



Stacey Reed, Monroe Community College, NY
Winner of 2009 The New York Times/NACCE Student Essay Contest

Stacey Reed was born and raised in upstate New York. She earned her bachelor's degree in Communications from St. John Fisher College (Rochester, N.Y.) in 1984. Stacey worked for a print advertising company for many years. She was initially hired as an account representative then later promoted to a customer care manager. Stacey had no plans of becoming an entrepreneur, but a life-changing event inspired her to start her own business.

Having always been artistic and creative, Stacey picks up crafts quickly and enjoys developing ways to improve creative processes. She took her first class in stained glass in 1993—it was love at first sight and all her efforts from then on involved creating unique stained glass art. Her business, Purple Glass Studio, was launched in 2007.

In August 2008, she was one of 30 applicants selected to participate in Monroe Community College's new Emerging Entrepreneurs Scholarship Program. As Stacey noted in her award-winning New York Times/NACCE essay, "Self-employment is not easy, but as a result of the entrepreneurship class at Monroe Community College, I have learned new selling methods, product opportunities and pricing strategies. The class is so diverse it is amazing to me. That is what makes it work."

Stacey's concept of success for her business is that it becomes a self-sustainable, profitable, one-woman enterprise with the ability to create custom glass art for people and businesses for years to come.

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Donna Duffey, Johnson County Community College, KS
Winner of 2009 NACCE Entrepreneurship Faculty of the Year Award

Donna Duffey joined the faculty at Johnson County Community College (JCCC) in Overland Park, Kansas in 1987 bringing with her 17 years of executive experience in retail management. At JCCC, she is a full time Professor and Department Chair for the Entrepreneurship Associate of Applied Science degree program and its related certificate programs. She has received both the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Faculty Achievement Award and the Distinguished Service Award during her tenure at JCCC.

Ms. Duffey holds a BS in Fashion Merchandising from Wisconsin State University-Stout and a MBA from Baker University.

External to JCCC, she has been actively involved in the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE) serving on its inaugural Board of Advisors. Additionally, she has been actively involved in the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) since 1995 and served as the President of the Board of Directors during the 2001-2002 academic year.

Ms. Duffey has published numerous articles on entrepreneurship programming at the community college level and has developed and presented over twenty regional and national conference presentations in the last several years. She has provided assistance to numerous community colleges across the country in the development of their entrepreneurship programming initiatives.



Chris Leach
Winner of 2009 E-Myth Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Over the last few years things have been the roughest for me in the world. I was living in the world of “do what you’re told and get a job.” I graduated High School near the bottom of my class. I was not a very successful person. I was just barely making it by and knew I needed to have better skills. So I entered the job market. No skills, no experience at all.

As the years progressed and as I grew as a man, things seemed to be working. I married my high school sweetheart in the winter of 2005. We both brought a child into the marriage from previous relationships. Ezraha was her daughter who I love dearly. Brooklyn is my daughter who she loved the same. Trinity Faith was our first child together. Things were good. I was loving life.

We had decided to move to Colorado. It was really a change and too much of a change for us. We decided the snow was way too much and we really missed the sun and the beaches, so we moved back California. Relocating my family was very difficult. We moved in with family and friends. I landed a job at Burger King as a cashier, and at the same time began working for the Hanford Sentinel throwing papers. During all this my wife was going to college to get her A.A. in Business. I worked hard and things were hard; we had applied for welfare to assist us in the things that we needed just to survive. We received assistance from the state and it granted us the abilities to live.

With the upcoming graduation of my wife we found out other great news--we were expecting another child. This I hoped in my mind was to be my first son. However, once again we had another girl come into our lives. So now I was definitely outnumbered with 5 girls and 1 boy in my house. No sons yet.

This had also been my first year in college, during which time I was promoted to an Assistant Manger of Operations position at Burger King and I had moved our little family out of our 2 bedroom apartment into a 3 bedroom home. In our better neighborhood I had a garage and I began to use my development skills to the fullest. I was finally doing what I loved--working toward a degree in Computer Information Systems--learning to build web sites and developing great things and doing great things for others.

Tragedy soon stuck in the summer of 2008. In June I had developed a problem with my gallbladder and underwent my first surgery in nearly a decade. All was well, until I had complications that lead to my near death and being placed in the Intensive Care Unit. I was put in a medically induced coma for 2 weeks and then finally, was released out of the ICU... I was awake but not without trouble. I will be filling you in with “the rest of the story” in person...because as you can see, I have survived to become the man I am before you today...

Thank you E-Myth
for honoring
our successful
entrepreneurs.

