

FELLOWSHIP FOR EMERGING LEADERS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

A PROGRAM OF THE RESEARCH CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

NYUWagner

Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service

**2009
FELLOWSHIP FACEBOOK**

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2009 FELLOWS

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| Jeremy Tibbetts | MS 260 The Clinton School for Writers and Artists |
| Michael Woodruff | Vera Institute of Justice |

2009 FELLOWSHIP STAFF

Megan Golden, Director
Moschell Coffey, Project Assistant

Career Guides
Melanca Clark
Michael Gross
Joshua Klainberg
Graham Macmillan
Krystal Reyes
Dawn Saffayeh

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Jamie Alter

Research Assistant at RMC Research

Jamie Alter graduated two years ago magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor's in English and a concentration in journalism. During her freshman year, she joined a campus literacy program called Write On, where Penn mentors work with West Philadelphia middle school students to foster their imaginative expression. Inspired by the student's passion and creativity, Jamie co-founded a second Write On chapter and served as its director from her sophomore to senior year. She continued her work with urban students over the summer as a teacher for the Breakthrough Collaborative, a national non-profit that increases educational opportunity for high-potential, low-income middle school students. During Jamie's senior year of college, she decided to delve into the world of education policy, so that she could make an impact on the lives of a broader population of urban students. Jamie interned for the Center for Greater Philadelphia, an applied public policy unit of the University of Pennsylvania, and the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition, where she helped coordinate a task force of Philadelphia organizations committed to improving educational and developmental outcomes for children and youth.

Jamie has continued her work in education policy as a Research Assistant for RMC Research, a national education consulting company. At RMC, she works on a federally-funded project called the New York Comprehensive Center (NYCC), one of sixteen regional centers that provides technical assistance and professional development to state education leaders. Specifically, Jamie is a member of NYCC's teacher quality team, where she assists in organizing and facilitating a collaborative composed of deans and professors from twenty teacher preparation programs and high-level representatives from the NY State Education Department, NYC Department of Education, and Mayor's Office. Jamie helps to plan meetings and seminars where members of the collaborative critically assess the state of teacher quality in NYC and investigate research-based solutions to the city's major teacher preparation, recruitment, and retention issues. She is also helping manage a special work group of education experts that will provide strategic recommendations to the NYS Board of Regents to improve statewide, urban teacher policies.

Outside of work, Jamie volunteers for the Children's Aid Society's Social Issues and Advocacy Committee organizing public education programs related to improving youth development. She also participates in event planning and development for Emerging Education Equality. In her free time, Jamie enjoys going to the theater, trying new restaurants, and reading political non-fiction.

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Harini Angara
Program Coordinator at Behind the Book

Harini Angara is the program coordinator at Behind the Book, a literacy nonprofit that brings curriculum-integrated author visit programs to K-12 public schools in NYC. Harini balances a variety of responsibilities, including organizing and implementing author visits at a Bronx high school and several elementary classrooms. Her work in program management involves finding authors whose work resonates with students and suits class curricula and corresponding with authors and teachers to ensure that visits are successful. Harini built a volunteer program from the ground up, recruiting and orienting volunteers to assist teachers and staff in elementary classrooms and Behind the Book's special events. Harini is also involved in fundraising and development. She writes and edits grant proposals and collaborates with the board of directors in implementing special events and projects, such as the organization's newsletter and the annual benefit. Beginning in January, Harini will manage all grant-writing efforts for the organization.

Harini graduated from Columbia University in 2007 with a B.A. in English Literature, focusing specifically on literature of the British Empire. She spent a semester studying abroad in Dublin, Ireland, where she learned about Irish literature and history. While at Columbia, Harini became interested in issues of educational equity. For two years, she volunteered, and eventually served as coordinator for a health education program for middle school students in Harlem. She also taught for a summer enrichment program for 3rd graders at a Baltimore public school, through an education initiative run by Johns Hopkins University and later taught summer school for 6th graders in the Bronx. Harini also interned for a summer for Teach For America, working on internal communications for its NYC summer training institute. While at Columbia, Harini worked as a resident adviser and was a member of the campus chapter of Amnesty International. Harini is currently involved in her university's alumni association, through which she occasionally speaks on career panels and at networking events about nonprofit work.

Apart from work, Harini serves on the NYC board of the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network, where she manages member relations. She also volunteers as a college mentor for the Urban Dove, a nonprofit that runs college access programs for NYC public school students. In her free time, Harini enjoys spending time with friends, exploring NYC, and visiting her family in the Hudson Valley.

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Hilary Beber

Policy Analyst at NYC's Mayor's Office

Hilary graduated cum laude from Cornell University with a B.S. in Environmental Engineering Technology and a minor in Applied Economics Management. Throughout her tenure at Cornell, Hilary seized various opportunities related to her passion for the environment: she was an active member of Kyoto Now, an influential environmental group on campus; she served as the Environmental Chair of her sorority; and she participated in several volunteer programs geared toward environmental protection. To maintain her interests post-academia, Hilary volunteers with the Office of Recycling Outreach and Education in New York City, staffing various recycling events around the City.

Following graduation, Hilary worked for an organic cleaning product company, developing a variety of marketing campaigns. She found it rewarding to educate consumers on the dangers of household chemicals and the benefits of using all-natural, organic cleaners. She helped the company grow from a small operation to a large, flourishing business.

Hilary is currently a Policy Analyst in the NYC Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability. The Office is charged with implementing PlanNYC, the City's 25-year sustainability outline. The initiatives of PlanNYC combine to provide a roadmap to achieve a 30% reduction in greenhouse gases and to improve our air quality, water quality and increase our transportation options. Hilary works specifically on energy initiatives. Presently, Hilary is working on a package of legislation to address energy efficiency in existing buildings. She also participates in and assists with the management of a 150-person technical taskforce that is working to identify impediments and propose improvements to green building in New York City's construction codes.

