

Erica Swiatek

Title: Adjunct Faculty/Lecturer Creativity and Change Leadership

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Bio:

Erica Swiatek is a Lecturer of Creativity and Change Leadership at Buffalo State University. With a passion for fostering innovative thinking and leadership skills, she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the department.

Erica blends her expertise in the fields of innovation, learning and development and playfulness to create accelerated activities, courses and programs. These courses give individuals and teams the tools and skills that transform their meetings, problem solving skills and team.

Erica's work in the field of play included owning an escape room. She combined this experience with a debrief or preference indicator tools such as Myers-Briggs or FourSight. She closed the physical location but continues to offer a portable game to companies around escaping the most boring meeting.

Education:

- M.S. in Creative Studies, Buffalo State University 2012
- B.S. in Hotel & Restaurant Management, Minor in Computer Information Systems, Niagara University, 1998
- A.S. in Accounting, Niagara County Community College, 1995

Research Interests:

- Creative Problem Solving, Innovation and Change Readiness
- Playfulness & Humor
- Leadership Training and Development
- Team and Organizational Effectiveness

Teaching Philosophy:

Erica combines the sciences of creativity, playfulness, and adult learning to produce engaging and impactful learning. She strives to utilize her background in adult learning and accelerated learning to provide a safe environment for students to try and apply the various tools and behaviors they learn in class. Erica's desire is that when people leave her class they will ripple out the department's mission of igniting creativity worldwide.

Selected Publications:

1. Big Questions in Creativity 2015: Article Title: How does playfulness impact adult learning?

2. Infusing Creative Thinking into Higher Education, Contributor, 2024

Professional Experience:

- Training & Optimization Manager, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Hospital, 2022- Now
- Talent Partner, Delaware North, 2018 – 2022
- Escape Room Owner & Innovation Consultant, 3600 Escape & Innovate Faster, 2015 – 2020

Honors and Awards:

- Best in Class, Blended Leadership Program Award, from Open Sesame 2019
- Mary Murdock Creative Spirit Scholarship, 2012

Professional Memberships:

- Association for Creativity in Leadership
- International Society for Change Management

Personal Hobbies:

Outside of academia, Erica Swiatek enjoys horseback riding, hiking, rock climbing, traveling and any other adventures or playful opportunities that come her way. She believes spending time with nature enhances creativity, joy, mental health and overall happiness.