

## Dana Brinson

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Transition coach and consultant for individuals and organizations moving through periods of significant change. I draw on more than two decades of experience in the education, nonprofit and social services sectors as a facilitator, researcher, educator, grant maker and nonprofit board leader to shape my support for people who are betwixt what was and what will be.

### **Senior Director, SparkNC 2022-Present**

Partner with innovative school district leaders in implementing transformative approaches to high-school education in high-tech careers. Lead project teams to design learning experiences, resources and events. Cultivate partnerships, guide development of online learning platform, and write communications resources to expand implementation of promising approaches.

### **Founder and Owner, Consulting Betwixt (consultingbetwixt.com) 2019-Present**

Provide consulting services and coaching to individuals and organizations undergoing transition such as leadership change, mission clarification, program development or evaluation. Services include transition planning, new market exploration, case studies, survey design and administration, data analysis, qualitative research, grant writing, strategic communication, facilitation, capacity building, coaching and change management.

### **Programme Officer, Oak Foundation 2013-2019**

Managed a Learning Differences Programme portfolio dozens of active grants worth \$20-30 million focused on organizations and projects redesigning learning environments, conducting neuroscience research, developing education technology, training educators and engaging youth with learning differences. Served as an elected member of the Staff Advisory Group. Led the LDP's programmatic evaluation, racial equity initiative, and internal and external communications. Served on cross-foundation teams on child safeguarding, grant-making process, capacity building, measurement and evaluation.

### **Senior Consultant, Public Impact, 2007-2012**

Managed teams on multi-year projects, conducted research, and developed reports as a senior consultant at a national education consulting firm dedicated to providing research-based guidance to improve K-12 education outcomes for underserved and historically marginalized populations. Consulted with foundations, government agencies, research institutes, and nonprofits. Served as dissemination and communication coordinator.

### **Research Analyst and Account Manager**, Best Practices, LLC, 2006-2007

Conducted benchmarking and best practice research for clients. Managed client relationships and sales of Best Practice Database accounts. Supported communications through database and web publishing, press releases, and email marketing campaigns.

### **Social Studies Teacher**, Bay Cove Academy, Brookline, Mass., 2001-2003

Taught grades 8–12 social studies to students with emotional and behavioral challenges and learning differences and supported positive relationships and socialization in the milieu.

### **Treatment Foster Care Social Worker**, Charles County, Maryland 1999-2000

Conducted individual case management and treatment plan development for children with special needs in foster care in a tri-county region.

## **Education and Training**

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**, M.A. in Women's and European History

**West Virginia University** B.A. Psychology and History, summa cum laude

**Duke University**, Certificate in Nonprofit Management

**The Skilled Facilitator Intensive Workshop**, Roger Schwarz and Associates

**Leadership Fundamentals**, Center for Creative Leadership

**Board Leadership Bootcamp**, Executive Service Corps

**Strengthening Capacity Development of Grantees**, INTRAC

**Assessing Grantee Financial Health**, Humentum

**Certified in Thanatology**, Association for Death Education and Counseling

**Certified End-of-Life Doula**, International End of Life Doula Association

**Certified Grief Educator**, with David Kessler

**Grief Work training**, Institute for Birth, Breath and Death

## **Advisory Boards and Volunteer Activity**

**Boomerang Youth** Governance Board Chapel Hill, NC. 2015-2022. Chair 2019-2022

**Special Education Leader Fellowship (SELF)** New Orleans, LA. Advisory board 2015 to 2018  
Governance board, 2018 to 2022

**Understood.org** Founding Partners Committee—New York, NY. 2013 to 2018

**Carolina Meadows Retirement Community** Volunteer, Chapel Hill, NC. 2019-Present

**University of North Carolina Hospice** Volunteer, 2018-2021