Hilary is an enthusiastic traveler. She has spent summers traveling through Costa Rica, Australia, and the Arctic. Additionally, during her junior year, Hilary studied abroad in Seville, Spain, providing her the chance to learn in an international context and travel throughout various countries in Europe. Hilary is excited to continue her career in public service and is eager to participate in the FELPS program to learn and grow with like-minded individuals.

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Isabelle Brantley

Analyst, Strategic Planning Division at the NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation & Development

As both a professional and community member, Isabelle Brantley has demonstrated a commitment to public service. In particular, Isabelle has shown an interest in helping public institutions deliver greater customer service and improving the climate for affordable housing in New York City. Isabelle Brantley currently serves as an Analyst within the Strategic Planning Division of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), where she has assisted in implementing a number of agency priority projects. Isabelle has analyzed agency policies and operations through diverse methods including excel modeling, interviewing stake holders, and data interpretation. In addition to framing problems and deciphering information, Isabelle has helped craft recommendations and implement institutional changes. Isabelle recently managed a team of eight staff members in an effort to conduct outreach and collect applications for housing vouchers. She has also assisted in launching new reporting and tracking systems, training staff, and creating materials to better communicate agency policies. Through her role on the Strategic Planning team, Isabelle has developed the skill set necessary to execute all stages of the project life cycle, from framing the initial scope to working collaboratively to deliver change.

Before beginning her career at HPD, Isabelle was awarded a Jefferson Scholarship to University for Virginia on the basis of leadership, citizenship, and scholarship. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from UVA in spring 2007 with a BA in American Studies and Spanish. While at UVA, she pursued her academic interests as an Echols Scholars in the university honors program. Other achievements include receiving the Woody T Braxton Fellowship for excellence in study of Spanish, admittance into the Raven Society, and the award of Highest Distinction for her senior honors thesis.

Outside of the university classroom, Isabelle became increasingly involved in community service through helping to lead organizations that addressed language access for recent immigrants, rural poverty, and race relations. As the Head Program Director of a 200 volunteer English-language tutoring program, Isabelle navigated the challenges inherent in providing crucial services to migrant workers and their families. As the Vice Chair of the student group Sustained Dialogue, Isabelle facilitated discussions in between students of diverse backgrounds in order to improve race relations on campus. During the summer of 2006, Isabelle taught Humanities classes at the East Harlem School with the support of a public service grant from the UVA Parents' Program. *Arts and Sciences* magazine highlighted Isabelle's achievements on the cover of the January 2007 edition. Now a Brooklyn resident, Isabelle enjoys exploring New York, cooking, reading, and painting.

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Nonya Collier

Special Assistant to the Bureau of Communications at the NYC Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene

Nonya is an emerging professional with a passion for building public-private partnerships. Drawing from a background in community organizing and public policy, she has worked in public health, alternative energy, and economic development to assist institutions in building organizational collaborations with underserved communities. Her commitment to social justice has been fuelled by the widespread disadvantage and disparagement she witnessed growing up in Baltimore as well as the contagious perseverance of the contemporary civil rights advocates who have coached her.

Nonya graduated from Spelman College with a B.A. in Sociology. She used her experience as a HIV educator to write her senior thesis on health education in Baltimore high schools, allowing her to garner the Outstanding Thesis award in 2005. Also while in Atlanta, she served at the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, where she helped strategize outreach on Medicare Part D prescription coverage to Native American, HIV-positive and Asian American communities. She went on to be accepted as the 2005-06 Health and Sustainable Development Fellow of the Greenlining Institute. In this capacity, Nonya led a multi-million dollar partnership between the Pacific Gas and Electric and a diverse coalition of California civic leaders that worked to improve consumer education initiatives, increase contracts to minority businesses, and strengthen the impact of charitable contributions. After returning to Baltimore to study health policy at Johns Hopkins University, Nonya joined the New York City Health Department as Community Affairs Coordinator, where she developed strategy for the agency's local outreach initiatives and led a four-month educational campaign on West Nile Virus in high- risk communities across the city.

She is currently the Special Assistant to the Bureau of Communications at the New York City Health Department, where she addresses communications policy issues such as emergency response planning and improving access to services for New Yorkers who do not speak English. She is also a founding member of the New York City Collaborative for Fairness and Equity in Philanthropy, a coalition of community organizations and foundations working to encourage more philanthropic giving to underserved communities. She hopes that through the work of the partnership, organizations will collaborate more to build multi-level strategies to address the problems of the city's most in-need communities. Nonya is an active member of the River Church and a volunteer at Covenant House's art-therapy program for previously-homeless teen mothers. Nonya lives by the words of E.B. White: "I get up every morning determined to both change the world and have one hell of a good time." She is a proud aunt, an aspiring karaoke star, and a connoisseur of soul food.

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Caitlin Dean
Founder of Girl Guides USA

Caitlin Dean is the founder of Girl Guides USA, a new non-profit outdoors program emphasizing youth empowerment, teamwork and environmentalism. Caitlin was a Girl Guide in Belgium when she was younger, and she cites it as one of the best experiences of her life. Recognizing the need for such a program for American girls as well, Caitlin decided to start a similar organization in New York City. Girl Guides USA was incorporated in July 2008 and launched its pilot group the following December for girls in fourth through tenth grades. Girl Guides USA has already been profiled on local blogs, featured on News 12 Brooklyn, and awarded a grant from DoSomething.org. Caitlin and Girl Guides USA were also recently selected for New York Women Social Entrepreneurs' "Incubator Program," a workshop series and support network for young social enterprises.

Caitlin graduated with honors from Yale in 2005 with a degree in Political Science and International Studies. She then moved abroad and started "Bulldogs in Brussels," a summer internship program for Yale students, serving as Program Director for its first year. While in Brussels, Caitlin also wrote for Dow Jones Newswires on a range of European political and economic issues. Caitlin then moved to Washington, D.C. where she was a member of U.S. Senator Dick Durbin's legislative staff, working primarily on constituent relations in the areas of foreign and military policy.

