

Susan W. Graseck

AREAS OF INTEREST

International education & civic learning; secondary history education; strengthening democracy

EMPLOYMENT

1988-present: Director—Choices for the 21st Century Program, Brown University, Providence, RI
Senior Fellow—Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University

The Choices Program is dedicated to engaging secondary level students nationwide in study and deliberation on critical international issues—past and present. The Choices Program brings together the scholarly resources of the university with the pedagogical expertise of professional educators to develop print and digital teaching resources for the secondary level focused on current and historical international issues and to provide professional development for teachers. The program's work is grounded in a Choices methodology that is an outgrowth of research at Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies. Adapted for the classroom by the Choices Program, this methodology is designed to engage young people in consideration of the historical roots and current realities of pressing international issues. The pedagogical approach and teaching resources of the Choices Program encourage critical thinking and the development of civic judgment. Teachers in approximately one third of high schools nationwide and approximately 200 international schools use Choices materials in their classrooms. The Choices Program also promotes student forums on a range of current international issues. As the Choices Program's founding director, I have been responsible for conceptualizing, building staff, and overseeing the development and management of the Choices Program.

1982-1988: Executive Director, Topsfield Foundation Inc., Pomfret, CT

Topsfield Foundation is a private nonprofit organization that focused its early efforts (1982-1988) on the promotion of citizen education and public engagement in the policy debate concerning national and international issues. I oversaw the development, implementation, and management of all programs and supervised the staff. In this capacity I was a co-founder of OPTIONS (a national, community outreach program promoting the involvement of colleges and universities in citizen education on international affairs), and ACCESS (a non-partisan foreign affairs information service based in Washington, DC).

1973-1979: Teacher, Moses Brown School, Providence, RI

High School Teacher 1976-79

Director of Service Program 1976-78

Elementary School Teacher 1973-76

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Member, Board of Directors of Paul J. Aicher Foundation and Everyday Democracy (2005-present); Board of Directors, Global Rhode Island (2004-present); Advisory Board, Global Nomads Group (2004-2010); Advisory Board, Americans for Informed Democracy (2006-2010); Board of Education, Pomfret, CT (1999-2003); School Building Committee, Pomfret, CT (2001-2003); Member of Advisory Board, Study Circles Resource Center (1989-1994); Founding member of Board of Directors, ACCESS: A Security Information Service, Washington, DC (1985-1994), Board of Advisors, (1996-1997); Founding member of Board of Directors, OPTIONS: A University Outreach Program on International Issues, Huntingdon, PA, Providence, RI (1985-1996)

EDUCATION

1972-1973 M.Ed., Lesley University, Cambridge, MA

Graduate of Teacher Apprenticeship Program at Shady Hill School, Cambridge, MA

1969-1972 B.A., American Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

1967-1969 Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY