

Theresa M. Cusimano

EDUCATION

State University of New York at Buffalo, School of Law, Juris Doctor 1998

Degree: J.D., Education Law Certificate

Honors: Outstanding University Service Award; Faculty Scholarship Recipient; Who's Who
Loyola University of Chicago, European Community Law Moot Court, First Place, Rome Italy
Fasken Campbell Godfrey International Moot Court, First Place, Toronto, Canada

Cardinal Stritch College, Milwaukee, WI, Masters in Higher Education/Professional Development 1995

Degree: M.E.P.D., Higher Education Administration

Honors: Graduated Summa Cum Laude

Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA, Bachelors of Science 1990

Degree: B.S., Marketing and Cooperative Education Program; European Seminar

Honors: The Hawk Award for outstanding academic achievement in Small Business Development
Dean's List, Academic Scholarships and Marketing Presentations Winner all four years

Service: Project Mexico, Marketing Officer, Crew Team Member and Fundraiser, Philadelphia Food Bank

EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan ~ Ann Arbor, MI, Ginsberg Center Director (12/09 – 7/11)

Colorado Campus Compact ~ Denver, CO, Executive Director (2/00-11/09)

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education ~ Boulder, CO, Policy Associate (6/99-5/00)

The Foundation on Economic Trends ~ Washington, DC, Education Specialist (10/98-5/99)

Cardinal Stritch College ~ Milwaukee, WI, Assistant Dean of Students, Director of Student Life (1991- 9/95)

Johns Hopkins University, Center for the Social Organization of Schools ~ Baltimore, MD, Asst. (9/90-5/91)

Apprenticeships

The Institute for Local Governance & Regional Growth ~ SUNY at Buffalo, Project Manager (Summer '98)

Buffalo Public Interest Law Program ~ SUNY at Buffalo School of Law, President and Fellow (9/95 - 8/98)

U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of General Counsel ~ Washington, D.C., Researcher (Spring '98)

U.S. Catholic Conference, Office of Government Liaison ~ Washington, D.C., Assistant Lobbyist (Spring '98)

U.S. Catholic Conference, Office of General Counsel ~ Washington, D.C., Research Assistant (Fall '97)

Supreme Court Institute ~ Washington, D.C., Curriculum Assistant (Summer '97)

Educational Opportunity Program ~ SUNY at Buffalo, New York, Graduate Assistant (9/96- 5/97)

Saint Joseph's University ~ Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Researcher (1/89 - 5/90)

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RELATED SKILLS

University of Michigan ~ Ginsberg Center Director (12/2009 – 7/2011)

Developing Engaged Student Leaders

Articulated an Engaged Student Leadership model that offered departments and disciplines investment opportunities in developing student leadership through a shared sponsored program. Matching federal AmeriCorps awards with community work study and university investments provided student with scholarships while advancing faculty members' capacity to teach service learning courses.

Creating International Immersions

Worked with interested members of the Student Advisory Board and the North American Service Team to expand existing service partnerships abroad. We worked alongside the U of M Wallenberg medalist, Lydia Cacho, and her non-profit's work to advance women's rights and decrease human trafficking in Mexico.

Stewardship

Nurtured Board relationships and funding prospects, cultivated and corresponded with individual donors, demonstrate impacts and advocate for federal and state investments.

Created the Tenth Anniversary celebration of the Ginsberg Center and the family's endowing gift. Created a branding campaign including a video tribute to the Ginsberg family.

Grant Management

Manage all sponsored research including the \$300,000 grant from the MI Commission for Community Service for the largest university AmeriCorps program in the state supporting public interest student internships. Serve as Principle Investigator to the \$50,000 grant award from the Community Foundation of SouthEast Michigan, and the \$46,000 grant from the Skillman Foundation to support the largest America Reads tutoring program with nine public schools in Detroit and Ypsilanti, MI. Leveraged Board relationships to support Center financial goals by co-authoring a grant to the Highfield Foundation and redirecting resources to support alternative break programs.

University Collaborations

Created collaborations with faculty from the 19 schools and colleges within the University to advance their service learning, experiential education and community based research goals for their teaching and engaged scholarship, as well as student learning goals with particular attention to urban partnerships in Detroit.

Launched the Faculty cohort for social entrepreneurship and the Detroit Community Based Research Corridor.

Management

Convened stakeholder interviews to refine and better align the Center vision with the Division of Student Affairs goals. Working with the national Advisory Board, developed strategic funding priorities in order to implement the overall strategic goals and plan as the Ginsberg Center celebrated its Tenth Anniversary.

