

Leslie Aaronson

Los Angeles, CA 90036

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<http://leslieaaronson.com>

323.854.6817

SUMMARY: National and regional thought leader, educator and advocate for girls and underrepresented populations for access and equity in College and Career Readiness and STEM. Professional public speaker and trainer; writer of grants and curriculum; publisher of resources and articles. Natural networker to support outreach and encourage connectivity for hard to reach student populations.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Director of Career Pathway Connections, LA Promise Fund

2019- Present

Director of state funded Stronger Workforce grant that creates a collaborative regional approach to align K-14 pathways for student success by strengthening career pathways across Slate-Z, with the mission to revitalize South LA. Manage team of four supporting 21 pathways in 10 local high schools that partner with local community colleges to create comprehensive career technical education pathways that develop experience and skills for college and career readiness. Expanded offerings and access of college credit for schools and The Intern Project.

Girls Build Project Lead, LA Promise Fund

2016 – 2019

Lead and program empowerment leadership project for teams of girls in LA County and nationally. Responsibilities included writing curriculum, and publish weekly newsletters and identifying and supporting additional engagement opportunities..

<http://girls-builc.org>

Strategic Director for K12 Initiatives, NCWIT

2016 – 2019

Oversee special projects and strategic partnerships to promote and support equity and access for girls and underrepresented populations in Computer Science nationally. Projects include Black Women and Girls in Computing, Growing the Legacy of Native Americans in STEM, writing and promoting NCWIT resources and opportunities. Leading Executive Advisory Council, national resource and research committee, and webinars. <http://ncwit.org>

Technology Academy Coordinator

2003 – 2016

WASC Coordinator

2011- 2016

Foshay Learning Center, Los Angeles, CA

California Partnership Academy Grant - received grant every year since 2004; Built advisory board with partners from advertising and technology companies, college and nonprofits to provide job shadows, mentoring, and internship opportunities for academy students; Lead advisory board meetings and team of teachers. Presenter at multiple conferences. Selected by state of California as one of ten model career academies, 2010

Technology Academy Lead Teacher

2003 – 2016

Foshay Learning Center, Los Angeles, CA

Classes include Exploring Computer Science, Digital Imaging, Digital Production, Advertising and Design, Digital Computing. Partnered with professors at Los Angeles Community College to co-teach programming and animation courses; Developed Game Production course for LAUSD; Created and lead Inter-Academy High School Steering Committee; Coordinated large scale high school wide events.

Star Learning Consultant

2003

Planned and taught after-school classes including creative writing, video production, economics, and reading to K-6th grade students in schools across Los Angeles.

Educational Technology Consultant

2000-2002

Media Workshop, New York, NY

Conceived, programmed and facilitated workshops to expose teachers to technology (i.e. Internet Searching, Excel, Web Authoring, Curriculum Based Projects, and PhotoShop).

Production Manager

1999-2002

Blue's Clues, International, Nickelodeon, New York, NY

Selected episodes for International production. Created and maintained all department schedules. Supervised the timely delivery of contractual

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elements to clients. Edited script drafts for multi-cultural relevance. Wrote and organized production notebooks. Drafted budget and managed all department finances. Liaison between Nickelodeon International, outside vendors, clients, and the domestic show. Worked with research department to test interactive games for CD-ROMs. Assisted in hiring and mentoring with Viacom's internship program.

DEGREES

Career Technical Education Credential in Information Communication Technology
Career Technical Education Credential in Media, Arts and Entertainment
Administrative Masters and Credential from California State University Northridge
English Single Subject Credential from California State University Northridge
M.A. from New York University in Educational Communication and Technology
B.A. from Washington University in St. Louis in Anthropology and Psychology

ADVISORY BOARDS

California Perkins Joint Special Populations Advisory Committee
El Camino Community College Computer Science Department
LA Trade Tech Digital Media Arts
Arts Media Entertainment Industry Sector Advisory Board, CDE
SciGirls Code

AWARDS

NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Educator Award, 2014, 2016
LAUSD Teacher of the Year, 2013
Fishman Prize for Superlative Classroom Teaching - Honorable Mention, 2013
Outstanding Teacher Award from Education Consortium of Central Los Angeles, 2011
Congressional Honor for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Pioneer for Global Innovative Teaching, 2010

PUBLICATIONS

[AISES Winds of Change](#)
[Amy Poehler's Smart Girls](#)
[National Girls Collaborative Project Blog](#)
[Medium.com](#) -
[KCET](#) - Monthly column for Open Classroom series
[LA Fund](#) - Power of an Internship
[Good Magazine](#) - How to Prepare Students for Jobs of the Future

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Apple - [Inspiring the Next Generation of Tech Talent](#), 2014
Imagination Foundation Educator Salon - [Preparing Students to Solve Problems that Don't Exist Yet](#), 2013
UCLA Economic Forecast [Keynote Speaker](#), 2013
Regular Speaker at Educational Technology Conferences including Educating for Careers Conference and California STEM