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MEMBER PROFILE - SEPTEMBER 2002

Carolyn M. Bruna

“Successful communication should be an integral part of people’s lives,” says Carolyn Bruna, a speaking and writing coach, who has transitioned from the educational world into the business community. Carolyn’s academic background, her professional achievements, and her extensive travels have equipped her to help her clients speak clearly and succinctly, to reach a comfort level when speaking in front of others, and to produce written material which is clear, concise and grammatically correct. Noting that these skills are important in business as well as socially, Carolyn is currently developing her client base locally and globally. One of Carolyn’s goals is helping women improve their lives and attract success by achieving better communication skills. Her business, “Success Skills,” incorporates strategies that are applicable to the global community.

Carolyn’s background is uniquely appropriate for her current entrepreneurial goals. With an undergraduate degree in English, a Master’s in Reading Diagnosis and Remediation, and postgraduate work in speech communication and in theater, she comes to the coaching field with expertise in all areas of the English language. Her professional experience is impressive and varied. Carolyn is the author of “Reading for Better Comprehension,” a text for middle and high school students published by American Guidance Services. A reading specialist in the public schools for a number of years, she was president of the Prince George’s County Reading Association and served on the state board of the Maryland Reading Association for 11 years. While working with adults, Carolyn won awards for leadership skills and organized workplace training programs for teachers and administrators of the school community. As the director of an internship program, she placed high school students in internships in the business community; as director of a community outreach program, she recruited volunteers and established liaison programs. She was an adjunct professor at Towson University and a writing instructor at Prince George’s Community College. She even taught an adult course in writing to lawyers.

Carolyn enjoys the combination of writing and speaking, as well as the flexibility of creating her own business. “Women in Transition,” her special presentation for Laurel Cable, is in production; she has subbed for the cable news anchor and has served as MC of a Town Fair on the Laurel News Network. Carolyn calls “seeing clients polish their communication skills and advance to greater career status” the best part of her current work. She enjoys seeing people from a variety of backgrounds and learning what’s important to them. She believes that women in all countries wish to achieve on their own in order to feel independent and gain a sense of self-worth.

A relatively recent WBO member, Carolyn finds WBO women friendly, supportive and inspiring. A Philadelphia native, Carolyn has been in Maryland since she graduated from college. She loves theater, art museums and traveling. Currently a docent at the National Museum for Women in the Arts, she also volunteers at the Strathmore Hall Arts Center.