

JILL
NADISON

The impact of **SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**

We had the opportunity to talk to Jill about the role social enterprises like Reed can play in the business community and society as a whole.



ISTMO EDITORIAL
DEPARTMENT

Jill Nadison is a board member of the Reed Foundation for Autism, an organization dedicated to supporting individuals with autism so they can thrive and achieve their full potential throughout their lives. On this edition of IPADE's International Week, we had the opportunity to talk to Jill about the role social enterprises like Reed can play in the business community and society as a whole. Jill reminded us of the importance of having all members of society achieve true autonomy, emphasizing that the whole society will benefit from creating opportunities for those who are least advantaged, as they can become contributing members of their communities and society as a whole.

Starting in 2003 as a private, non-profit school for individuals with autism aged 3-21, the Reed Foundation for Autism was fully established in 2016 to advance public awareness and raise funds to support the Reed Autism Services family of programs, which together emphasize the importance of creative thinking, a refusal to accept the status quo, and a desire to build critical and successful opportunities for people with autism. Ultimately, the Reed Foundation for Autism is committed to providing individuals with autism the opportunity to learn, live, work, and thrive at every stage of their lives, focusing on individuals, striving for excellence, and fostering a sense of community.

What is the purpose of the Reed Foundation for Autism?

The purpose of the Reed Foundation for Autism is to provide services to children and adults with autism. We provide school-based services for individuals aged 3-21. We provide adult services in a program for individuals from 21 years old and up, and we also provide 24/7 residential opportunities in group homes. As part of our mission, we feel very strongly about providing job opportunities for adults with autism and many job training opportunities for the kids that go through our school program.

In your experience working at Reed, how would you define the role leadership plays in closing social gaps?

In our roles at the Reed Foundation for Autism, whether we are board members or members of



Jill Nadison

the staff at the different organizations, it is really our social responsibility to provide the best quality education and services for people with autism. We feel very strongly about that mission. We are committed to ensuring that, as kids grow up and they become adults, they are contributing members of our community and our society. And part of our responsibility is to help provide them with jobs and with opportunities to live that are outside of their home.

Do you think that social enterprises can play a relevant role in future business scenarios?

I think that social enterprise has a tremendous impact on communities. Social enterprises play a critical role in both organizations and the community. Part of the purpose of our social enterprise is to ensure that we are giving back and providing the foundation for those services to live in perpetuity, to live forever.

Why is it important to bring together MBA students from business schools around the world to talk about leadership and sustainability?

I think it is fantastic to gather MBA students from around the world to talk about sustainability and

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leadership because they are creative, incredible minds. They are reading about cases that are current. They are learning about new philosophies and new strategies that are current and that we can all as business leaders learn from and employ in our organizations.

How would you describe your experience during the International Week at IPADE?

My experience at IPADE has been empowering, considering the experiences that I hear from both the professors and the students. I have been empowered by the incredible ideas that people are sharing outside of the classroom, and it has made me really think of a hundred more new ideas. I am really taken aback by the level of incredible professionalism that people have shown throughout the conference. </>