

Career Education REVIEWTM

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Herzing Degree Helps Gardner Help Others in Dakar, Senegal

By Barbara A. Schmitz from an interview with Audrey Jane Gardner by Jenny Faubert

As the recipient of the 2014 Hall of Fame award from the APSCU, Gardner credits her success to Herzing University where she earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in 2011. **p.13**



Passionate Teacher From the Minnesota School of Business Receives APSCU's Educator of the Year Award

By Barbara A. Schmitz from an interview with Debra Beglund by Jenny Faubert

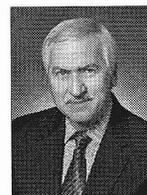
2014 Educator of the Year recipient, Debra Beglund discusses her passion for education and keeping students and teachers motivated. **p.17**



Jan Friedheim Receives the 2014 Imagine America Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award

By Barbara A. Schmitz from an interview with Jan Friedheim by Jenny Faubert

For her years of dedication and work, Friedheim was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award during the annual (APSCU) Convention and Expo in June. **p.21**



Holt



Norton

Admissions, Compliance and Financial Aid: Best Practices in Balancing Regulatory Requirements and Effectiveness

By Ron Holt, Co-Leader, Higher Education Practice, Dunn & Davison, LLC, Audrey Kaplan, Chief Compliance Officer and General Counsel,

Leadership Profiles

Herzing Degree Helps Gardner Help Others in Dakar, Senegal

Herzing University alumnus wins APSCU's Hall of Fame Award

By Barbara A. Schmitz from an interview with Audrey Jane Gardner by Jenny Faubert

Some students concentrate on just getting good grades when they are in college. But Audrey Jane Gardner also worked on doing good deeds.

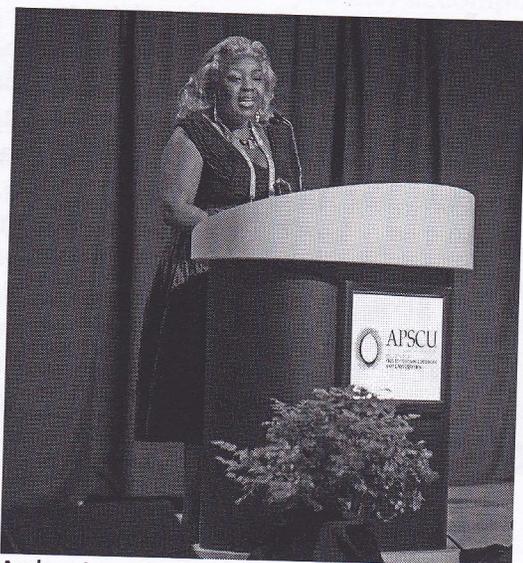
While attending Herzing University, Gardner founded the nonprofit Youth Action Without Borders (YAWB) that serves to educate, clothe, share modern farming techniques and improve health in rural areas in Dakar, Senegal in West Africa. In conjunction with the Croix-Rouge Red

Cross in Senegal, she also raises funds to provide mentorships, equipment and supplies, and educational and vocational opportunities for children who attend their camps.

"Our mission is to provide a multicultural experience for diversity," she says.

Gardner, the first U.S. citizen to hold the title of goodwill ambassador for the Croix-Rouge Red Cross organization, is passionate about her work helping children succeed despite the long odds against them. That is why she continues to visit Senegal five or six times a year to ensure that her mission is carried out.

As the recipient of the 2014 Hall of Fame Award from the Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities (APSCU), Gardner credits her success to Herzing University where she earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in 2011. The award, presented at the APSCU convention and exposition in June, recognizes a graduate of a private sector institution who has achieved noteworthy success in his or her chosen career field.



Audrey Jane Gardner, 2014 APSCU Hall of Fame Award recipient.



Touring the House of Slaves on Goree Island while learning about the Atlantic slave trade.

Graduating with an associate degree in 1992 from Massey Business College, which later was purchased by Herzing University, Gardner decided to get her bachelor's degree to help

her do her work in Senegal. She says Herzing provided her with the tools she needed to manage her nonprofit organization, especially in the areas of marketing, strategic planning, and day-to-day business applications.

Since she was now working for Delta Airlines, Herzing University also provided the perfect fit for her with its online courses, she says. She started back in school in 2009, the same year she founded YAWB.

"I often dreamed about having a successful career assisting youth," Gardner says. "But in order for me to achieve this goal, I had to continue my education. Herzing University Online made it possible for me to spread my knowledge..."

Gardner said her Herzing education gave her the tools that allowed her to give back. "I can now teach these values to others around the world

and make good, sound decisions,"

she says. "My online education has prepared me to solve problems, and

has enabled me to be independent while opening the doors (for the people of Senegal) to opportunities for a better quality of life."

Taking an online program was a great experience, she says. "You are not physically in the classroom setting, but everyone was able to communicate and respond with Blackboard, just like you were in a regular classroom," Gardner says. While she sometimes missed the direct student interaction, the flexibility in scheduling allowed her to finish her degree.

