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# Mville B-School Bulletin

Friday, February 19, 2016

## Student Spotlight: Mary Meyer- Nonprofit Management Certificate

### Background:

Mary Meyer is the Project Director of the Comprehensive Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (CAPP) grant at the Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc. located in Suffolk County, New York.

The CAPP program helps to decrease adolescent pregnancy through a comprehensive approach to reducing the risk of initial and repeat pregnancies, reducing STDs and HIV/AIDS rates among adolescents, and promoting healthy sexual behaviors. The initiative – which receives funding from the New York State Department of Health – addresses the underlying issues associated with adolescent parenting as well as race, ethnic, and geographical disparities related to adolescent sexual health outcomes. CAPP encourages alternatives to sexual activity by promoting an optimal transition into healthy young adulthood with after-school programs, evidence-based interventions, and community service learning. Mary is also a licensed social worker, receiving her Masters of Social Work from Stony Brook University. She recently just received her Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Manhattanville College's School of Business.



### What inspired you to take the certificate program?

I was presented with the opportunity to attend the certificate program by management at work. My supervisor identified me as being a good candidate for the program and, with approval from upper management, I was asked if this would be something I was interested in. I quickly embraced the opportunity, as I knew it would further develop my social work background and provide me with more insight into the management aspect of a nonprofit.

### How did the certificate program help prepare you for your challenges at work?

The certificate program gave me exposure to different aspects of a nonprofit agency. As my position is associated more with direct services, I was able to understand the administrative and management aspects of the grant I work on. With this understanding, I believe my service delivery was strengthened, as I now had a better idea of the “behind the scenes” work being done—and there is a ton of it!

### Did you meet interesting students and professors with whom you would like to stay in contact?

A huge part of working at a nonprofit agency is being able to network with other agencies—local and national. This course gave me the opportunity to see what other agencies do and showed me how they function on a management level. It connected me with students and professors who brought different strengths to the table. I'm definitely going to stay in touch with the people I met during this experience. You never know when you may need to call upon another person's strength for guidance in enhancing your own.

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- ▶ 2018 (2)
- ▶ 2017 (12)
- ▼ 2016 (12)
  - ▶ December (1)
  - ▶ October (2)
  - ▶ September (1)
  - ▶ August (1)
  - ▶ July (1)
  - ▶ June (1)
  - ▶ May (2)
  - ▶ April (1)
  - ▼ February (2)

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