

# Where Are They Now?

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## What is your name?

Jill N. Jones

## Where do you currently live?

I currently live in Charlottesville, VA.

## What year did you graduate from Brookville High School?

I graduated in 2005.

## Did you attend and graduate from the Miami Valley Career Technology Center (CTC)?

No.



## What is your current Occupation?

I work for Hanover Research as a Senior Research Analyst. I design and analyze survey instruments for K12 school districts across the country. These surveys are sent to district/school stakeholders (e.g. parents, students, staff and teachers) to measure stakeholder perceptions. For example, some surveys assess school climate, technology integration efforts, or stakeholder satisfaction. The survey results help inform school or district decision making. As a senior researcher, I help mentor and train new survey/K12 researchers; this mentoring responsibility, along with helping districts make data-based decisions, are two of the most rewarding components of my job.

## What was your post high school education or training?

In 2009 I earned my B.S. from Case Western Reserve University in Management and Organizational Behavior. In 2011, I earned my M.A. from the University of Maryland (College Park) in Higher Education. I am currently enrolled at the University of Virginia finishing up my Ph.D. in higher education with a concentration in quantitative (yay math!) and qualitative research methods.

## What was your favorite high school course?

It's hard to pick just one! I really enjoyed psychology, anatomy, and all math-related coursework. While I found psychology and anatomy fascinating from a personal standpoint, my math-related courses fostered a love and passion for applied math. Not surprisingly, this is a core component of my current job. Outside the classroom, cross country and track were truly formative experiences for me. Setting goals, plans to achieve those goals, being a captain and working with a team helped me develop important transferable skills and learn some really important life lessons. Huge thanks to Mrs. Stammen and Mr. Brown who were coaches at the time.

## What do today's students need to know?

With regard to professional advice, set your goals high and allow yourself to fall in love with something else along the way. During college, I wanted to become an upper-level university administrator (e.g. President) which meant pursuing advanced degrees. While pursuing these interests I fell in love with conducting education research. Previously, I did not enjoy writing and never imagined doing anything beyond my bachelor's degree. Now I'm working on my Ph.D., I can't seem to leave the classroom setting (in some capacity), and I really enjoy writing. In summary, keep an open mind about your professional future and capacity and know that you can acquire any skills with a positive mindset.

With regard to more personal advice, setting personal values has been really helpful for my personal and emotional development. For example, being kind to myself and others is one of my core values. That is, I practice forgiving myself when I make mistakes, being mindful of negative self-talk and treating others with respect and kindness. Emotional health is important and, for me, a commitment to kindness helps me create a positive emotional outlook and appreciate myself, my friends and family members along the way.