Gardner says she first went to Senegal in 2007 with her daughter Aiyana, and met with the first national vice president of the Croix-Rouge Red Cross. He said he had children attending a camp in August, so she went back then because she loves children.

Two years later, she officially founded Youth Action Without Borders in an attempt to make the Senegal people more self-sufficient. It is her hope that by educating them and giving them appropriate tools, they can pass those skills to future generations.

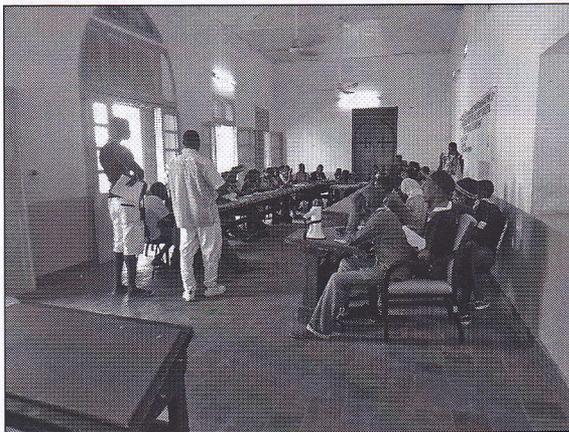
In addition, she works to empower women by building their self-confidence and encouraging them to believe that they can succeed if they are persistent.

She stresses she is not a missionary. "I am a humanitarian," she says.

No matter what you call her, it is obvious Gardner has made an impact on people.

"They look for me to come," Gardner says. "I have taken clothing, school supplies and heirloom seeds for them to plant. I have also taken medical supplies..." The heirloom seeds are from Lincoln University's Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Science.

During tough or frustrating times, all Gardner needs to do to remember why she is doing this — and that is to see children play.



Goree Island at the mayor's office.

"In Senegal, there is no grass in some locations, so they are out in the dirt playing soccer. They are still enjoying themselves, they are still eating and life is still going on," she says.

In other words, they make do with what they have. "Sometimes the children share one cup. They have nothing, but they are still happy."

For the future, Gardner has several hopes. One is to gain the support of others and find a sponsor to build recreation centers for the people.

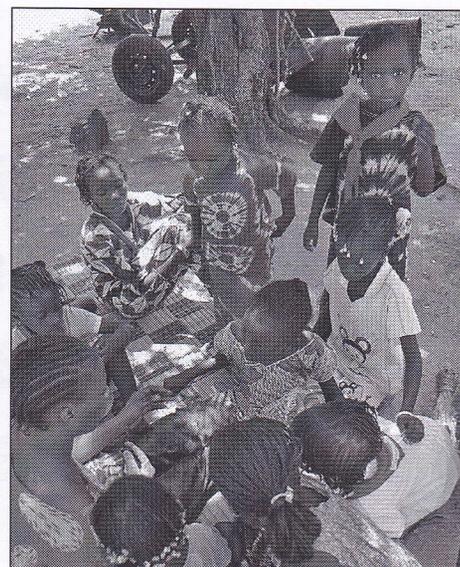
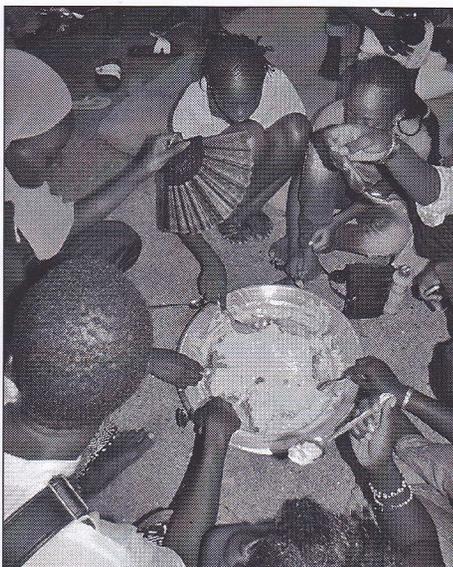
"I know most people build schools, but my thing is building recreation centers, not only for the children, but also for the elders," she says. "These centers would have tennis, swimming, gyms and different things that could bring the community together."

"I also hope that we continue a successful working relationship between the U.S.A. and Senegal, and that we can extend the organization to other borders," she says.

Garner says she is appreciative of the award. "I want to thank Aiyana and Mario, my son and my daughter, and my family. They have supported me. I also want to thank Herzing University for nominating me for this great award and then for the Hall of Fame. I am so humbled."

Gardner says one of her favorite songs is "Man in the Mirror" by the late Michael Jackson. The words include:

*I'm Starting With The Man In
The Mirror
I'm Asking Him To Change*



Children eating a snack after a hard day of activities and events.

His Ways

*And No Message Could Have
Been Any Clearer
If You Wanna Make The World
A Better Place
Take A Look At Yourself, And
Then Make A Change.*

She takes those words to heart. As a single parent, Gardner says she hopes to motivate others, not only to get an education, but also to volunteer and give back.

"I'm not a 501(c)(3)," she says. "But if you believe in what you are doing, you can accomplish it. Take what you have learned from (your alma mater) and ... give it back to the world."

REFER:

For more information about YAWB visit <http://www.youthawb.org>

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