

Be Happy With the Work You Are Doing

By Jessica Lee Irwin, BCABA
CEO and Founder of S.E.E.K. Arizona

Jessica Lee Irwin is CEO of S.E.E.K. Arizona, a successful health and human services agency that specializes in assisting children with special needs throughout the Phoenix-metropolitan area. She founded S.E.E.K. over eight years ago, and has utilized her ASU Bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Sociology to build a company with over 150 employees serving over 300 clients. In December, 2011, Jessica graduated from the Mary Lou Fulton College of Education. She received her Master's degree in Education with a concentration in behavior analysis that will lead her to becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

Ms. Irwin employs dozens of ASU students and alumni, and willingly shares the pitfalls and successes of being a young entrepreneur to those staff that inquire. "No matter what degree you receive," says Jessica, "you can achieve success with it". Jessica is proof-positive of that: with undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Sociology, she had many skeptics who told her those degrees would prevent her from achieving any significant professional goals. With three locations and an expanding company, there is no doubt of Jessica's fiscal success. "More important than that," Jessica explains, "you must be happy with the work you are doing."



Jessica welcomes ASU applicants, and is proud to offer job opportunities to students and alumni of her alma mater. "To work in a Human Services field," Jessica explains, "you need a combination of patience, creativity, organization, and professionalism--but most of all, patience." For young professionals hoping to enter a field helping others, Jessica looks for a combination of education, experience, and personality. "I need to see that a potential employee working with a client with special needs has the learning and hands-on background, but more importantly, they have to want to be there--genuinely want to help." Ms. Irwin cautions against entering into social professions for the wrong reasons. "It's better to be honest with yourself. If you're financially motivated, a different career path would better suit you. If you're motivated because you care about people--we welcome you!"