Led 17 person staff through the Center's largest transition in its history. Instituted professional learning community culture for staff development and peer led staff meetings. Supported ten Search Committees, including serving as Chair, re-staffing the Ginsberg Center during the most severe state budget cuts in the University's history. Began quarterly staff mentoring and coaching opportunities to prepare for six month performance reviews and annual staff, budget projections.

Began program reviews with the goals of integrating program areas to enhance efficiencies, better articulate learning outcomes and quantify program and community impacts.

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Colorado Campus Compact (CCC), Executive Director (2/00 – 11/2009)

Developing Engaged Student Leaders

Train campuses in the Engaged Department model, customizing trainings to Department Chair's interest.
Developed 9 day Civil Rights Road Trip Immersion Experience for VISTA member development.
Created the Western Engaged Scholars Program with particular relevance to regional SouthWest culture.
Created youth curricular approaches based on model programs such as Public Achievement, Peace Jam, Earth Force.
Designed and Convened Chief Academic Officers' Institute, Service Learning 101, Syllabi Workshops.
Co-Created an Indigenous Engagement Leadership model for Four Corners civic engagement work.
Worked with six regions on the Asset Based Community Development and Dialogue models.

Stewardship

Manage \$1 M budget for Colorado Campus Compact with additional \$5.5 million in student scholarships.
\$700,000 UCAN Serve AmeriCorps Grant
\$338,000 Community Based Learn and Serve Grant annual (\$1 Million over three years)
\$100,000 in annual membership dues, \$25,000 State Farms Grant, \$10,000 Colorado Department of Education
\$70,000 from the Kellogg Foundation through the Academy for Educational Development
\$23,000 in private donations from author Paul Loeb for Campus Vote '08 (up from \$5000 Pew '04 grant)

Management

Hired, trained, supervised and evaluated 9 staff, 20 regional grantees over the past five years.
Co-created a volunteer infrastructure of 52 UCAN Serve Coordinators.
Established volunteer communication systems and federal program compliance protocols.
Implemented 360 degree feedback method for regional directors and program staff.
Manage volunteers, graduate interns, Steering Committee, Presidents' Board, Western Compact Region.

Develop, Refine Organizational Vision and Program Goals

Redistributed Compact resources from the wealthiest 8 Front Range campuses to Colorado's lowest income counties.
Designed the largest access service scholarship program to address the state's low rate of investment for access.
Designed a state-wide VISTA program to support access programs on college campuses and in high schools.
At the national level, articulated the SouthWest approach to civic engagement as place based, Indigenous Engagement.

Strategic Regional and State-Wide Planning

Identified five campuses for Endowed Centers and created campus campaigns to make the case.
Convened six Compact Directors from Western region to better understand our collective challenges.
Successfully wrote grant to the Academy for Educational Development for sustainability.
Created a partnership with the Institute on the Common Good to facilitate two years of presidential dialogues.
Conducted over 30 one-on-one interviews with higher education professionals in the region.
Utilized dialogues to build Compact members' shared vision around identified themes, namely, access.
Identified the relatively small size of Colorado Higher Education as a drawback in applying for federal grants.
Conducted two years of focus groups among higher education service learning advocates in the Four Corners.
Created Intermountain West Consortium among Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico (UCAN Serve).
Received the largest higher education AmeriCorps education only grant in the country from CNCS.

Collaborative Program Development

As a result of the two years of Presidential Dialogues and over 30 one-on-one interviews:
CCC redesigned its small, full-time AmeriCorps program to a large part-time education award program.
Today, CCC awards \$5.5 million in service scholarships to over 4,000 UCAN Serve students annually.
UCAN Serve is the largest regional access program and the largest higher education, ed. award program.
Co-sponsored the national service learning conference in Denver for the National Youth Leadership Program.
Served on the state planning team. Assisted in the conference program design and education tracks.
Identified the Institute on the Common Good as a model program in partnering with the NorthWest Collaborative.
Wrote the Communities Strengthening Colorado Learn & Serve grant based on this pilot, demonstration project.
Awarded \$338,000 annually to work in six regions on this Assets Based, Community Dialogue model.

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Cardinal Stritch College ~ *Assistant Dean of Students* (2/94 - 9/95), *Director of Student Life* (11/91 - 2/94)

Developing Engaged Student Leaders

Developed immersion programs in Guanajuato and Tijuana, Mexico; Jonestown, Mississippi; Chicago, Illinois. Re-Designed and taught the First Year Freshman Seminar Curriculum, integrating service learning (5/93 - 9/95). Assisted in the training of faculty and student leaders in On Campus Talking About Alcohol education program. Initiated the first Living Learning community, organized around the theme of wellness.