At her graduation from Yale, Caitlin was awarded the Roosevelt L. Thompson Prize, "for a senior for dedication to public service, who has exemplified warmth, fairness and compassion, and shows promise for moral leadership in the public sphere." Caitlin has been involved in projects serving her local, national and global communities. In high school she chaired her town's Youth Advisory Board, in college she mentored inner-city middle-school girls, and while living in Belgium after graduation she was part of a companion group working with mentally disabled adults. Over the years Caitlin has also done humanitarian and service work in Guatemala, Ghana, and France.

A rugby player in college, Caitlin now prefers activities that do not end with a trip to the radiologist – including biking, jogging, hiking and camping. She is certified in Wilderness First Aid and Red Cross First Aid and CPR, and trained to lead youth outdoors trips. Caitlin is an amateur photographer, and she also enjoys cooking and reading. Caitlin loves to travel – she has been to nearly 25 countries and has bicycled across the U.S., and she speaks fluent French and elementary Dutch.

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Connor Donohue
Dean of Students at Prep for Prep

Connor Donohue is currently the Dean of Students at Prep for Prep, a 30-year-old nonprofit organization located in Manhattan. Prep is a long-term investment strategy to develop the leadership potential of highly gifted young people from the under-represented demographics of the nation's leadership pool.

As Dean of Students, Connor manages a wide-range of responsibilities. For over 200 students he provides social, behavioral, and academic counseling. During the critical placement process with competitive independent schools, Connor advises families on suitable matches through analysis of behavior, ability, and general interest. Then, during the financial aid process, Connor performs the analysis of tax records, unaccounted for personal funds, and individual special circumstances for each family. Additionally, Connor serves as the direct point of contact for financial aid officers at the 40 independent schools with which Prep for Prep works. Connor's core competency is taking front-line actions that coordinate, select, and deliver the appropriate service to address the complex needs of students, parents, and elite independent schools. He also quickly establishes a credible rapport and trust in any business relationship.

Prior to being promoted to Dean, Connor worked at Prep in Leadership Development Opportunities where he participated in internship placement, college guidance, and leadership development retreats. Most notably, however, he headed up the summer camp scholarship program. In his first year, he expanded the program from 60 spots to over 80 through direct personal outreach to various camps in the northeast. This was the largest single-year expansion in Prep for Prep history.

Before landing at Prep, Connor graduated magna cum laude from Connecticut College with majors in English and Music Performance. At Connecticut he was awarded the Lavinia Hull Smith Prize, given to the school's top music student. During his senior year, he conceived of and implemented a music tutoring service for underprivileged students in the New London public elementary schools. While recruiting volunteers at Connecticut College and the US Coast Guard Academy, he also acted as the primary liaison to both school and district-wide administrators.

In his free time, Connor plays in a basketball league and continues to pursue musical outlets. Fresh off a 2008 fantasy football championship, Connor is energized to be a member of the FELPS program and looks forward to an expanding view of public service.

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Andy Felder

Special Projects Coordinator at Lutheran Family Health Centers

As Special Projects Coordinator for Lutheran Family Health Centers (LFHC), Andy Felder is responsible for providing vital technical support to the senior leadership team in the administration of the largest network of federally qualified community health centers (FQHC) in NY State and one of the largest in the nation. Andy contributes to the oversight, administration and quality management of a broad continuum of culturally competent preventive, primary and specialty medical care, dentistry, HIV/AIDS services, behavioral health and community-based services provided in 650,000 annual patient visits to 91,000 residents of some of NYC's most ethnically diverse and medically underserved communities.

On an ongoing basis, Andy coordinates and oversees fulfillment of all administrative obligations associated with LFHC's FQHC status and \$7.5 million federal contract including annual Public Health Law Section 330 grant submission, annual federal performance reporting and auditing, and Federal Tort Claims Act deeming. His work has afforded Andy an outstanding foundation of knowledge and skills in public health theory, management, and policy, as well as a superlative understanding of his organization. Andy has coordinated and contributed extensively to a broad array of LFHC's public relations and external affairs initiatives including gala fundraisers, annual reports, videos, op-eds, and press conferences. He drives various advocacy efforts on LFHC's behalf, lobbying city, state, and federal government to expand access to primary care for underserved communities. Additionally, Andy is the coordinator of a coalition of community – and faith-based agencies working together to increase utilization of cancer screening services among underserved populations in Brooklyn, and he is authoring a book about the history of LFHC.

Prior to joining LFHC in August of 2006, Andy was the Development Associate for the National Association for Facial Reconstruction. He has served on the Advisory Board of the Young Nonprofit Professional Network of New York as External Affairs Chair. Andy also has been an intern with the Central Philadelphia Development Corporation, a volunteer communications assistant with New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, and volunteer program assistant with the Lutheran Medical Center. A native of Philadelphia, Andy graduated from Temple University in 2005 with a BA in Classics. He remains a devoted fan of the Philadelphia Eagles and Phillies and loves watching his home teams play against New York. He also enjoys reading nonfiction, playing chess, flying kites, and hanging out with his nieces.

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Smita Ghosh

Paralegal at the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund

Smita Ghosh is a Paralegal at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., where she assists with research and administration related to the Fund's education cases. She annotates daily lists of education-related news stories for e-mail distribution to the office, and also wrote a memo on student achievement and integration in schools run by the Department of Defense. Smita is interested in racial justice, environmental activism, education policy and, more generally, how expertise in research and the law can strengthen community organizations. She previously worked with the Urban Justice Center to create a survey research project for Mothers on the Move, a partner organization in the South Bronx.

Smita attended Swarthmore College, where she studied in History and Psychology in the college honors program. At Swarthmore, Smita was a Copy Editor and Columnist at the school newspaper, and worked part-time as a Writing Associate and in the College's library. She was the student representative in the College's curriculum committee and also wrote and edited a story for War News Radio, a student-run news radio program.

