

Melissa Walker, Ph.D.
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CORE QUALIFICATIONS

Career and personal mentoring and coaching	Leadership
Program development and management	Public speaking
Budget creation and oversight	Building partnerships
Curricular design and delivery	Research, writing, and editing.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Coaching, Professional Training, Teaching and Curriculum Development

- Founded Heyday Coaching, LLC., which offers individual and group coaching to more than 200 clients on professional and personal development challenges.
- Mentored more than 300 students on academic and career achievement.
- Created and facilitated more than a dozen personal and professional development workshops on topics ranging from “Navigating the Tenure Track” to “Designing a Joyful Life,” from “Plotting a Course Through Life Transitions” to “Developing and Using a Personal Mission Statement.”
- Offered continuing professional development in American history topics to 90 K-12 teachers as master scholar for South Carolina Department of Archives and History.
- Conceived, organized, and taught four one-week residential American history workshops for 185 K-12 teachers from 40 states.
- Developed and refined more than 20 college-level history courses and 8 independent study courses over a 25-year teaching career.
- Taught more than 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students over a 25-year teaching career. Teaching was recognized with **CASE/Carnegie Foundation South Carolina Professor of the Year Award** in 2007 and Converse’s Kathyne Amelia Brown Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2001.

Leadership

- As president of the Converse College Faculty Senate, served on the president’s senior leadership team which developed strategic initiatives including a tuition reset that generated record enrollments.
- Liaison between faculty, administration, and the board of trustees.
- Presided over faculty meetings and supervised the work of major college committees.
- Member of presidential search committee that hired ninth president of Converse College.
- Chaired or served on numerous faculty and administrative hiring committees.
- Chaired two Converse College strategic planning task forces which designed initiatives to improve undergraduate instruction.
- Chaired Converse tenure and promotion committee which reviewed and evaluated faculty performance.
- Chaired board of directors for Hub City Writers Project, a non-profit literary arts organization. Under my leadership, HCWP developed a new cultural arts programming arm, created an artist-in-residence program, and produced and implemented a strategic plan which increased publishing and programming by 50%. The organization grew from one employee to three and from a budget of \$100,000 per year to \$250,000 per year.

Public Speaking

- Delivered multi-media presentations to audiences from 10 to 500 people for 35+ years.
- Presentations ranged from keynote addresses and history courses to motivational speeches and how-to workshops.
- Developed an ability to handle spontaneous Q and A while teaching college courses ranging from the beginner to advanced seminars.
- Tailored talks to a variety of audiences including elementary and college students, scholars, working professionals, senior citizen groups, and community organizations.
- Appeared on-camera for local television news, two PBS documentary films, and a NASCAR Productions film.
- Frequently interviewed by print publications including *The State*, *The Charlotte Observer*, *Sandlapper Magazine*, and the Associated Press.

Research, Writing, and Editing

- Write monthly blog posts and edit monthly newsletters for Heyday Coaching.
- Conducted research in archives, libraries, and on the internet and analyzed and interpreted data for scholarly books and articles, internal management white papers, and magazine and newspaper articles.
- Wrote op-eds and feature articles for publications ranging from *The State* and the *Charlotte Observer* to *Town* magazine and the *Knoxville News Sentinel*.
- Personal essays have been published in collections and literary journals.
- Wrote or edited 9 books and 64 journal articles, conference papers, and book reviews.

Social Media and Web Marketing

- As web content editor for Converse College division of humanities, reported, wrote, and edited, more than 50 web stories for departmental web page.
- Created and maintained web pages for Heyday Coaching, LLC, as well various courses and a personal book and movie review blog.
- Manage Facebook and Twitter marketing for Heyday Coaching, LLC.

Building Strategic Partnerships

- Developed strong collaborative relationships with community organizations, leveraging limited humanities programming resources and creating dozens of internship and job opportunities for students.
- Partners included Spartanburg County Public Library, Upstate Homeless Coalition, Greenville Jewish Federation, and the Johnson Collection of Art.

Grant-Writing

- Wrote over a dozen grant proposals which generated \$350,000 for research and programming.
- Funding agencies included National Endowment for the Humanities; SC Humanities; Loyola University of Chicago; Harvard University; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; American Philosophical Society, and Duke University.

Event Planning, Program Administration and Budget Management

- Managed budget and reporting for federal grants totaling \$150,000 each and smaller grants.
- Planned and produced four public conferences at Converse College and four national professional association conferences.
- Organized and marketed more than 30 guest speaker events and speaker series.
- Chief administrative officer for a national professional association.

Public Humanities Consultant

- Consulted with Spartanburg Historical Association on historic site interpretation, the Regional Museum of History on exhibit design and development, Anderson University on oral history project development.
- Advised staff at 12 SC museums on local programming related to two Smithsonian exhibits.

WORK HISTORY

Heyday Coaching, LLC, Spartanburg, SC.

Founder and President, 2016-present.

Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Spartanburg, SC.

Historian, 2017-present.

SC Humanities, Columbia, SC

Humanities Scholar for Smithsonian Institution Museums on Main Street traveling exhibitions, 2016-2017 and 2003-2005.

Converse College, Spartanburg, SC.

George Dean Johnson, Jr. Professor of History, 2008-2017.

Divisional Coordinator, Humanities, 2010-2017.

Faculty Senate President, 2012-2014.

Associate Professor of History, 2002-2008.

Assistant Professor of History, 1996-2002.

Southern Association for Women Historians.

Executive Secretary/COO, 2000-2005.

South Carolina Division of Archives and History, Columbia, SC.

Teaching American History in South Carolina, Master Scholar, 2004.

College instructor, 1992-1996

Community College of Rhode Island, Bryant and Clark Universities.

Rhode Island Women's Health Coalition, Development Consultant, 1994-1995.

Bryant University.

Assistant Director of Prospect Research, 1992-1996.

Associate Director of Alumni Relations, 1987-1992.

Maryville College, Maryville, TN.

Director of Alumni Relations, 1985-1987.

EDUCATION

MentorCoach, Bethesda, MD, coaching training program.

Clark University, Worcester, MA, Ph.D. American and Women's History.

Providence College, Providence, RI, M.A., American history.

Maryville College, Maryville, TN, B.A., summa cum laude, history.

SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS

Career Woman of the Year, Business and Professional Women of South Carolina, 2019.

Maryville College Alumni Citation, 2011.

Woman of Achievement in Education, Spartanburg Community College, 2008.

CHOICE Outstanding Academic Book Prize, 2008.

CASE/Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching South Carolina Professor of the Year, 2007.

O'Herron Award for Faculty Excellence, Converse College, 2002.

The Kathrynne Amelia Brown Award for Distinguished Teaching, Converse College, 2001.

South Carolina Governor's Distinguished Professor Award, 2001.

Willie Lee Rose Prize Book Prize, 2001.

National Mortar Board Excellence in Advising Award, 2000.