



Grace Sammon
President
GMS Partners, Inc.

Years of Experience

30

Office Location

GMS Partners, Inc.
1122 Kersey Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20902

Education

The Catholic University of America
MA, Education/Counseling
BA, Psychology and Drama

Employment History

GMS Partners, Inc.
The George Washington University
Trinity College
The Business Institute for Educators
The Catholic University of America

Professional Affiliations

US Secretary of Defense's Joint Civilian
Orientation Council

Future Business Leaders of America,
Outstanding Business Person

Who's Who in American Education

Author

Battling the Hamster Wheel: Strategies for Making High School Reform Work and *Creating and Sustaining Small Learning Communities: Strategies and Tools for Transforming High Schools*; Multiple articles on school leadership and on school partnerships; eight manuals on school-to-career transition. Co-author multi-use curriculums partnering Navy museum and Navy ships with school communities; curricula linking middle schools and businesses/community organizations for service-learning

Speaker

Frequent radio guest and keynote speaker.

General Qualifications

Internationally known educator and author with deep roots in creating opportunities for students and educators to learn from and contribute to education reform K-12. Consultant to federal agencies, state departments of education, non-profit organizations and to districts and schools in urban, suburban, rural and Native American communities in 32 states. Experience as a researcher, consultant, advisor, and on-the-ground practitioner for high school continuous improvement, and for service learning programs at the middle and high school level.

Summary of Capabilities

- State and district strategic planning and plan execution
- Partnership and Coalition Building
- Education Reform
- Smaller Learning Community Development and Implementation
- Leadership Training, Superintendent, Principal and Teacher Development
- Curriculum Development
- Service Learning and Student Support program implementation
- Facilitation and Training
- Author/Spokesperson

Credentials

- MA, Education/Counseling, The Catholic University of America
- BA, Psychology and Drama, The Catholic University of America
- GMS Partners, Inc: Founder/President, 20 years
- Business Institute for Educators: 18 years as President and Executive Director
- National Career Academy Coalition: Co-founding Director, Executive Director 2 years



Professional Experience

Education Reform Consulting. Lead work in 32 states with clients including schools and schools systems at the state and district level, non-profits, and the U.S. Departments of Defense, Education, Health and Human Services, and Navy. Apply research strategies, strategic planning, hands-on coaching. Focus on vision, alignment of resources, developing creative linkages and collaborative efforts between schools and business, and developing high school small learning communities and career academies.

Partnership building. Established partnerships with school-systems, business, government and professional associations nationally, including the American Society for Public Administration, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Career Academy Support Network at UC Berkeley, American Society for Industrial Security, US Treasury, US Department of Health and Human Services, Florida State Department of Education, High Schools that Work, Talent Development High Schools, and The National Academy Foundation.

Training and curriculum development. Develop, write and deliver in-person and on-line workshops for school and non-profit clients.

Relevant Projects

Sarasota County Schools Improvement Project, Sarasota Florida, Project Consultant. District-wide improvement effort touching curriculum and instruction, guidance, career and technical education, special education, district leadership, continuous improvement/redesign for five high schools, creation of a new technical high school.

Detroit Public Schools Small Learning Communities, Houston, TX, Project Consultant. Worked with 10 schools to create effective smaller learning communities,

“Blueprint for High School Reform”, Baltimore, MD, Project Consultant. Co-developed, with the Superintendent of Baltimore City Public Schools, the nationally recognized “Blueprint for High School Reform” which resulted in over 20 million dollars in grant support and served as the catalyst for reforming Baltimore’s neediest high schools. Provided technical assistance to Baltimore at the district, intermediary and school level. Worked with 8 schools to create effective smaller learning communities

“Metro MANIA: The Great Train Ride Through Washington”, Creator. Created a board and street experience game to facilitate student use of public transportation while they gain an appreciation for the employment and cultural offerings of the nation’s capital.

Health and Human Services Academy, Washington, DC, Project Consultant. Assisted US Department of Health and Human Services with academy development of Health and Human Services Academy and the creation of a national network of health-career focused elementary, middle and high school programs and services.



Oklahoma Career Tech Work-Based Learning Workshops, Oklahoma, Project Consultant. Developed, wrote, and delivered on-line workshops for work-based learning and the development of small learning communities.

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), Maryland, Project Consultant. As part of US Justice's and University of Maryland's initiative to address issues of violence in communities, provided services including sessions on academies, building national coalitions, and building community support; also served as conference design and support.

The Business Institute for Educators, Executive Director. Trained over 1800 educators from 12 school systems, managed and developed training opportunities and experiences for school system personnel. Involved over 60 businesses.

Project ACCORD, Washington, DC, Project Manager. Management and development of programs and materials for the DC Public Schools' Academy high school work-readiness programs and innovative curriculum middle school programs, coordination of technology and activities for program focused on authentic learning, computer instruction, created business resource development, and developed all report writing for Congressional initiative.

US Navy Projects, Project Manager. Created video tele-training on school-to-work and Discovery-based learning. Created character development programs at 10 sites around the globe. Co-authored multi-use curriculums partnering Navy museum and Navy ships with school communities. Designed and conducted student leadership training, teacher training, summer camp for Friends of the Academy program.