

JEN B. LARSON

EDUCATOR | AUTHOR

EDUCATOR WITH MASTERS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION
12 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WRITER WITH BACHELORS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE AND CREATIVE WRITING
15+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WRITING NONFICTION AND FICTION

EXPERIENCE

2024 - PRESENT

NORTHSIDE COLLEGE PREP

2018 - 2024

**CHICAGO HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER**

- ◊ Push-in, self-contained, and resource teacher with proficient and distinguished REACH ratings
- ◊ Supports students with a range of disabilities and needs (autism, ADHD, behavior disorders, emotional disturbances, ODD, cognitive delays, SLDs, and more)
- ◊ Manages student behavior, tends to social-emotional needs of students with various backgrounds and experiences
- ◊ Documents IEPs, progress monitors student goals, maintains accurate records for MTSS, BIPs, and other data collection
- ◊ Collaboratively teaches range of contents (AP microeconomics, astronomy, physics, American literature, geometry, trigonometry, US history, independent functioning, life skills)
- ◊ Modifies classwork, assessments, and projects for students based on IEP criteria
- ◊ Works closely with special education classroom assistants and support staff (speech therapist, psychologist, and social workers)
- ◊ Proctors individual and small group standardized tests (PSAT, SAT, ACT, ISA)
- ◊ Builds relationships with students, colleagues, and families
- ◊ Collaborates at meetings and voices opinion to address and solve issues within school and community
- ◊ Participates in and leads quarterly professional development for staff over a range of educational topics
- ◊ Supervises clubs for students interested in studying specific music genres and creating zines
- ◊ Implemented entrepreneurship program in collaboration with University of Illinois Chicago and Department of Rehabilitative Services

2008 - PRESENT

FREELANCE AUTHOR

- ◊ Author of award-winning non-fiction book "Hit Girls: Women of Punk in the USA, 1975-1983" (Feral House)
- ◊ Winner of Richard Frisbie Award for Adult Nonfiction from the Society of Midland Authors (2024)
- ◊ Awarded Certificate of Merit for Excellence in Historical Recorded Sound Research by the Association for Recorded Sound Collections (2024)
- ◊ Named to NPR's "Books We Love" (2023)
- ◊ Showcased in Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and MCA Chicago
- ◊ Writes features, interviews, and reviews for various outlets, including the Chicago Reader, Please Kill Me, Bandcamp, the Observer, and more
- ◊ Adaptable writer, capable of creating or adopting a voice
- ◊ Writes non-fiction, personal essays, persuasive nonfiction, and poetry
- ◊ Poetry published in Hanging Loose Press and more
- ◊ Previously wrote columns for WebVet, AOL WalletPop, and Radio Free Chicago

EDUCATION

2020 - 2021

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO
MASTERS OF EDUCATION**

Grade: Summa Cum Laude, 4.0

Activities and societies:

- ◊ Project ATLiS Scholarship - Assistive Technology Leaders in Special Education (ATLiS), a collaborative, interdisciplinary project designed to prepare school and district leaders with expertise in the development, implementation, and evaluation of assistive technology programs for students with multiple disabilities
- ◊ Completed Assistive Technology Certification Program (ATCP)
- ◊ Earned two LBS II certifications in assistive technology and multiple disabilities (K-21)

2012- 2013

**CHICAGO TEACHING FELLOWS
THE NEW TEACHER PROGRAM**

- ◊ Selective fast-paced certification program for career changers
- ◊ Earned Public Educator License (PEL) and LBS I (K-21)
- ◊ Completed first year of teaching full-time while attending school part time

2004 - 2007

**LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
BACHELOR OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
CREATIVE WRITING CONCENTRATION**

Grade: Cum Laude, 3.5

Activities and societies:

- ◊ Presidential scholarship (2003-2007)
- ◊ Dean's list (2003-2007)
- ◊ Honors program (2003-2007)
- ◊ Loyola Phoenix feature writer and copy editor (2004-2007), columnist and chief copy editor (2006-2007), ICPA winner (2005)
- ◊ Volunteer instructor at the Loyola Literacy Center (2003-2007)

