



MCDA 2010 Fall Newsletter

Member Spotlight on Irene Rossman

Editor: Irene, tell us about your background.

Irene: I grew up in North Dakota and graduated from the University of North Dakota with a major in Elementary Education. I taught 5th and 6th grade for a few years but discovered teaching young children was not my calling. I worked many years for Personnel Decisions International (PDI) in the Career Management Division and in 1998 went back to school to pursue a Master's Degree in Counseling/Psychology at St. Mary's University of Minnesota. While in graduate school and during my practicum at PDI, I realized career counseling was my true calling. My current employer, Career Partners International Twin Cities (formerly PDI), provides a great work environment. I work with wonderful colleagues and terrific clients. I love my work and am proud to be part of the career counseling profession and community.

Editor: What do you feel are your greatest accomplishments and why?

Irene: My greatest career accomplishment is obtaining my Master's Degree and working full time while I did that. My graduate work was a life-altering experience for me. I realized how unfulfilled my career had been up to that point. Going back to school boosted my self-confidence and led to an exciting and fulfilling new career for me. I wasn't young when I started this path, so I always tell my clients that it is never too late to change careers. I am testimony to changing careers in later life. Another accomplishment is becoming President of MCDA. I was so proud to represent our membership and I learned so much from this experience. My MCDA colleagues are absolutely the best people!!!

Editor: What do you like the most about being a Career Counselor?

Irene: I love meeting new and interesting people and hearing about their jobs and lives. I enjoy making a difference in people's lives. It is such a privilege to be witness to clients' stories and journeys and I appreciate the opportunity to be part of the process of career transition. I enjoy watching people evolve as they discover new and meaningful work.

Editor: You've had a close-up look at MCDA. Please share the benefits of membership in MCDA.

Irene: MCDA is an amazing organization. I have learned so much from the conferences, seminars, and interaction with MCDA colleagues and board members. Minnesota is such a leader in career development. When I attended the National Career Development Conference in 2009, I was blown away by the response to MCDA's activities by the other attendees. Our members are extremely committed, smart, and knowledgeable.

Editor: Do you have any advice or tips to share with others in the field?

Irene: I recommend networking with other professionals, joining groups like MCDA, and being open to learning new things. The world is changing so fast and it benefits all of us and our clients to continue to update skills, techniques, and world of work knowledge. It can be a bit daunting at times, but collaborating with colleagues makes such a difference....and it is so much fun!!!

Editor: Irene, thank you for sharing yourself with us and even more importantly – thank you for serving as our MCDA President for the last year! We appreciate the time and effort you put into making our association even better.