Stewardship

Managed ten budgets and served as the Project Assistant for the FIPSE grant.
Trained students in fund raising for annual cultural and service immersion programs.
Student teams exceeded their goals every year.

Management

Assisted in organizing biannual Student Development staff training, residential life and student life trainings. Trained, supervised and evaluated fifteen person, professional and student staff annually. Authored the student handbook and oversaw student university code of conduct and compliance. Served on the Conditional Acceptance Program Committee acting as support network team to conditional students. Served on the campus-wide Gay, Lesbian and Bi-Sexual Task Force and promoted tolerance building campus policies.

Strategic Campus Planning and Community Partnerships

Assisted the Student Development team in identifying student alcohol infractions as a campus problem. As a result, redesigned new student orientation to become a more active and community engaged experience. Redesigned Freshmen Seminar course, integrating service learning and alcohol awareness education. Supported a successful FIPSE grant application to initiate this cultural paradigm shift. Became a trainer in On Campus Talking About Alcohol within Freshmen Seminar, Residential/Student Life. Educated campus departments and local community establishments about our campus goals related to alcohol. Nominated to and participated in the campus, Five Year Strategic Plan development team.

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SPONSORED RESEARCH

Kirsch Clean Air Systems

Consultant (2011) Prospect identification and federal funding consulting for a Michigan small business owner who wants to install geo-thermal energy systems in industrial facilities to promote energy conservation.

Skillman Foundation

Principal Investigator (2009-2010) \$46,000 for the America Reads student tutoring corps.

Community Foundation of South East Michigan

Principal Investigator (2009-2011) \$50,000 annually for the America Reads student tutoring corps.

Highfield Foundation

Co-Authored successful grant award to support alternative break programs.

Elections Assistance Commission, Help Americans Vote College Poll Worker Program

Primary Author, Principal Investigator (2009-2010) \$75,000 pending

Corporation for National and Community Service

AmeriCorps MI state commission program \$300,000 (2010-2011)

AmeriCorps part-time education award only grant \$734,000 Award (2009-2010)

Largest program in the country serving fifty campuses in five states

Awarding over \$5 Million in student service scholarships annually

AmeriCorps VISTA \$45,000 administrative grant (2009-2010)

Supporting a supervisor, 19 VISTAs at 12 different sites throughout the Front Range in CO

AmeriCorps (2001-2009) Student education awards total yield over \$15 M

AmeriCorps VISTA (2007-2009) Student education awards and stipends totaling over \$300,000

Learn & Serve, Higher Education Consortium (2009) Contributing author to CU Boulder's application

Learn & Serve, Community Based Grant on behalf of the Colorado Governor's Commission

Primary Author and Subgrantee, \$1 million over three years

Academy for Educational Development and the Kellogg Foundation

Author and Principal Investigator of the Catalyst Grant (2007-2010) \$90,000 awarded

Subgrantee of the Academy for Educational Development

Paul Loeb and Friends

Strategist and Principal Investigator, Campus Vote Colorado 2008, \$23,000 awarded

Engaged 30,000 new college aged voters in the 2008 presidential election

North Carolina Campus Compact and the Corporation for National and Community Service

Author, Martin Luther King Grant (2009-2010), \$5,000 pending

Author and Principal Investigator, Martin Luther King Grant (2008-2009), \$5,000 awarded

Pew Charitable Trusts and the national Campus Compact

New Voters Project (2004) \$30,000 awarded

Principal Investigator for Colorado, achieving an 8% increase in 18-35 year old registrants

Civic Mission of Schools

Contributing Author and Fiscal Agent to our successful state application (2001-2003) awarded

State Farms

Fiscal Agent to our state K-12 service-learning grant (2004) \$25,000 awarded

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SPONSORED RESEARCH - continued

Fred Bay Paul Foundation

Author of the successful grant, Democracy in K-12 Education, \$50,000
Awarded to the Dewey Center at the University of Vermont (1998-1999)

Interest On Legal Accounts (IOLA) in New York

Author and Principal Investigator, (1996-97) \$40,000 awarded
Funds used to support the largest class of Public Interest Fellows in the Summers of 1996 and 1997

Funds for the Improvement in Post Secondary Education (FIPSE)

Contributing Author to the successful Cardinal Stritch College grant, \$350,000 awarded
Scope of work ~ alcohol awareness and alternative student leadership development (1992-1995)

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PUBLICATIONS and PRESENTATIONS

UB Law Forum, Spring 2009 (pg. 40), *Class Action* section featured my nonviolent civil disobedience work.

