

Amy J. Hauenstein, PhD

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Amy J. Hauenstein advocates for those who aspire to change paradigms. Her passion for diversity, social justice and equity in education, with a focus on women's issues, shines on a daily basis as senior administrator at Northwestern University and founder of Learning Designs, LLC, a boutique learning and development consulting agency.

Amy's impressive academic credentials include a Bachelor of Arts in Integrated Social Sciences from Ohio State University, a Master of Arts in Education from Ursuline College (the first all-women's college in Ohio), multiple executive education certificates from Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management, and a Curriculum Studies Doctorate from DePaul University.

"I have one foot solidly planted in academia and the other in communities and organizations, with an eye toward making the conceptual actionable," says Hauenstein. "My work is only as good as the partnerships I make in a quest to marry theory and praxis with the intent to inform and inspire those working toward a more democratic K-20 public education system—whether students, scholars, activists, policy makers, or citizens."

Currently, Amy serves as an adjunct professor and Director of Curriculum & Non-Degree Programs in the Master of Science in Communication Program at Northwestern University. Her research interests focus on how the cumulative nature of our educational experiences affect identity construction. She examines intersectionality and, more specifically, the impact of racism, classism, neoliberalism, and patriarchy within the institution of education—and their influence on multiple identit(ies) construction.

Raised from hard-working-class beginnings, Amy has rolled up her sleeves to fight for a just world on the front lines and at the policy table. "I am firm believer in the power of the underdog - because I am one," she says. "I want a world where all people can flourish and enjoy the richness of our differences and where, by fully embracing our own truth, a deep, sophisticated, complex identity will allow for innovation, creativity, and intellect(s) to abound."

Amy's work has been widely recognized, presenting to vast audiences and publishing works in the academic and non-academic worlds. She is a member of the inaugural Northwestern University Organizational Change Peer Learning Group, has led sessions at the university-wide TEACHx conference, was a curriculum-mapping panelist for the Searle Center for Teaching Learning and Assessment Forum, and was granted an Education Technology Teaching Fellowship in 2017. Amy holds memberships with the Association for the Study of Higher Education, the American Education Research Association, and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, where she has served as the Knowledge Community publication editorial committee chair.

When she is not spending downtime with her husband and two young children, Amy, (a former athlete and avid sports fan) is cheering on one of her favorite teams. Near to her heart is her alma mater, the perennial powerhouse Ohio State University, and the "never say die" Cleveland pro teams.