Smita grew up in New York but tragically moved to Illinois with her family when she was 17. She currently lives in Brooklyn. She volunteers at Sakhi for South Asian Women, an organization that works to prevent domestic violence in the local South Asian community. She enjoys spending time with children and investigating maps and old photos. Her favorite train is New York City's Q Train.

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Russell Gordon

Community Outreach Manager at the American Lung Association of New York

Originally hailing from the Bronx, NY, in 2006, Russell graduated from Dartmouth College with a major in Sociology. Managing leadership roles in various service outlets such as Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the Tucker Foundation, and Hanover Parks and Recreation, his undergraduate experience culminated with him being elected President of the Dartmouth Afro-American Society during his senior year. Inspired by a service trip to the Gulf Coast in order assist with the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, Russell decided that upon graduation his time would be best spent in service to a philanthropic organization.

Russell is currently Community Outreach Manager for the American Lung Association of New York. In his tenure, Russell has helped spearhead the pilot year of the Superkids Summer Experience program which provided a cost-free asthma management curriculum and day camp service to the largest youth segment of asthma sufferers in the county, residents of Central Harlem. Motivated to make a tangible impact on his local community Russell is currently engaged in a numerous projects in hopes of targeting future leaders to partner and foster positive and influential collective action.

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Micaela Gutierrez

Director of Special Programs at Community League of the Heights

Micaela Gutierrez is the Director of Special Programs at Community League of the Heights, a nonprofit organization in Washington Heights. She oversees the Youth, Economic Development, and Social Services programs. As Director of Special Programs, Micaela has assisted local merchants with developing a merchants association, obtained a street cleaning service for Broadway merchants through a competitive SBS* program, developed a mission statement, policy manual and evaluation system for the Afterschool Education Program, and assisted with fundraising over \$250,000 for programs at Community League.

Previous to her position at Community League, Micaela coordinated a free child-care program at the Center for Community Partnerships, while obtaining her BA in economics from Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT. As an undergraduate student at Wesleyan, in 2004, Micaela co-founded Para La Familia, a student organization that attempts to bridge the language barrier and cultural divide between Spanish speaking families and the University. Para La Familia received Wesleyan's Exceptional Program of the Year Award two years in a row, in 2006 and 2007. At the end of her senior year, Micaela was awarded the Janina Montero prize from Wesleyan for demonstrating leadership and a commitment to Wesleyan's academic and intellectual enterprise, and for promoting the health, visibility and participation of the Latino community at Wesleyan.

Micaela was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina where she resided until 1999 when she moved to Washington DC. She moved to New York after graduating from Wesleyan University in May of 2007. She currently works and resides in Washington Heights.

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Whitney Hampton

Manager of Children's and Corporate Programs at New York Cares

After growing up in Rockland County, New York, Whitney Hampton started her foray into public service after high school, when she completed a term of service of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps. Ten months on the DC campus went by way too fast! After graduating with an English / Hispanic Studies degree from the College of William & Mary, Whitney accepted a job with KaBOOM!, a national nonprofit that builds playgrounds across North America.

Four years with KaBOOM! sent Whitney to 27 US states, Canada, Mexico, and Puerto Rico and provided her with a really random, sometimes useful skill set (how to build a picnic table, what brand of sump pump is best, how to get through airport security really fast). The experience of working with community groups and private funders cemented a love of community development, while organizing one-day playground projects led to a strong belief in the power of volunteers and a solid proficiency in event management. Whitney also loved living in San Francisco during those four years, exploring the city and meeting lots of Left Coasters.

An itch to get back to the East Coast brought Whitney back to New York, when she accepted a position as Children's Program Manager with New York Cares. Currently, Whitney organizes the volunteer projects involving Children's Recreation including sports, cooking, and field trip programs. As she explores volunteering herself with New York Cares, she's excited to start her role as a Volunteer Tax Preparer this tax season in East Harlem.

After four and a half years in the Public Service sector, Whitney is excited to re-energize her career and perhaps discover other ways to make public service a strong part of her life and career. She's looking forward to meeting and getting to know her co-fellows, as well as the speakers.

Right now, Whitney is loving being back East, close to friends and family and her new apartment in Fort Greene. Exploring her new neighborhood, reading, knitting, running and updating her Netflix queue all take up a significant part of Whitney's time, along with listening to music and cooking. Whitney is always looking for info as to great places to see/eat/explore around the city, where the best cupcakes are, and which new album is a must-have!

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Maren Hill

Communications Assistant at Pro Mujer

Maren Hill works as the Communications Assistant for Pro Mujer, a microfinance network in Latin America, where she is responsible for managing and expanding all online communications and marketing initiatives. Maren is passionate about advancing human rights and the status of women with special emphasis on marginalized communities in Latin America.

Before gaining her current position, she held the public education internship at MADRE, an international women's human rights organization in New York. Prior to interning at MADRE, Maren lived in La Paz, Bolivia and worked for the non-profit Centro de Promoción y Salud Integral, where she managed a children's nursery, organized women's health and education programs, and taught English.

Maren received her B.A. in American Studies from Barnard College. She currently volunteer translates for the Center for Democracy in Bolivia and volunteers at the InMotion legal clinic. Maren is highly proficient in Spanish and conversational in Portuguese. She enjoys commuting on her bike, playing capoeira, cooking and hoop dancing.

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Allison Jones

Development Director at St. James Elementary School

Allison Jones is a passionate young professional committed to education equality and a sustainable public sector. With almost six years of hands-on teaching in a variety of settings and direct engagement with the next generation of non-profit leaders, Allison has become an expert at addressing the educational needs of under-served youth and ensuring the inclusion and success of young non-profit professionals.

After graduating from Haverford College with a degree in sociology and education, she was awarded a fellowship by her alma mater to coordinate a leadership training program for underprivileged youth in Philadelphia. After that year, she took her passion for educational change back to her home city of NY where she is currently the development director for a catholic school and is implementing student leadership programs that have garnered the attention of non-profit leaders like Ami Dar, the founder of Action Without Borders/idealist.org. Allison's strengths include curriculum development and implementation, social media in education integration, project management, and outreach.

