

Jeni Venker Weidenbenner

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I am a Software Engineer who values making resources accessible for people. As a librarian, college instructor, cyberbullying researcher, and entrepreneur/copywriter, I have worked extensively with finding, filtering, and organizing information into digestible packets that make sense for diverse groups. I want to bring my communication and analytical skills to full stack development to solve information problems in education and allied fields.

Web Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Built and managed online learning management systems in Moodle, Blackboard, and Canvas for course activities (e.g., CIS200, PSY101) at secondary and post-secondary levels• Led diverse team to refine The Career Center web site and microsites, the Career Services Council website, HireIllini, The Career Center intranet, and web applications• Deployed website updates for AERA SIGs (SEL SIG and AYD SIG)• Created user personas and stories, conducted A/B testing, and implemented website analytics to optimize website usage
Research & Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assisted in editing <i>The Lindenwood Review</i> journal (2018-19)• Collected and analyzed qualitative and quantitative data from major cyberbullying project with Tynes' Research Lab and action research project at the Champaign County Juvenile Detention Center• Collaborated with curriculum team to develop team-based learning materials for PSYC 100 and co-authored article on learning outcomes after collecting and analyzing pilot data• Worked with research team to assess school climate using Teachstone CLASS protocol during observations in K-3 classrooms in Indianapolis and Champaign schools• Evaluated campus career outreach initiatives, service-learning courses, and federal grant project outcomes• Surveyed stakeholders for campus and library initiatives and tabulated results to satisfy funding requirements
Project Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Received Outstanding Coach Award, Spring 2011, for coaching leadership students through Illinois Leadership Center's multi-step Certificate program; coached 8 students to completion, 2 other students in progress• Secured and coordinated implementation and evaluation of

Training & Facilitating	<p>federal grants at Bourbonnais Public Library, including a \$4,300 project to create basic computer training classes for patrons and a \$48,300 project to develop a learning center for middle school students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervised pre-service music and arts teachers for service-learning course at the Juvenile Detention Center for 3 semesters • Led community project teams for: ENG 315CMS & ENG 315 ISG, undergraduate service-learning courses • Coordinated design and implementation of 2 one-day “Nab the Aquatic Invaders” community engagement workshops • Developed and presented career skills program for international students through The Career Center, in partnership with International Student Services office
Digital Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluated client websites and made suggestions to improve reach, readability, and analytics (e.g., time on page, bounce rate) • Wrote web content for small businesses and provided guidance on social media community engagement • Publicized Junior League, The Career Center, and Bourbonnais Public Library programs through web sites and social media (e.g., Twitter, RSSfeeds)
Volunteer Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior League Volunteer: 2021-2022. <i>Junior League of St. Louis.</i> • Junior League Volunteer: Nov. 2013 – 2014. <i>Junior League ofChampaign-Urbana.</i> • Leadership Coach: Nov. 2007 – present. <i>Illinois Leadership Center,University of Illinois.</i> • Insight Small Group Facilitator: Jan. 2011. <i>Illinois LeadershipCenter, University of Illinois.</i> • KCSA Marketing Director & Usher: Oct. 2010 – Dec. 2011. <i>Krannert Center Student Association, University of Illinois.</i> • Web 2.0 Committee (Co-Chair): Sept. 2008 – May 2009. <i>CareerServices Council, University of Illinois.</i> • NMRT Midwinter Social Committee Chair: Jan. 2008 – Jan. 2009. <i>American Library Association.</i> • iREAD Resource Guide Coordinator & Committee Member: July2006 – Sept. 2007. <i>Illinois Library Association.</i>

