

Santo Nicotera

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Education

University of Colorado at Denver *January 1990-December 2000*

- 36 graduate hours in the Social Sciences
- 30 graduate hours in Principal Licensure Program

University of Utah *January 1983-June 1986*

- Bachelor of Science in Sociology with Minor in Mathematics (Magna Cum Laude)

Professional Experience

CITY Center for Collaborative Learning *July 2016-Present*

- Director, Professional Development Center – www.cityccl.org

El Pueblo Integral - Teaching & Learning Collaborative *January 2003-Present*

- Co-Director - Educational Non-Profit – www.elpueblointegral.org

Paulo Freire Freedom School *August 2005-July 2016*

- Co-Director – Two Public Middle Schools in Tucson, AZ – www.paulofriereschool.org

KnowledgeWorks Foundation *January 2003-2010*

- Consultant/Coach - ‘Large School to Small Schools’ Conversions

School Reform Initiative *July 1997-Present*

- National Facilitator/SRI Affiliate - www

Manual Educational Complex/Manual High School – Denver *August 1992-June 2002*

- Assistant Director of the Reform Initiative (1997-2002)
- Social Studies Classroom Teacher (1992-1997)

Lake Middle School - Denver *August 1986-August 1992*

- Mathematics and Social Studies Classroom Teacher

Related Experience / Accomplishments

As Director of the Professional Development Center at CCCL - July 2016

- Research-based professional development and community engagement experiences for teachers, educational leaders, community partners, and school and district teams.
- Experiences include workshops, guided tours of our demonstration learning sites, coaching and consulting.

As Co-Director/Founder of El Pueblo Integral – January 2003-Present

- Currently managing the corporation's assets and the winding down of its operations.
- Has provided staff development and coaching services to districts and schools to support the conversion to small, powerful learning communities.
- Provided coaching services to principals and district personnel in Lima City Schools as part of a district-wide restructuring effort in 2010-2011 (10 days/month, 9 months).
- Provided coaching services to MC² STEM High School (Cleveland Metropolitan School District, OH) throughout its inaugural year 2008-2009 (2 days/month, 9 months).
- Provided coaching services to principals in Lima, Lorain, and East Cleveland - OH as part of the Ohio High School Transformation initiative 2003-2010 (8 days/month, 7 years).

As Co-Director/Co-Founder of the Two Innovative Tucson Public Middle Schools:

- Managed Paulo Freire Freedom School – University (2005-2016), a laboratory school/demonstration site for best instructional practices/small school design;
- Managed Paulo Freire Freedom School – Downtown (2014-2016), a laboratory school/demonstration site for best STEM/PBL instructional practices/small school design.

As Classroom Teacher:

August 1986-June 1997

- Denver Public Schools Distinguished Teachers Award – 1997
- Jerry McCracken Social Studies Teacher Award – 1996
- Appeared in National Geographic Magazine as Outstanding Geography Teacher – March 1992
- Taught Geography, Economics, Government, and Chicano Studies for Denver Public Schools 1989-1997
- Taught Pre-Algebra, Algebra, and Geometry for Denver Public Schools 1986-1989
- Successful student teaching experience in Spring 1986: AP Calculus, Algebra II, and Sociology

As Assistant Director of the Manual HS Reform Initiative:

December 1997-June 2002

- Facilitated the Design of the Lower and Upper Houses including Student Advisories, Rites of Passage, and Graduation by Exhibition
- Designed and Facilitated Building-wide Professional Development including Yearly Summer Institutes and Bimonthly 'Critical Friends Groups' (CFGs)
- Wrote Successful Applications and Managed Grants from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, US Department of Education (CSR/D), W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and the Colorado Trust - Totaling \$1,540,000.
- Acted as Principal for the Three Pilot 9th Grade 'Schools' in 2000-2001
- Facilitated Transition to Small Schools at Manual in 2001-2002

As National Facilitator of SRI Critical Friendship/PLC Trainings

July 1997-Present

- Affiliated with the School Reform Initiative (SRI)

- Designed/Led Trainings in Albuquerque (NM), Denver (CO), Las Vegas (NE), Lima (OH), Navajo Nation (AZ), Chattanooga (TN), San Francisco (CA), Salt Lake City (UT), Tucson (AZ), and Tulsa (OK)

Other Workshops/Presentations

- Presented Workshops at the Coalition of Essential School's 'Fall Forum' in Atlanta 1998, Kansas City 1999, Seattle 2001, Boston 2005, Denver 2007
- Presented paper at AERA conference in San Francisco in 2006
- Presented Workshops at BayCES 'Small Schools Conference' in Oakland 2002 and 2003
- Presented Workshop at Colorado Children's Campaign 'Small Schools Conference' in Denver 2002 and 2006
- Presented at Meeting of the Cross City Campaign in Baltimore 2000
- Presented to Meeting of CSRD Recipients in Salt Lake City 2000
- Presented 'School Scheduling' Workshops in Cleveland and Knoxville 2008; in Columbus 2004 and 2005; in Indianapolis 2004; and in Detroit 2003