Allison is also dedicated to strengthening the non-profit sector by learning more about the challenges the field faces and providing solutions. She is actively engaging the next generation of nonprofit leaders through her blog, Entry Level Living (entrylevelliving.wordpress.com) while reaching out to current leaders to help in making the sector more welcoming to younger employees. She has taken her passion off-line as one of the founding coordinators of OnlyUp.org, a start-up non-profit that advocates for the needs of non-profit employees under 30, connects non-profits with exceptional employees, and strengthens the sector by harnessing the creativity, vision, and experiences of people under 30. Through these experiences Allison has developed a strong understanding of fundraising, networking, and marketing.

Her excellence as an educator and an advocate has not gone unrecognized. She has been awarded over \$65,000 in grants and fellowships, has been featured in the Chronicle of Philanthropy, is a syndicated blogger on Brazen Careerist (a career portal for people under 30) and Damsels in Success (a professional support network for women), and was selected as a Social Change Leader by Greater Philadelphia Cares. Allison is on the Junior Board of Catholic Charities and is an active member of the Young Non-Profit Professionals Network. When not blogging or working she enjoys cooking and spending time with her five younger siblings.

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Mandela Jones

Budget and Communications Director for New York City Council Member Albert Vann

Mandela Jones graduated from Colorado College in 2005 with a major in American Political Economy and a minor in History. Towards the end of his time at Colorado College, he worked as a volunteer on the winning United States Senate campaign of Ken Salazar. After returning to New York from his undergraduate study, he spent his time researching past and present U.S. foreign policy and working as the Volunteer Coordinator on a Congressional campaign in Brooklyn.

Mandela currently works at the New York City Council as the Budget and Communications Director for Council Member Albert Vann (36th District, Brooklyn). In this capacity, he advises on policy, manages budget allocations and develops correspondence with constituents and media among other responsibilities. He has served as an active participant on the National Action Network's policy group dealing with police accountability and oversight issues, and also helped organize youth in the Bedford-Stuyvesant community in response to the shooting death of Khil Crippin by the New York Police Department. Mandela is currently assisting the City-wide Council of Presidents (CCOP) in its policy response to the New York City Housing Authority budget dilemma that has resulted in the closure of a number of its community centers throughout the City. In his free time, Mandela enjoys DJing, producing music, and playing and watching sports.

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Carrie Magnuson
Franchise Partner Manager at VisionSpring

Carrie Magnuson serves as Franchise Partner Manager for VisionSpring, a non-profit social enterprise that trains entrepreneurs to start their own micro-franchises selling low-cost reading glasses. Ms. Magnuson is responsible for growing and managing the Franchise Partner Channel, VisionSpring's main mechanism for global growth. She is responsible for conducting due diligence on potential partners and investigating innovative ways to increase access to affordable reading glasses. She provides training and technical support to partners as they implement VisionSpring's "Business in a Bag" business model. Ms. Magnuson is also responsible for VisionSpring's data management platform on Salesforce.com.

Prior to joining VisionSpring, Ms. Magnuson worked in Guatemala, serving as Country Director for Community Enterprise Solutions, a non-profit organization that creates sustainable work opportunities through micro-consignment and other small business ventures. As Country Director, she contributed to the creation and growth of a locally owned business and their micro-consignment distribution system. Ms. Magnuson was responsible for in-country operations, including managing regional coordinators responsible for over 60 rural entrepreneurs selling VisionSpring reading glasses, seeds, water filters, wood-burning stoves and energy-saving light bulbs. While in Guatemala, Ms. Magnuson also served as a program leader for Social Entrepreneur Corps, a field-based educational program for college students.

Through her work with Community Enterprise Solutions in Guatemala and globally with VisionSpring, Ms. Magnuson has gained extensive experience working in rural settings with limited infrastructure. She has developed innovative marketing and sales strategies for rural entrepreneurs and has helped hundreds of entrepreneurs to establish and grow their businesses through training and support.

Ms. Magnuson received her B.S. in Business Administration and B.A. in Geography from Miami University in Ohio. She studied sustainable development at Fundacion CIMAS in Quito, Ecuador. Ms. Magnuson speaks Spanish fluently. When she isn't traveling, she lives in Brooklyn, New York and in her spare time enjoys playing soccer, practicing yoga and being outdoors.

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Meghan McCormick
Research Assistant at MDRC

Meghan McCormick, a lifetime resident of New Jersey, grew up in Morris County before moving to Princeton to attend college, and then to Hoboken, where she currently lives. She is a research assistant at MDRC, a nonprofit education and social policy research organization dedicated to learning what works for improving programs and policies that affect the poor. Meghan joined MDRC in the summer of 2007, and has spent the last year and a half working on a project that tests the efficacy of a marriage education program for low-income couples across the United States. She is particularly interested in the impact research for the project, which will ask the question of whether or not the program can have long-term positive outcomes on children's well-being and socio-emotional development.

Meghan's research experiences at MDRC have informed her later education and career ambitions. She hopes to continue working for MDRC through the summer of 2010 before pursuing a PhD in human development and applied psychology, with a specific research interest in early education and the role that family settings have on whether or not early education interventions are effective.

Eventually, Meghan hopes to have the chance to use the expertise she has gained as a researcher and academic to work in the public sector, both domestically and internationally. She has always been interested in public policy, graduating from Princeton in 2007 with an AB from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and a minor in Spanish language and literature. After writing her senior thesis at Princeton about inner-city juvenile justice policy in the US, she realized that she did not want to limit her future employment and research experiences to focus specifically on domestic or international policy. She hopes to use work that she does in the US to inform future projects in developing nations, exploring the way that early education can be used as a tool for sustainable economic development.

