

JEN B. LARSON

EDUCATOR | AUTHOR

EDUCATOR WITH BACHELORS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE, CREATIVE WRITING
MASTERS IN EDUCATION, 12 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

WRITER WITH 15+ YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
AUTHOR OF “HIT GIRLS, WOMEN OF PUNK IN THE USA | 1975-1983” (FERAL HOUSE 2023)

EXPERIENCE

2024 - PRESENT

NORTHSIDE COLLEGE PREP

2018 - 2024

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

- ◇ Push-in, self-contained, & pull-out teacher
- ◇ Documents IEPs, progress monitors student goals
- ◇ Collaboratively teaches range of contents (AP microeconomiccs, astronomy, physics, American literature, geometry, trigonometry, US history, independent functioning, life skills)
- ◇ Modifies classwork, quizzes, tests, & projects for students based on criteria from IEP
- ◇ Proctors individual, small group standardized tests (PSAT, SAT, ISA)
- ◇ Manages student behavior, tends to social-emotional needs of students with various backgrounds, experiences
- ◇ Builds relationships with students, colleagues & families
- ◇ Collaborates at meetings & voices opinion to address, solve problems within the school & community
- ◇ Works closely with support staff (speech therapist, psychologist, social workers)
- ◇ Works with students with a range of disabilities & needs (autism, ADHD, behavior disorders, emotional disturbances, ODD, cognitive delays, SLDs, & more)
- ◇ Participates in & leads quarterly professional development for staff over a range of educational topics
- ◇ Implemented Entrepreneurship program in collaboration with University of Illinois Chicago & Department of Rehabilitative Services
- ◇ Supervises clubs for students interested in studying specific music genres & creating zines

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 & Roll Hall of Fame, MCA Chicago
- ◇ Writes features, interviews, & reviews to various outlets, including the Chicago Reader, Please Kill Me, Bandcamp, the Observer, & more
- ◇ Adaptable writer, capable of creating or adopting a voice
- ◇ Writes non-fiction, personal essays, & persuasive non-fiction, poetry, & prose
- ◇ Poetry published in Hanging Loose Press & 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
- ◇ 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 2004-2007 (feature writer, copy editor, columnist and chief copy editor 2006-2007, ICPA winner 2005)
- ◇ Literacy Center 2003-2007

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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, & resource special education teacher in high-need Title 1 schools
- ◇ Worked across grade-levels with students with various disabilities (autism, ADHD, developmental delays, oppositional defiance disorder, cognitive delays, bipolar disorder, & more)
- ◇ Managed duties of paraprofessionals & aides
- ◇ Documented IEPs & monitored student goals
- ◇ Performed individual, small group standardized tests (NWEA, PARCC, REACH, ACCESS, A-NET)
- ◇ Created school newspaper & literary magazine
- ◇ Taught poetry to 3rd - 5th graders after school with America Scores
- ◇ Collaborated & voiced opinion with colleagues to address, solve problems within the school & 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**

- ◇ Responsible for researching businesses & developing engaging copy for features
- ◇ Completed a quota of 6 writeups per day
- ◇ Wrote lede jokes & copy in "voice"
- ◇ Accepted constructive feedback from editors
- ◇ Attended weekly staff meetings

2009 - 2011

**INFO.COM
COPYWRITER, TAXONOMIST**

- ◇ Created & edited keyword terms to be used by clients for Internet marketing purposes
- ◇ Performed extensive Internet research to identify terms & phrases
- ◇ Reviewed keywords & high-volume search phrases
- ◇ Edited CMS articles for SEO, content, grammar

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

PERSONAL SKILLS

- ◇ Leadership experience
- ◇ Communication skills
- ◇ Collaboration skills
- ◇ Organizational proficiency
- ◇ Interpersonal skills
- ◇ Problem-solving abilities
- ◇ Advocacy
- ◇ Positive attitude
- ◇ Empathy
- ◇ Strong work ethic
- ◇ Time-management
- ◇ Self-management
- ◇ 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

CIVIC & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

2003 - 2007

LOYOLA LITERACY CENTER

- ◇ Volunteer teacher
- ◇ Structured weekly lesson plans, instructed adult students in English as a Second Language program
- ◇ Moved through chapter books, set weekly reading, speech goals to keep track of progress
- ◇ Kept students' progress reports on file in the classroom, accessible to any teacher, volunteer

2010 - 2014

GIRLS ROCK CHICAGO

- ◇ Volunteer songwriter instructor
- ◇ Coached & lead a groups of 4-5 campers through the process of naming, writing, & practicing for a band
- ◇ Managed campers at week's end show through performances

2015 - 2024

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

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

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- ◇ Limited working proficiency in Spanish
- ◇ Completed Levels 1-3 at the Berges Institute