

Stacie Freeman, M.S.S.W.

Bethel University
325 Cherry Avenue
McKenzie, Tennessee, United States
Email: freemans@bethelu.edu | Phone: +1 (731) 636-1348

PROFESSIONAL STATEMENT

As an international educator and leader, I am dedicated to fostering global citizenship through education, service-learning, and sustainable travel initiatives. As Director of Global Studies at Bethel University and founder of the nonprofit Global Citizen Adventure Corps, I pioneered a unique study abroad program offering college credit and scholarships for underserved high school and college students in rural West Tennessee. Since 2011, I have led over 700 travelers on 56 global service-learning programs across 14 countries, contributing over 54,000 volunteer hours in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Our programs have generated an economic impact of \$1.8 million in host communities. Currently, I am exploring partnerships in academia and the nonprofit sector in India to expand international opportunities for Bethel students.

EDUCATION (FORMAL)

University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Master of Science Degree in Social Work (M.S.S.W.), 2005

University of Tennessee, Martin
Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology, 1998

EDUCATION (INFORMAL)

Wellesley College
Global Sociology, 2018

Harvard University
Think Tank on Global Education: Empowering Global Citizens, 2019

National Geographic Society
National Geographic Certified Educator, 2019

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Bethel University, McKenzie, TN

Professor of Sociology | August 2005 – Present

- Teach introductory sociology courses to diverse student populations, including first-generation college students and Title I high school students via dual enrollment.
- Contribute to curriculum development, ensuring academic relevance and quality for underserved students.
- Advise sociology majors and minors.

Bethel University, McKenzie, TN

Director of Global Studies | August 2011 – Present

- Lead risk management and crisis response initiatives, including contingency planning for study abroad programs during political unrest or public health crises, ensuring safety and academic continuity for students.
- Provide leadership for Bethel University's Global Studies Department, overseeing short- and long-term study abroad programs for underserved students.
- Ensure global education accessibility for rural, Title I, and first-generation students.
- Manage budgets, strategic planning, and cross-campus collaboration for education abroad initiatives.
- Lead strategic planning, policy development, and program evaluation for the office.
- Collaborate with faculty, academic departments, and administrative offices to implement best practices in education abroad.

Global Citizen Adventure Corps

Co-Founder, President & CEO | July 2022 – Present

- Lead efforts to provide study abroad scholarships for historically underserved students in international education.
- Forge partnerships with international organizations to provide academic exchange and service opportunities for underserved students.
- Lead initiatives to raise funds for international education scholarships, specifically targeting students from rural and Title I backgrounds.
- Set strategic direction, establish goals, and ensure the nonprofit organization has the resources and personnel to meet its mission.
- Oversee fundraising initiatives with donors and stakeholders.
- Manage the nonprofit organization's budget, staff, and ensure compliance with legal and ethical standards.
- Design and teach a six-week online course on global citizenship, culminating in international travel and community service projects supporting UN SDGs.
- Coordinate all aspects of student travel, including recruitment, public relations campaigns, finances, transportation, accommodations, meals, and in-country activities.

- Ensure safe, culturally immersive experiences for participants while managing all logistical aspects of the programs.

Bethel University, McKenzie, TN

Sociology and Human Services Department Coordinator | August 2022 – Present

- Oversee faculty assignments, department operations, and strategic planning.
- Schedule and chair department meetings.
- Coordinate teaching responsibilities and recommend facility developments for the department.
- Manage equipment and materials, maintaining a department-wide inventory.
- Lead faculty development planning and activities.
- Draft, execute, and monitor departmental budgets.
- Evaluate faculty performance according to established procedures.
- Lead institutional effectiveness and assessment activities.

Bethel University, McKenzie, TN

Global Service Learning and Citizenship Program Lead Educator | March 2011 – July 2022

- Developed and taught a six-week online course on global citizenship, culminating in international travel and community service experiences in support of UN SDGs.

Bethel University, McKenzie, TN

Global Service Learning and Citizenship Program Coordinator | March 2011 – July 2022

- Secured a grant from National Geographic to adapt global study programs during the COVID-19 pandemic, implementing virtual exchanges and hybrid learning models to maintain international collaboration while ensuring student safety.
- Developed and managed study abroad programs, fostering lasting global partnerships and supporting collaborative student projects.
- Coordinated international service-learning programs, contributing over 51,000 volunteer hours in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and promoting meaningful global academic cooperation.
- Led public relations campaigns to recruit participants and increase program visibility.
- Managed budgets and finances for volunteer programs, ensuring efficient resource allocation.
- Organized and coordinated transportation, accommodations, and culturally immersive activities for participants.
- Supervised volunteer efforts, ensuring alignment with community-identified needs and effective service delivery.

Bethel University, McKenzie, TN

Social Sciences Department Chair | August 2012 - July 2013

- Scheduled and chaired faculty meetings, coordinating teaching responsibilities within the department.
- Made recommendations for developing facilities and maintained equipment and materials.
- Contributed to the department-wide inventory and coordinated faculty development and long-range planning.
- Managed budgets, evaluated faculty performance, and participated in institutional effectiveness and assessment activities.

Bethel University, McKenzie, TN

Founder and Director of the Bethel Community Engagement Scholarship Program | August 2011 – August 2017

- Supervised and evaluated scholarship recipients volunteering locally and nationally.
- Developed and maintained community engagement initiatives aligned with the university’s strategic plan, such as the Walnut Heights After School Program for at-risk youth.
- Managed budgets, marketing plans, and community-wide events like Make a Difference Day.
- Recruited students, volunteers, and community members to support and engage in local service initiatives.
- Served as liaison to business, military, and community groups, and participated in boards, committees, and meetings.
- Coordinated donations and managed community involvement projects.

HONORS & AWARDS

Bethel University

Faculty Member of the Year | 2006

Bethel University

The Roy and Mary Shelton Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award | 2007

Bethel University

Student Government Association Service Award | 2012

AmeriCorps

Daily Point of Light Award | 2020

Jackson Area Business and Professional Women’s Association

Sterling Award: 20 Most Influential Women in West Tennessee | 2024

Cypress Magazine

West Tennessee Woman of Distinction | 2024

Student and Youth Travel Association

National Traveling Teacher of the Year | 2024

WBBJ-TV ABC News and Leaders Credit Union

Community Champion | 2024

GoAbroad

Winner: Innovation in Philanthropy | 2024

GoAbroad

Finalist: Innovation in Diversity | 2025

Finalist: Respectful Global Disruptive Leadership | 2025

SKILLS

- Global Service-Learning Program Management
 - Strategic Planning
 - Cross-Cultural Collaboration
 - Academic Exchange Coordination and International Partnerships
 - Risk Management & Crisis Response in Global Education
 - Leadership Development & Mentorship for International Programs
-

LANGUAGES

- English (native)
- Spanish (in progress)