Before graduate school though, Meghan is looking forward to another year and a half of learning from her supervisors at MDRC, traveling as much as she can afford, reading an ever-growing list of books, trying every Thai restaurant in the metropolitan area, and training for her next marathon in the fall. Her guiltiest pleasure is CW TV shows, she loves to go to the movies on Sunday afternoons, and one of her New Year's plans is to attend a live taping of Saturday Night Live in 2009.

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Cathleen Miles

Marketing and Events Associate at The Children's Aid Society

Cathleen Miles has spent four years as dedicated member of The Children's Aid Society's Development Office. As a Marketing and Events Associate, Cathleen has played a critical role in developing and implementing strategies in order to raise awareness and increase support for the organization. Cathleen is motivated by her desire to connect people to the vital resources they need. Naturally at ease in conversations and always seeking information, she organizes focus groups, interviews clients and negotiates contracts with media partners to find ways to increase awareness of The Children's Aid Society and its services.

Cathleen is involved in the management, development and execution of fundraising events, including *Miracle on Madison Avenue*, a charity shopping event that raises \$300,000 annually to support The Children's Aid Society. Cathleen has also expanded marketing opportunities for Children's Aid by producing a series of videos for online marketing, and by developing and coordinating outdoor advertising campaigns on public transportation throughout NYC. Cathleen's work was recognized in 2006 when she received a Professional Excellence Award from The Children's Aid Society.

Cathleen's passion for marketing, event planning and community organizing emerged during her time as a student leader at Columbia University, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in 2004. As a Columbia University student, Cathleen was one of nine student leaders who worked with the student body and University administrators to improve campus civility after a series of racially motivated incidents on campus disrupted student life. Their collective work led to the creation of the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Columbia University. Cathleen's work as a student leader was recognized with a Columbia University King's Crown Leadership Legend Award in 2004.

Cathleen maintains a relationship with her Alma Mater and is an active member of the Columbia University Black Alumni Council. She also serves as a class representative for the New York Times Scholarship Alumni Association. A NYC native and enthusiast, Cathleen's career and community service have been focused on improving the lives of New Yorkers, but she has not confined herself to that geographical boundary. In her personal time Cathleen enjoys traveling domestically and internationally. She plans to visit each continent, with the exception of Antarctica, at least once. During her travels she is able to explore a burgeoning passion — photography. Cathleen has documented her many trips; she dreams of possibly publishing her photos some day.

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Rhiannon O'Leary

Manager of Diversity Programming at Teach for America

Rhiannon has spent her professional career in the nonprofit fundraising field in NYC. She specializes in small and large scale fundraising event management as well as the stewardship and cultivation of individual donors. A Berkeley, California native, Rhiannon attended California State University Monterey Bay where she studied race and gender in U.S. history. As an undergraduate, Rhiannon was involved in a number of campus organizations and groups dedicated to creating a more inclusive community through coalition building, prejudice reduction workshops, events, and the arts. She was awarded the Outstanding Senior Award for Social Justice. Rhiannon graduated in 2004 with a B.A. in Social History.

Following college, Rhiannon moved to NYC to pursue an internship with V-Day, an organization dedicated to ending violence against women and girls. Following her internship, Rhiannon joined JFM 2 Productions, a non-profit consulting company that advises non-profits on fundraising efforts and manages the execution of fundraising events and awareness campaigns. As a Project Coordinator for JFM 2 Productions, Rhiannon managed major fundraising galas for a diverse group of non-profits including the American Scandinavian Foundation, New Yorkers For Children, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the Picture House Regional Film Center.

In January 2006, Rhiannon left her position at JFM 2 Productions to join Teach For America's Growth Strategy and Development team as Associate of Individual Giving. Rhiannon managed a portfolio of national donors, helping TFA invest individuals across the country in its quest to close the achievement gap in America. Additionally in this role she was able to help train and support TFA's development staff in twenty-nine regions across the country. During Rhiannon's tenure on the individual giving team she saw a 96% growth within her and her team's portfolio of donors.

While Rhiannon has enjoyed her work in the development field she was eager to return to the work she did in college on diversity and inclusiveness. In January 2008, Rhiannon began a new role at Teach For America as the Manager of Diversity Programming. She manages the development of strategies and execute initiatives to foster a pipeline of diverse leadership throughout the organization and enhance the efforts to build more inclusive environments in each operating area including, recruitment, teacher support and development, and admissions. Other organizations that Rhiannon has been proud to work with include the Working Families Party, Obama for America, National Coalition Building Institute, and EMPOWER.

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Nadine Pierre

Coordinator, Operation Assist at The Children's Health Fund

Nadine received her Bachelor of Science in Public Health from Rutgers – The State University of New Jersey in May 2006. As a young non-profit professional, she is committed to devoting her professional life to the field of public health and public service. Upon graduating Rutgers, Nadine joined Community HealthCorps, a health-focused national AmeriCorps program that promotes health care for the underserved in community health settings. Nadine worked full-time as an AmeriCorps Patient Services Associate at the South Bronx Health Center for Children & Families, a program of Montefiore Medical Center and the Children's Health Fund from September 2006 to August 2007. She supported all aspects of the health center and was an integral part of the health care delivery team by providing comprehensive primary care services to children and adults and engaging in community outreach. In February 2007, Nadine was awarded a Certificate of Participation from the National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc. (NACHC) for her presentation, "The Uninsured" at the 2007 Community Health Service Forum in San Diego, CA.

Nadine was recruited by and joined the Children's Health Fund in September 2007, as Coordinator, Operation Assist. For the past 15 months, Nadine has assisted the Senior Director, Operation Assist with programmatic and logistical support to three medical mobile programs in the Gulf Coast established as a response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which provides comprehensive healthcare to the medically underserved. Nadine's area of expertise consists of programmatic health, finance, and budget management.

