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In her current role as director of the United Way Youth Venture (UWYV) program at Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) in north central Massachusetts (think trees and lakes), Lauren is responsible for a life-changing school program (she's not the founder so technically it's okay to brag) that teaches young people ages 10 to 22 how to create their own nonprofit social ventures. Working with close to 8,500 area youth across 17 K-12 schools and a community college (with an impossibly small grant-funded budget), Lauren has found a role that magically combines all of her interests (entrepreneurship, facilitation, mentoring, common sense, giving back), educational background (B.S. in political science from Northeastern University and MBA from Suffolk University), and work experience (that includes running the IOM program). Lauren is thrilled to be a part of MWCC's efforts to spark entrepreneurial spirit in young people and cultivate their inspiring self-directed (yes, they really run it on their own) community Ventures (over 300 of them).

Lauren's varied work experience includes nine years of nonprofit management, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Organization Management; managing global membership for CoreNet Global, an international association of corporate real estate executives; higher education; and healthcare administration. A lover of lifelong experiential learning, Lauren has worked in a variety of industries and roles (this is what happens when you attend a college with a cooperative education program) including working for the Governor of MA and an European Union MEP, staffing (looking at hundreds of resumes every day will help you to become great at editing resumes and cover letters), accounting (her husband gets free labor), law, construction management, retail, and manufacturing. Lauren is a devoted New England Patriots fan, has a lead foot, despises squirrels, and is raising two imaginative and silly little girls (Vivienne, four and Avery, one) with her husband Chris (entrepreneur and graphic designer). When she's not working or child-wrangling, you can probably find her with her nose in a book (goal to read 100 this year), spending time with family, or teaching at a neighborhood adult education center.