



# Jim Ansaldo

## School Change Facilitator

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I work with educators to challenge deficit orientations and create optimal learning conditions for all students.

## Work Experience

08/2000 - Present

### Research Scholar

IU Center on Education and Lifelong Learning,  
Indiana Institute on Disability and Community

*Working with schools and communities to welcome, include, educate, and support all learners.*

#### Tasks/Achievements

- Designed and taught applied improvisation workshops for a variety of professional audiences statewide
- Coordinated the design and implementation of online professional learning for the Indiana Center on Teacher Quality project
- Served as Project Coordinator for statewide training and implementation of Instructional Consultation Teams
- Co-developed the Indiana Teacher Appraisal and Support System (INTASS) project
- Designed, facilitated, and evaluated school change efforts and educator professional learning throughout Indiana

08/1997 - 05/1998

### Alternative School Teacher

Roberto Clemente Community High School

#### Tasks/Achievements

- Co-taught a cross-disciplinary program for at-risk students
- Directed a student-written multimedia theater performance

01/1994 - 06/1997

### English Teacher

James Hillhouse High School

#### Tasks/Achievements

- Taught advanced and college preparation courses for sophomore and junior students
- Sponsored school Drama Club and directed stage productions

## Education

08/1998 - 05/2012

### PhD in Education

Indiana University

#### Courses

- Major: Curriculum Studies      - Minor: Cultural Studies

05/1992 - 01/1994

### M.A. in Teaching

Quinnipiac College

#### Courses

- Major: Language Arts      - Minor: Theater

08/1987 - 05/1991

### B.A. in English

Southern CT State University

#### Courses

- Focus: Writing      - Minor: Theater

## Skills & Competences

- |                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Applied Improvisation          | Collaborative Problem Solving |
| Culturally Responsive Practice | Grant Writing                 |
| Instructional Consultation     | Online Learning               |
| Reflective Communication       | Universal Design for Learning |

## Achievements

Founded and co-directed Camp Yes And, an improv summer camp for teens on the spectrum and teachers

Earned accreditation as an improvisation trainer by the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science

Led the first successful peer-to-peer fundraising campaigns in IIDC history

Highly rated instructor of graduate and undergraduate courses for the IU School of Education

## Presentations

Using applied improvisation to develop social-communicative competence in adolescents with ASD

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention. Philadelphia, PA. November 17, 2016

Improvising with teens on the autism spectrum

- William M. Plater Institute on the Future of Learning. Indiana University/Purdue University Indianapolis. November 30, 2015

## Publications

Participant perspectives on improv classes for teens on the autism spectrum

Ansaldo, J. (2016). Manuscript in preparation.

Exploring the effects of improvisational training on teens with autism and teachers

Hopf, R., Ansaldo, J., Forrest, K. and Cole, C.M. (2016). Manuscript in preparation.

Strengthening Connection: Applied improv with youth on the autism spectrum

Alana, L. and Ansaldo, J. (2016). Manuscript in preparation.

## Interests

Comic Books | Cultural Diversity | Improv Comedy | Musical Performance | Tabletop Gaming | Technology