Nadine is committed to developing her professional career in community service and working with the underserved. For the past 9 months, Nadine has been an active kitchen volunteer at God's Love We Deliver, a non-profit organization that prepares and delivers high-quality nutritious meals to men, women, and children living with HIV/AIDS and other serious debilitating diseases. She volunteers once a week and assist chefs in preparing and packaging meals. As a person who is dedicated to her professional growth and developing leadership skills, she recently became a member of the Harlem Toastmasters, a non-profit organization dedicated to developing public speaking and leadership skills through practice.

Nadine currently resides in New Jersey with her family. She is left-handed and enjoys reading, playing Scrabble, going to the movies, and spending time with her friends.

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Samuel Pierre

Brooklyn South Director in the office of U.S. House of Representatives Congressman Ed Towns

“Whatever your life's work is, do it well. A man should do his job so well that the living, the dead, and the unborn could do it no better.” -Martin Luther King, Jr.

That quote sums up the life of Mr. Samuel M. Pierre. If you're looking for someone who cares about having a good time, getting things done, and loving his God, you've just described Mr. Samuel M. Pierre. Sam Pierre is a young leader in the Brooklyn community that is devoted to bringing about significant progress in the New York Metropolitan area and in the development of the advancement of the new young leadership. Getting an education from one of the worst high schools in Brooklyn at the time, South Shore High School, to graduating with a Bachelor's in Communications Arts with a minor in Political Science from St. Johns University, Sam has a very diverse education. Sam credits his education to his mother who worked long and hard hours to maintain her family as well as put two of her children through universities at the same time. Sam Pierre also credits his personality traits to his father, Rev. Bernard Pierre who taught him that the love of people is the key to longevity. These are some of the character traits that created the man they call “SUCCESS” in some circles, but “SENATOR” in most, but there is more to Sam Pierre.

From being elected the Chairman of the Research and Development Committee for Student Government at St. John's University to the Vice-President of Membership for the Thomas Jefferson Democratic Club, to a member of Community Board 18, to the lead pianist at the Church of God of Prophecy, Bronx, N.Y, to the Chair of the Government Committee for the African American Real Estate Professionals of New York, to being a key member for the Advisory Board to the Brookdale Hospital, to being a defensive lineman for the Brothers United Football Team, a brother to eight, a Godfather to four, and a mentor to three, these are the things that keep Sam Pierre busy from day to day.

Sam Pierre believes that hard work and self motivation is the key to being successful. You will normally hear Sam Pierre say “That's what made the 95” Dallas Cowboys Successful, they worked hard and got it done!” Sam Pierre believes that a career in public service is something that he truly loves. Working as the Brooklyn South Director for U.S. Rep. Edolphus “ED” Towns, Sam has truly learned how to connect with the community. Sam could not have worked for a better Congressman than Ed Towns. He feels that the things he has been able to learn and the things to come will help him become a great public servant. Although very young, Sam Pierre aspires to become an elected official one day, not to exercise power, but to be in a position to help others achieve their dreams.

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Daniel Pizzani

Volunteer Program Associate at Comprehensive Development, Inc.

Daniel Pizzani, known by his peers as DJ, currently works for the organization Comprehensive Development, Inc. This non-profit works specifically with Manhattan Comprehensive Night and Day High School, an alternative school, to help 17 to 21 year-old immigrant and American students obtain their high school diploma. As the Volunteer Program Associate, DJ works with over 100 volunteers and 30 peer tutors to provide more than 200 tutoring sessions each week.

Before being employed by CDI, he joined AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) for two years, first as a Corps Member and then as a Team Leader. Stationed out of Charleston, South Carolina, DJ engaged in service projects in Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Mississippi. These projects included blazing new, state hiking trails, gutting and rebuilding homes devastated by Hurricane Katrina, caring for mentally disabled adults, and managing a volunteer housing site. At the end of his service, DJ was recognized with two Presidential Service Awards, a Bronze and Silver Congressional Award for Service, and the Team Leader of the Year award from his NCCC campus.

In May 2005, DJ graduated Summa Cum Laude from King's College with a Bachelor's of Arts in Communications. He is currently applying for a graduate degree in Public Administration and hopes to work for the federal government. When DJ is not working, he can be found playing Frisbee Golf or traveling on his motorcycle.

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Jessica Rivkin

Associate, Secondary Schools Programs at Carnegie Hall

Jessica Rivkin has been actively involved in the performing arts as a producer, educator, administrator and performer. As the Secondary School Programs Associate at Carnegie Hall, Ms. Rivkin implements six middle and high school programs serving 5,000 students locally, nationally and internationally. In this position, she creates program goals and curricula, develops and leads professional development workshops for educators, crafts content for and produces program concerts, including internationally videoconferenced events, and has developed a global online community for students in the US, India, and Turkey. Ms. Rivkin began her work at Carnegie Hall in 2006 as Coordinator of Communities LinkUP!, a program connecting elementary schools with 11 major orchestras from Hawaii to West Virginia. She joined Secondary School Programs in the summer of 2007. Prior to Carnegie Hall, Ms. Rivkin held a one-year Teaching Fellowship at the International School of Trieste in Trieste, Italy. There, she taught in the school's elementary division and was director of the extra-curricular choir and drama programs for which she coordinated and directed elementary musical productions.

Ms. Rivkin has worked with various arts organizations in New York and London. She was a Paul A. Kaplan Theatre Management Intern with Manhattan Theatre Club, where she worked directly with the Artistic Director and Executive Producer. She interned in the emerging development department of Royal Festival Hall in London, and worked in the office of the Coordinating and Managing Producers of the American Theater Wing's Tony Awards for two consecutive years. As part of the New York International Fringe Festival, she produced a one-woman show, *Voices of Juarez*, and she has produced and stage-managed numerous theater and opera productions during and after college.

Outside of work, Ms. Rivkin is an avid skier and can often be seen walking her chocolate lab, Lily, in Central Park. As an a vocational classical singer, she was a soloist, member, and assistant conductor of the Yale Glee Club and Chamber Singers; she has performed with the Bay Area Summer Opera Theatre Institute and Opera Festival di Roma; and she currently performs with Manhattan Chamber Opera.

