

KAYLA BOETTCHER

3 Maksoutoff St. | Sitka, AK 99835 | (907) 747-3198 | kaylab@smallstones.net

EDUCATION

M.A. Community Psychology – Prescott College, Prescott, AZ
B.A. Social Work – St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN

GRADUATE WORK

Thesis: “Connecting is Key: A Study of Social Climate and Academic Motivation at an Alaska Boarding School”

Coursework: Child and Adolescent Development, Youth Resiliency, Supporting Adolescents with Mental and Behavioral Disorders, Systems Theory, Research Methodologies (special focus on indigenous populations), Community Psychology, Social Change Processes.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Highly skilled in managing, assessing and aggregating large quantities of information into concise products for wide audiences. In-depth knowledge of youth development and community engagement. Demonstrated strength in verbal and written communication. Recognized ability to conduct key informant interviews and collect anecdotal evidence of program or initiative impacts. Experienced with public speaking, training, and facilitating; navigating inter-agency dynamics; maximizing use of internet resources and computer applications; operating independently as well as collaboratively; and working companionably with youth, school staff, and community members. Remarkably organized. Gifted with a sense of humor and a winning smile.

PROJECTS

Self-employed research consultant, writer, and group facilitator specializing in topics of community engagement and youth development. Clients include:

Alaska Humanities Forum – Rose Urban Rural Exchange

Member of curriculum redesign team for Alaska cross-cultural exchange program. Special focus on synthesizing expert and participant perspectives into engaging, age-appropriate program model.

American Institutes for Research

Member of research team in statewide program evaluation, responsible for conducting interviews at Alaska school sites and analyzing interview data in reports.

Spirit of Youth

Qualitative evaluation through interviews with participants in an Alaska youth recognition and award program. Synthesize feedback and observations into evaluative report. Design two on-line participant surveys.

Sitka School District – Community Schools

Co-facilitator of Advancing Our Community, a local coalition of social service agencies, school representatives and other community entities. Responsibilities include coordinating coalition meetings, fostering collaborative opportunities among agencies, and facilitating action steps.

City of Sitka – Long-Range Economic Development Commission

Manage data, record proceedings, and write final report for transparent community-wide collaborative tourism planning process.

Association of Alaska School Boards’ Initiative for Community Engagement

Conduct literature review on the link between academic achievement and environmental supports.

Research and write case studies on the impact of client’s work in two school districts.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Resiliency in Residence Life On-Site Coordinator

Mt. Edgecumbe High School; Sitka, Alaska
August 2001 – December 2002

On-site coordinator for Resiliency in Residence Life grant – a federal grant awarded to Alaska boarding schools to focus on increasing student developmental assets and local connections as a strategy for reducing the rate of student withdrawal. Led all activities implemented at Mt. Edgecumbe boarding school under this grant while living on campus and working directly with students and staff on a daily basis.

Responsibilities included supervising and training staff, researching the effects of the boarding school environment on academic achievement and retention, providing activities and mentorship for students, and presenting input into the improvement of residential programs and systems.

Grant Manager

Search Institute; Minneapolis, Minnesota
March – July 2001

Managed grant process to honor communities nationwide for their efforts in youth asset development. Oversaw resource allocations and project timelines, coordinated the proposal review process, developed a project reporting system, and assisted with media and public relations strategies.

Youth Involvement Coordinator

Search Institute; Minneapolis, Minnesota
August – November, 2000

Coordinated activities and special sessions for youth attendees of the Healthy Communities – Healthy Youth national conference. Led planning and evaluation processes and on-site conference coordination. Facilitated a group of 25 youth in designing a general conference session about youth involvement in community visioning.

Youth and Community Specialist

League of Minnesota Cities; St. Paul, Minnesota
January 1999 – July 2001

Served as statewide consultant to city government officials in the areas of youth and community involvement in city decision-making. Provided trainings and presentations at numerous local, state, and national conferences. Created youth delegate component for statewide conferences. Produced articles, resource guides, and web-based publications.

IN ADDITION

Board President and host of “Swing Set”, KCAW-Sitka Public Radio

Music Teacher, private studio

Musician, Juneau Symphony, local chamber music and fiddling

Kayaking Guide, Sitka Sound Ocean Adventures