Presente! Summer 2009, Vol. 14 No. 2 (pg. 6) features my nonviolent civil disobedience work.

KGNU 88.5 FM and 1390 AM public radio, Denver and Boulder, CO ~ (May 15, 2009)

National Public Radio affiliate KGNU interview can be heard at www.kgnu.org

Practicing Nonviolence. I interviewed with the *Connections* Show and answered callers' questions about my choice to participate in nonviolent civil disobedience and my consequent prison sentence.

Regis University, Denver, CO ~ (May 20, 2009)

Presented, *Radical Love, Unpacking the Prison Experience through the Ignation lens of love*.

The Northwest Denver Tribune article, *NW activist jailed for act of conscience*, written by Melanie Brooks on Feb. 19, 2009, featured my nonviolent civil disobedience work. The article can be accessed on-line at www.northdenvertribune.com/index.php?s=theresa+cusimano

Wrote a series of articles that can be found on the FACEBOOK group, Support the SOA Six (2008-09)

Where's the Dialogue Judge Faircloth? Choices of Conscience Not Logic.

From Privilege to Prison. Lowest Common Denominator.

Denver Post article, *Protestor 'Desperate' for Change*, written by Susan Greene on Jan. 29, 2009, featured my commitment to nonviolent civil disobedience. The article can be accessed on-line at www.denverpost.com/search/ci_11521550

As Executive Director of Colorado Campus Compact, I presented the following: (2000-2009)

- *Considering the Engaged Department Model, Where Are You on the Engaged Continuum?* (2001-present)
Developed and facilitated advanced faculty service-learning trainings for 20 campuses
- Channel 2 *Sunday Morning News Show, ACCESS Colorado AmeriCorps/VISTA programs* (2008)
- *Risk Management in Service-Learning* ~ (Denver, Sept. 15-19 2007, Boston 2008)
Presented to the University Risk Management & Insurance association's conferences
- *Colorado's Civic Summit: Agenda 2010* ~ Denver's Convention Center (Jan. 12, 2007)
- *Sustainability Development in Colorado: Service-Learning in the Applied Sciences*
~ Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO (April 6, 2007)
- *Western Region Engaged Scholars Summit* ~ Moab (Nov. 7, '03); Ephraim, UT (June 9-11, '04)
Presented higher education trends and potential impacts on public policy
- *Civic and Service Learning Summit* ~ Denver, CO (Feb. 27 – March 1, 2003)
Presented the Assets Based Community Development Model, and national service priorities
- *Pew Introduction to Service-Learning Institute* ~ Salt Lake City, UT (April 3-6, 2002)
Presented the regional overview and vision for our collaborative work
- *At A Critical Civic Crossroads* (2004)
I shared my ideas in a White Paper about what I believed we needed as a national organization and network of state affiliates to reconsider our strategic directions during a crossroads in leadership

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- Red Rocks Public Television Interview (2004)
Interviewed by Red Rocks Community College President Eric Reno about Service-Learning
- Colorado Department of Education annual Service-Learning Conferences (2000-2005)
Presented at the annual conferences throughout the state of Colorado
- *Exploring the benefits of regional collaboration around the Indigenous Engagement model* (2000-02)
Presented to stakeholders in the Four Corners: Salt Lake City, UT; Albuquerque, NM; Mesa, AZ.
- National Youth Leadership Conference April 4-6, 2001 (2001)
Convened the Town Hall Meeting for higher education stakeholders

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, Boulder, CO (1999)

Wrote article appearing in Policy Directions quarterly brief on the *Future Financing for Higher Ed*

U.S. Catholic Conference, Office of Government Liaison in Washington, D.C. (1998)

Contributed to the Talking Points in support of Haitian refugees and U.S. resettlement

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Legal Counsel, Washington, D.C. (1998)

Contributed to the *Americans with Disabilities Act reauthorization* submitted in Spring 1998

Supreme Court Institute (1997)

Wrote the case studies designed for high school students for the summer SCI curriculum

Buffalo Public Interest Law Program, Buffalo, NY (1996-1997). *The Importance of SUNY's Public Interest*

Cardinal Stritch College, Milwaukee, WI (1993-1994). Presented *On Campus Talking About Alcohol* to Residential and Student Life divisions, as well as freshmen students in the Seminar class

Cardinal Stritch College, Milwaukee, WI (1991-1993).

Sharing the student learning benefits of immersion in Mexico and Mississippi.

