

Sasha Varner

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

- Vibrant educator and research scientist with a history of successful integration of assigned duties and advanced projects due to a diverse skill set.
- Nearly a decade of high technology experience in education and library science project management, often guiding projects from inception to completion.
- Experienced in robust internal process optimization, particularly concerning administrative responsibilities and benchmarking.
- Change management expert, skilled in technical implementation and personnel advancement, often taking on the role of mentor, transferring knowledge and experience to coworkers and patrons alike.

TECHNICAL PROFICIENCIES

- Educational Programs: Aztec; Khan Academy; NLRO Online Diploma
- Graphic Design: Photoshop; Microsoft Publisher; Microsoft FrontPage; Excel; HTML; XHTML
- Typing Speed: 85+ WPM
- Databases: Docline; WorldCAT; OCLC; EBSCOHost; Pubmed; DialogSelect
- Library Science Systems: Bibliographic Records – MARC tags; Aleph; Voyager

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

LAYC Career Academy – Washington, D.C.

2014-Present

Mathematics Instructor

- Created a blended learning curriculum that uses electronic playlists, assessments, and promotes a student driven learning environment.
- Administers standardized tests, writing probes, and benchmark assessments to track student progression against grade-level requirements.
- Develops interactive lesson plans that incorporates gaming and project based learning to teach rigorous objectives.
- Collaborates with other educators to design a STEM curriculum focused on real world problems

Highlandtown Elementary School – Baltimore, MD

2013-2014

5th Grade Teacher

- Adapted Baltimore city curriculum, in conjunction with new Common Core standards, to fit the needs of a multiplicity of diverse student needs, differentiating instruction based on tiered learning groups.
- Designed an effective classroom management system in order to instill a positive classroom culture.
- Proficient in material required by local, state, and federal bodies to teach reading, math, history, and science.

Job Corps – Baltimore, MD

2010-2013

Instructor

- Developed curriculum using Department of Labor standards and corporate guidelines, implementing a variety of teaching strategies to assist adult learning retention amongst students with difficult learning styles.
- Taught math, reading, and ESOL, in addition to basic skills for employability, to at-risk youths and adults.
- Encouraged students until attainment of their end goal, a G.E.D. or high school diploma.

The Learning Bank of COIL MD– Baltimore, MD

2009-2010

Teacher

- Taught non-readers using a variety of skills customized to those with learning disabilities.

FDA Biosciences Library – Baltimore, MD

2008-2009

Library Technician

- Processed research requests using a variety of specialized databases.
- Procured rare books and articles in specialized fields and trained government employees in library research methods and presentation styles.
- Developed increased web presence, designing banners and other marketing projects using graphic design skill set.

UMBC Albin O. Kuhn Library and Gallery – Baltimore, MD

2004-2007

Lead Assistant

- Tracked and obtained hard to find items, such as out of print scores, CDs, microfilm, and other research materials.
- Supervised, and trained on, the acquisition process, creating relationships with vendors.
- Converted acquired web pages from HTML to XHTML and processed data, including inventory management.
- Formatted mediographies for website and prepared books for cataloguing.

EDUCATION

University of Maryland, Baltimore County – Baltimore, MD

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology; Minor: Anthropology

VOLUNTEERISM

Choice Program – Baltimore, MD

- Worked with troubled adolescents in a small group setting to encourage their pursuit of higher education by establishing bonds with participants and assisting them in the college search process and campus touring.

Sasha Varner
May 31st, 2016

NASA Space Academy for Educators

My name is Sasha Varner and I'm a proud educator at the LAYC Career Academy in Washington, D.C. I have personally taught all subject areas, but I am most fond of teaching mathematics and STEM education. Our school utilizes a completely blended curriculum and is certainly not traditional; We teach students that are from the ages of 16 to 24. Many of our students are living with non-traditional families and are learning English as a second language. I believe wholeheartedly that STEM is terrific for breaking down barriers between cultures and instilling a passion for education in students. This amazing opportunity will help me become a better educator through its program by helping me to incorporate more hands-on opportunities in the classroom, connecting mathematics to real-world science, and enhancing my own skills as a STEM educator.

In my non-traditional classroom, gaming and hands-on learning is a core feature of my curriculum. I believe it as equally important to teach explicit skills such as geometry and algebra as it is to teach communication, collaboration and puzzle solving. One of the video games in my classroom has my students differentiate between homonyms, describe characters, and understand complex venn diagrams, all while navigating through a 30 page manual. I have seen them learn more from this game than some explicit math lessons; My students are learning how to deal with loss, how to communicate clearly, and how to comprehend technical writing. I hope to take your simulations and hands on experiences and apply them directly to my classroom, so that my students will be able to positively engage in outer space adventures while learning science, mathematics, and collaboration.

One of the many complaints we hear as educators is that students feel what we teach has no connection to the real world. I've worked very hard to find topics in mathematics that apply to their daily lives. We have had passionate debates on the necessity of tipping and analyzed math blunders involving architecture and aircrafts. Through this opportunity, I hope to gain some additional insight into how NASA uses mathematics to solve problems and how I can engage my students by providing them with predicaments that would be solved by real mathematicians and scientists.

Although I have ten years of teaching experience, I feel that I have much to learn. It would be an incredible opportunity to be around other esteemed STEM educators learning skills to apply in my classroom. Thank you for this amazing opportunity and I can't wait to see everyone at the NASA Space Academy for Educators.



LAYC CAREER ACADEMY
Public Charter School



June 1, 2016

To whom it may concern:

I am very pleased to recommend Mrs. Sasha Varner to the Space Academy for Educators. Mrs. Varner is an outstanding mathematics educator and is constantly furthering students learning through innovative ways of incorporating math based lessons in the classroom. I have had the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Varner for the past 2 years because we co-taught a STEM course together which sparked student's interest in such disciplines. Mrs. Varner is an exemplary woman who is consistently perfecting her craft as a mathematics teacher through various professional development and academic courses.

Mrs. Varner is currently the leader of our mathematics program and I have no doubt that through the knowledge she acquires through the space academy, Mrs. Varner will be able to impact more student lives. Mrs. Varner is a trailblazer in the education world. Combining her interest in mathematics education with her content area expertise she would be able to apply her current classroom practice so that other educators would have an opportunity to replicate it across the country. Mrs. Varner is a great representation of what leadership in mathematics education should be. I have no doubt that Mrs. Varner will be an asset to the space academy for educators. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at Jacqueline@laycca.org

Jacqueline Fernandez-Romero

Jacqueline Fernandez-Romero, M.Ed.
Science Teacher
STEM Coordinator
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LAYC Career Academy
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Washington, DC 20009

June 7, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Sasha Varner as a participant in Space Academy for Educators. Having worked with Mrs. Varner in a professional academic setting has allowed me to observe her in myriad circumstances with students and peers.

In addition to her infectious enthusiasm (she single-handedly created and built the gaming community at our school), Mrs. Varner's aptitude for making learning math and science enjoyable for students and teachers make her a stand-out candidate. I have often wished that my own math teachers had been as engaging and out-of-the-box assignment educators, as Mrs. Varner is.

In my nearly 25 years of teaching, I have come across a handful of educators whose intellect matched their enthusiasm: without a doubt, Sasha Varner is one. I hope that your program will avail itself to her participation.

Sincerely,

Carrie Smith