

LEON COOPER

MINNEAPOLIS ACADEMY

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CHARTER SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

- 2011 Founder & Developer
HENNEPIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Kindergarten-Sixth Grade
- 2004 -Present Academy Director
MINNEAPOLIS ACADEMY
College Preparatory Middle School, Grades 5-8
- 2003-2004 Founder & Developer
MINNEAPOLIS ACADEMY
College Preparatory Middle School, Grades 5-8

DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

- 1998-2003 Fundraising Consultant, Capital Campaigns and Major Gifts
- Served as counsel to nonprofit organizations in resource development, fundraising management and organization, and board and constituency relations.
1. American Red Cross, Minneapolis
 2. Goodwill Industries
 3. Harvest Preparatory School/Seed Academy
 4. Kids First Foundation
 5. St. Thomas Academy
 6. Wilderness Inquiry
- 1994-1997 Campaign Director, Project EarthSense
- \$25 million Capital Campaign for five Minnesota Residential Environmental Learning Centers
- Organized and directed the private sector portion of the largest Minnesota public/private partnership for residential environmental education.
 - Participated in the strategy, cultivation, and solicitation of major gifts to the campaign.
 - Direct responsibility for expanding and strengthening the Campaign Steering Committee.
 - Responsible for developing all campaign publications and materials, and conducting special events.

- 1992 Executive Director, Minnesota Zoo Foundation – Apple Valley, Minnesota
- Responsible for all cultivation and solicitation of donor prospects for Minnesota’s largest environmental learning center. Repositioned Development Office by providing clear direction and goals for fundraising from all sources (corporations, foundations, and individuals).
- Exceeded 1991 unrestricted revenues in six months.
 - Increased Board gifts by 300%
 - Increased corporate giving by 200%
- 1991 Board Secretariat, Associate Director
\$25 Million Campaign for Artistic Excellence,
 The Guthrie Theater Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Reported directly to the Campaign Director. Direct responsibility for the telephone solicitation of more than 600 major donor prospects on behalf of the Board of Directors to negotiate meetings for formal campaign presentations.
- Executed a campaign completion strategy unprecedented in the Twin cities in its timetable, structure, techniques, and scope.
 - Successfully negotiated 296 prospects for Board/staff presentations evaluated as the bottom constituency with major potential.
 - \$3.6 million raised from these Board Secretariat-arranged calls.
- 1990 & 1993 Loaned Executive, United Way of the St. Paul Area
 Sponsored by the St. Paul Companies & Health East Corporation

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

- 1983-1988 Founder, President, and Chief Operating Officer
 Diagnostic Health Services, Inc. – Dallas, Texas
- DHS provides diagnostic ultrasound testing services to all segments of the health care industry. The company owns mobile and standing laboratories, specializing in cardiovascular, abdominal, and obstetrical/gynecological evaluation.
- Secured the capital to form a new corporation
 - Conceived, organized, and established the company in Dallas (1983).
 - Annual revenues reached \$3 million in 1988.
 - Presided over expansion that established DHS as the largest provider of mobile ultrasound services in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and the state of Iowa.

TEACHING AND COACHING

- 1991-1992 Women’s Wheelchair Basketball Coach
 Rolling Timberwolves
National Runner-Up 1992
 Courage Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 1980-1981 Assistant Men’s Basketball Coach and Women’s Team Tennis Coach
 Linfield College – McMinnville, Oregon

- 1978-1980 History Teacher and Boys' Varsity Basketball Coach
Singapore American High School - Republic of Singapore
Undefeated and Number One Ranked HS in Southeast Asia, 1979-1980
- 1970-1978 Social Studies Teacher and Basketball Coach
Red Hill Middle School - San Anselmo, California

EDUCATION AND TRAVEL

- 2005 Strategic Management for Charter School Leaders
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
John F. Kennedy School of Government
- 1980-1981 Master of Education
Linfield College - McMinnville, Oregon
- 1978-1980 Extensive travel in Southeast Asia, including the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Borneo, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka
- 1974-1975 Study and travel in Russia, Greece, Turkey, and Israel (six-months residence in Jerusalem); leave of absence from teaching position
- 1969 Standard Secondary Teaching Credential
California State University - Northridge, California
- 1967-1968 Student travel throughout Western, Central, and Eastern Europe, encompassing twenty-five countries
- 1965 Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science
California State University - Northridge, California

TEACHING LICENSURE

California Standard Secondary Teaching Credential
Minnesota 7-12 Social Studies Teaching License

AWARDS & RECOGNITION *

- 2009 SAINT ALBERTO HURTADO AWARD, *for Leadership in Addressing Social Problems Through Education*
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School - Twin Cities
- 2000 AMERICAN RED CROSS RECOGNITION, *in grateful appreciation for successfully directing the three million dollar Capital Campaign for the Chapter's new headquarters on the downtown riverfront.*
American Red Cross, Minneapolis Area Chapter