Conducted campus talks, church visits, President's Cabinet meetings and alumni events

Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA (1989)

Making the Case for Cooperative Education, a student's perspective on program improvements

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CERTIFICATIONS for Faculty and Student Trainings

Principle Investigator, University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI)

On-line certification to become a principle investigator at a Research I university.

E-Research, Wolverine Access, University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI)

On-line certification to manage grants portfolio within the U-M Office Office for Research

E-Grants, Corporation for National and Community Service (Washington, D.C.)

On-line authorization as certifying sponsor for AmeriCorps Award

Asset Based Community Development, ABCD Institute (Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, NM)

Trained my Michael Green in John McKnight's education empowerment model

Engaged Institute (Manoa, HI; Seattle, OR and Providence, RI)

Trained in Boyer's Engaged Scholarship pedagogy and Campus Compact Institute series.

TOP's Facilitator, Inter Cultural Affairs (San Luis Valley, CO)

Certified in group facilitation methods, specifically the workshop method.

Street Law, Inc, National Institute for Civic Education and the Law (Washington, D.C.)

Certified in mock trial and debate, high school civic curriculum.

Benedictine Institute, Cardinal Stritch College (Milwaukee, WI)

Certified facilitator for inner-city, service-immersion programs.

On Campus Talking About Alcohol (Milwaukee, WI)

Certified Instructor for alcohol awareness and education programs.

Outdoor Leadership and Ropes Course Facilitator, Rogers Memorial Hospital (Oconomowoc, WI)

Certified as a leadership instructor in both high and low ropes course elements and trust building.

Global Volunteers Team Leader (Jonestown, MS)

Certified Team Leader for service-immersion trips sponsored by Global Volunteers.

Into the Streets (Chicago, IL)

Certified ITS facilitator by Campus Opportunity Outreach League and LIVE Conferences.

Los Ninos (Tijuana, Mexico)

Certified international service-immersion facilitator.

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Campus Compact, Thomas Ehrlich Engaged Faculty Award, *Panelist, Reviewer* (2011)

University of Michigan, Ginsberg Center, *National Advisory Board, ex-officio member* (2009 – 2011)

University of Michigan, Division of Student Affairs, *Leadership Assembly Member* (2009-2011)

Ginsberg Legacy Dinner, University of Michigan, *Tenth Anniversary Chairperson* (2010)

Colorado Common Cause, *Board Member* (2007-2009)

University of Colorado Boulder, Institute for Ethical and Civic Engagement, *Advisory Board* (2007-2009)

Johnson & Wales University, Community Leadership Institute, *Board Member* (2006-2009)

Passing the Torch Conference, *Closing Speaker* (August 7, 2009)

Igniting the Fire Within, Student Leadership Conference, *Planning Team and Co-Sponsor* (2008- 2009)

Regis University, Ignatian Collaborative for Justice, *Convening Chair* (2007-2009)

School of the Americas Watch, *Prisoner of Conscience* (November 2008-May 8, 2009)

Colorado Campus Compact, Sweet 16 Anniversary Celebration and Conference, *Chair* (February 2008)

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Higher Education Network Conference, *Panelist* (Spring 2008)

Denver Elections Commission, *Poll Worker, Elections Support Volunteer* (Nov. 2008, Nov. 2004, Nov. 2000)

Obama Campaign, *Volunteer* (July-November 2008)

Democratic National Convention, *Guest Services Volunteer* (August 2008)

Higher Education of the Rockies Association, *Panelist* (annual conferences)

Los Ninos, *Circle of Wisdom Council Member, Advisor* (2005-2006)

Daniels Fund, *College Scholars Program Volunteer and Panelist* (2003-2006)

Peace Jam, Tenth Anniversary, *Co-Sponsor of the Nobel Laureates' Public Talks* (2005)

Colorado State University, Student Leadership Awards Ceremony, *Keynote* (May 2005)

National Campus Compact, *Board Member* (2001-2003)

National Campus Compact, *Network Executive Committee Representative* (2001-2003)

National Campus Compact Network Directors' Bi Annual Meetings, *Planning Team* (2001-2003)

Silver Square Home Owners' Association, *President and Board Member* (2001-2003)

National Youth Leadership Conference, *Co-Sponsor and Member of the Planning Team* (2000-2001)

Colorado Campus Compact, Tenth Anniversary Celebration and Conference, *Chair* (February 2002)

Buffalo Public Interest Law Program, *President and Officer* (1996-1997)

Saint Joseph's University, *Academy of Food Marketing, Officer and Volunteer* (1987-1990)

Greater Philadelphia Food Bank, *Volunteer* (1987-1989)