**Select
Presentations &
Publications**

- Walker, G. & **Weidenbenner, J.V.** (2019). Social and emotional learning in the age of virtual play: technology, empathy, and learning. *Journal of Research in Innovative Teaching & Learning*, 12(2): 116-132. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JRIT-03-2019-0046>.
- Weidenbenner, R. & **Weidenbenner, J.V.** (2017). Teaching basic counseling skills to direct care staff. In B. Schwartz (Ed.), *Sexually Abusive Behavior in Youth: A handbook of theory, assessment, and treatment*. Kingston, NJ: Civic Research Institute.
- Travis, L.L., Hudson, N.W., Henricks-Lepp, G.M., Street, W.S., & **Weidenbenner, J.** (2016). Team-based learning improves course outcomes in introductory psychology. *Teaching of Psychology*, 43(2), 99-107. doi:10.1177/0098628316636274
- Michikyan, M., Lozada, F.T., **Weidenbenner, J.V.**, & Tynes, B.T. (2014). Adolescent coping strategies in the face of their “worst online experience.” *International Journal of Gaming and Computer-Mediated Simulations*, 6(4): 1-16.
- Henricks-Lepp, G.M., Hudson, N.W., Street, W.N., **Weidenbenner, J.** & Travis L. (May 2014). “Transforming introductory psychology with team-based learning,” American Psychological Association Teaching Institute Poster Session [Conference]. San Francisco, CA. 22 May, 2014.
- Nichols, J., **Weidenbenner, J.V.**, Sullivan, B.M. (May 2013). “Arts experiences for incarcerated youth: Service learning with pre-service music educators,” Mountain Lake Colloquium [Conference]. Pembroke, VA. 21 May, 2013.
- **Weidenbenner, J.** (April 2013). A thematic analysis of coping strategies in the face of adolescents’ “worst online experience” [Conference]. In B. Tynes (Chair), *Traditional vs Online Victimization Among Marginalized Populations*. Symposium conducted at the 2013 Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting. Seattle, WA. 20 April, 2013.
- Weidenbenner, R. & **Weidenbenner, J.V.** (2012). Teaching basic counseling skills to direct care staff. In B. Schwartz (Ed.), *The Sex Offender*, vol. 7.
- **Weidenbenner, J.V.** and Tynes, B.T. (2012). “My worst experience online’: Adolescent coping strategies in the face of cyberbullying.” American Educational Research Association [Conference]. Vancouver, B.C. 14 April, 2012.

Work Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher, 6th grade Communication Arts: August 2023-present. <i>Compton-Drew Investigative Learning Center, St. Louis Public School District.</i> [medical leave for mobility issues since Oct. 4] • Scoring Supervisor (5th grade math/8th grade science: April-June 2023, April-August 2022. <i>Pearson, Distributed Team</i> • Scorer: seasonally 2009-2022. <i>Pearson, Distributed Team.</i> • Owner, CreativeJ Coaching, LLC: May 2016-present. Coaching, writing, and digital marketing services. • Adjunct Instructor: <i>Parkland College, Champaign, Illinois.</i> Psychology on campus and dual-credit, Computer Information Systems dual-credit. • Writing/Psychology/Special Education Teacher: <i>Heritage Preparatory Academy, Roberts, Illinois.</i> • Research Assistant: <i>Action Research in theArts, Music Department, University of Illinois.</i> • Teaching Assistant (PSYC 100): <i>Psychology Department, University of Illinois.</i> • Teaching Assistant (EPSY 430): <i>Educational Psychology Department, University of Illinois.</i> EPSY 430: Early Adolescent Development. • K-3 Classroom Observer: <i>IES Grant Project, Phil Rodkin Lab, University of Illinois.</i> • Teaching Assistant (EPSY 220): <i>Educational Psychology Department, University of Illinois.</i> EPSY 220: Career Theories & Practice. • Information Specialist: <i>The Career Center, University of Illinois.</i> • Public Services Supervisor: <i>Bourbonnais Public Library.</i>
Education	<p>Software Engineering Intensive, General Assembly, completion expected March 2024</p> <p>MFA Creative Writing, Lindenwood University</p> <p>LBS-1 endorsement program, Greenville College (certification pending exam)</p> <p>M.S. + ABD in Educational Psychology, Cognitive Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</p> <p>M.L.I.S., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</p> <p>M.A., Teaching, Webster University</p>