prototypes for educational quality that would meet or surpass US accreditation standards.
 - Consulted with Dubai governmental counterparts to ensure compatibility with Dubai educational improvement goals and national agenda.
 - Designed and conducted an “Industry Needs Assessment” with focus on educational and training requirements for workforce development, in support of Dubai’s aim to position itself as a regional center of the highest international educational standards.
 - Researched, planned and coordinated with academic specialists on the design of an international university prototype, with a focus on technologies and K-12 teacher education.

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Managing Partner, Samm Eateries, Inc. Brandon, FL, 2007 - 2016

- Managed business development of family-owned business
- Developed business proposal and received funding to rebrand and build-out a failing pizzeria into a full-service Italian casual upscale dining establishment, More Italian Pizza Bistro.
- Developed targeted marketing of More Italian Pizza Bistro. Achieved 4+ star ratings on major US food reviews, TripAdvisor.com, Yelp.com, Urbanspoon.com and Zabihah.com, making the rankings on the Tampa A List under Best Italian for 2014.
- Oversaw procurement, allocation, distribution control, stock levels, and cost compilation/analysis.
- Increased annual restaurant revenue from USD 290,000 at initial takeover to over USD 600,000
- Secured contract from a US national “Hotel Room Service” company, to provide exclusive F&B services to over 2,200 hotel rooms.

Office Automation Consultant, Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1991-1992

- While on sabbatical, served as a consultant to the Head of Database, on projects as assigned.
- Developed office automation protocol for Computer Department, including training courses, training manual and training software module, with ADABAS, Natural and Connect database products.
- Conducted training courses related to product implementation.

Special Assistant for Social and Economic Development, BIC UN Office, NY, NY, 1984-1987

- Researched and prepared papers on issues prioritized by the UN Economic and Social Commission Committee for Non-Governmental Organizations: Shelter for the Homeless, Youth, Street Children, Status of Women, Human Rights, and Crime Prevention
- Served as BIC representative to ECOSOC NGO Committees on Youth (Vice Chair), Shelter for the Homeless (Secretary), Crime Prevention and Street Children.
- Trained on ORACLE and System Management of DEC PDP 11/73. Served as System Manager.

Recruitment Assistant, UNITED NATIONS, Technical Assistance Recruitment, NY, NY, 1981-1983

- Prepared panels of candidates for submission to host governments for selection on international development projects.
- Conducted roster searches, screened applicant files for substantive evaluations by content experts
- Coordinated communications with UN agencies and departments, Host Country Representatives, and prospective international candidates

Professional training and Professional Associations:

- 100 hours of NEBOSH Environmental Health & Safety coursework, ASTUTIS, 2019.
- US College Board School Counselor professional development, ongoing
- Distance Learning Online training, University of Helsinki Centre for Continuing Education with SPEA
- “Google for Education”, Certificate of Completion
- “Online Tutor” Certificate of Completion, Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University
- American Counseling Association, professional member, ongoing
- Pi Lamda Theta: National Honor Society for Education
- Pi Alpha Alpha: National Honor Society for Public Administration

References:

- Dr. Abdulla AlKaram, Director General, Dubai Knowledge and Human Development Authority
- Mr. Tim Logan, NEASC Senior Accreditation Lead
- Mr. Mark Butler, Principal, Al Durrah International School
- Dr. Rashnah Walker, Program Coordinator, US Department of Defense

Reference Contact Details and other references available upon request