CERTIFICATIONS & ENDORSEMENTS

- ◊ Professional Educator License (PEL) - Issued 7/2013
- ◊ Learning Behavior Specialist I - Issued 8/2012
- ◊ Learning Behavior Specialist II: Multiple Disabilities - Issued 8/2021
- ◊ Learning Behavior Specialist II: Assistive Technology - Issued 2/2022

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EXPERIENCE CONT'D

2012 - 2018

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JOHN SPRY COMMUNITY, JOSÉ DE DIEGO

COMMUNITY ACADEMY

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

- ◇ Self-contained, inclusion, and resource special education teacher in high-need Title 1 schools
- ◇ Worked across grade-levels with students with various disabilities (autism, ADHD, developmental delays, operational defiance disorder, cognitive delays, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and more)
- ◇ Documented IEPs and monitored student goals, maintained accurate records for MTSS, BIPs, and other data collection
- ◇ Managed duties of paraprofessionals and aides
- ◇ Performed individual, small group standardized tests (NWEA, PARCC, REACH, ACCESS, A-NET)
- ◇ Created school newspaper and literary magazine
- ◇ Taught poetry to 3rd through 5th graders after school with America Scores
- ◇ Collaborated and voiced opinion with colleagues to address and solve issues within the school and community
- ◇ Tutored after school three days a week
- ◇ Presented "Educational Technology as a Route to Social Justice" at Ed Tech Conference in 2014

2011 - 2012

GROUPON, INC

COPYWRITER, RESEARCHER

- ◇ Researched businesses and developed engaging copy for features
- ◇ Wrote lede jokes and copy in voice
- ◇ Completed quota of six features per day
- ◇ Accepted constructive feedback from editors
- ◇ Attended weekly staff meetings

2009 - 2011

INFO.COM

COPYWRITER, TAXONOMIST

- ◇ Created and edited keywords used by clients for internet marketing
- ◇ Performed extensive internet research to identify terms and phrases
- ◇ Reviewed keywords and high-volume search phrases
- ◇ Edited CMS articles for content and grammar

PERSONAL SKILLS

- ◇ Leadership experience
- ◇ Communication skills
- ◇ Collaboration skills
- ◇ Organizational proficiency
- ◇ Interpersonal skills
- ◇ Problem-solving abilities
- ◇ Advocacy
- ◇ Professionalism
- ◇ Positive attitude
- ◇ Empathy
- ◇ Strong work ethic
- ◇ Time-management skills
- ◇ Self-management skills
- ◇ Multi-tasking
- ◇ Ability to accept feedback
- ◇ Adaptability, creativity

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- ◇ Microsoft Word
- ◇ Microsoft Excel
- ◇ PowerPoint
- ◇ Adobe Photoshop
- ◇ Adobe Indesign
- ◇ Final Cut Pro
- ◇ Outlook
- ◇ Logic Pro
- ◇ Pro Tools
- ◇ Educational technologies

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- ◇ Completed Levels 1-3 at the Berges Institute
- ◇ Limited working proficiency in Spanish in reading and writing
- ◇ Limited proficiency in Spanish in speaking and listening

CIVIC & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

2015 - 2024

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- ◇ Raises money for AIDS Run and Walk, Latino Union, Social Works Chicago, Autism Speaks, the Night Ministry, and more

2010 - 2014

GIRLS ROCK CHICAGO

- ◇ Volunteer songwriter instructor
- ◇ Coached and lead groups of 4-5 campers through the process of creating a band (naming, writing songs, and rehearsing)
- ◇ Managed campers at week's end show through performances

2003 - 2007

LOYOLA LITERACY CENTER

- ◇ Volunteer instructor
- ◇ Structured weekly lesson plans, instructed adult students in English as a second language program
- ◇ Supported students in reading chapter books
- ◇ Set weekly reading and speech goals to keep track of progress
- ◇ Updated student progress reports