A graduate of Yale University, Ms. Rivkin holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies and is a recipient of the Berkeley College Master's Prize. She is a member of various professional organizations, including Americans for the Arts and Emerging Leaders in New York Arts.

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Anand Sharma

Legislative Assistant at the New York City Council's Office of Correspondence Services

Anand is currently a Legislative Assistant in the New York City Council's Office of Correspondence Services where he helps draft, edit and manage constituent communications for Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn.

Prior to joining the Council, Anand spent 2 years teaching 7th and 8th grade science at a public middle school in the South Bronx as a Teach For America Corp Member. During his first year, Anand selected and mentored students for the Saturday "Youth Scientist In Residence Program" at the NY Hall of Science.

Last Spring, Anand was selected to be a StartingBloc Fellow. As a Fellow, he studied social entrepreneurship with undergraduate students and young professionals from across the country by participating in the Institute for Social Innovation held at the NYU Wagner School of Public Service, the Columbia Business School and the Yale School of Management.

This past Fall, Anand began studying at NYU Wagner as a non-degree student and became the founding Secretary of Students for Criminal Justice Reform, a graduate student group dedicated to promoting awareness of and dialogue about issues in criminal justice policy. Recently, he moderated a small-group discussion about the School-to-Prison Pipeline with Udi Ofer, Advocacy Director for the New York Civil Liberties Union.

Anand holds a B.S. in Psychology from Michigan State University, where he served as the Senior Class Council President, and an M.S. in Teaching from PACE University. In his spare time, Anand enjoys reflecting on the "good life," watching documentary films, appreciating modern art, listening to indie rock and electronic music, dancing (often times to music), and volunteering as a mentor through Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City.

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Nicholas Sheehan

Project Coordinator at Advocates for Children of New York

Nick Sheehan is the Project Coordinator of the Juvenile Justice Project at Advocates for Children (AFC), a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring equal access to quality public education for all NYC students. In his current position, Nick assists students, parents, and professionals involved with the juvenile justice system who encounter education-related difficulties such as truancy, inappropriate special education placements or services, and out-of-school youth issues. Nick also regularly conducts trainings and workshops on education issues, education rights, and special education procedures for various juvenile justice stakeholders. Since assuming this role over a year and half ago, Nick has provided direct assistance to over 150 parents and students involved with the juvenile justice system in NYC.

Nick also provides litigation support to plaintiff's co-counsel on *JG vs. Mills*, a class action suit filed on behalf of students aged 7-21 who have a history of involvement with the juvenile or adult court systems and who are entitled to an education in New York City schools. Plaintiffs claim that upon being released from a court-ordered setting, they were denied timely re-enrollment in NYC schools. The complaint also contains allegations on behalf of two subclasses: court-involved youth with disabilities and class members who did not receive adequate educational services while in detention in NYC. Through his casework, Nick routinely provides co-counsel with new examples of students who have been denied timely re-enrollment or have not received appropriate educational services while in detention.

In addition to his direct casework and litigation support, Nick serves as AFC's representative to the Student Safety Coalition (SSC). Made up of NYC advocacy, academic and community based organizations, the coalition uses a coordinated set of legislative, public education and organizing strategies to end the New York City School to Prison Pipeline and its disproportionate impact on youth of color and youth with special needs. Most recently, Nick assisted the coalition with drafting a Freedom of Information Law request regarding student disciplinary procedures and data in NYC public schools.

Nick graduated from Trinity College in Hartford, CT with a B.A. in Political Science in 2006. A captain of Trinity's Rugby team, Nick continues to enjoy watching and participating in sports including rugby, basketball and soccer. Other interests include reading and films.

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Miriam Solis

Press Officer at the NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation & Development

Miriam's educational and professional endeavors have focused on the impact of affordable housing and land use policy on distressed cities and neighborhoods. Having worked for research institutes, advocacy organizations and municipal government, she has dedicated her career to learning how productive organizational partnerships shape equitable and thriving communities. Through this, she has gained experience in project management, human resource development and marketing management.

Miriam currently serves as a Press Officer for the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD). In this capacity, she develops and implements staff and media communications strategies to promote the agency's customer service efforts. Previously, she worked in HPD's Office of the Chief of Staff through the John Gardner Fellowship, a post-baccalaureate public service and leadership development program. As a Fellow, she became project manager of the New York City Center for Economic Opportunity's Work Rewards program. Work Rewards is an innovative anti-poverty initiative that aims to preempt multi-generational poverty by giving new forms of temporary cash payments to adults in subsidized housing. She also coordinated the Peer-to-Peer Housing Policy Forum, an event that brings together municipal housing leaders from five high housing cost cities to discuss innovative affordable housing and land use practices.

As a US Department of Education McNair Scholar while at the University of California, Berkeley, Miriam studied the impact of urban growth policies on underserved communities through a case study of municipal annexation in Modesto, CA. At the Greenlining Institute, Miriam managed the collection of data on new housing construction in several California cities to gauge how the creation of affordable housing was keeping up in their booming real estate markets. She worked in the National Council of La Raza's Office of Research, Advocacy, and Legislation to create partnerships and secure funding for programs that aimed to decrease recidivism rates amongst formerly incarcerated individuals, particularly those who lacked residential stability. She was given the opportunity to pursue comparative urban housing patterns this interest when named a Robert and Colleen Haas Scholar to investigate the relationship between the increase in women's land titles and government-led agrarian reform in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Through these experiences, she has learned to leverage her passion for public service with a grasp of the of the sector's various layers, roles, and trends. Miriam is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, a trained cartographer and an avid soccer player.

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Jeremy Tibbetts

Spanish and ESOL Teacher at MS260 The Clinton School for Writers and Artists

Jeremy Tibbetts is a middle school Spanish and English as a Second Language teacher at MS 260 the Clinton School for Writers and Artists. He is also a graduate student in the Education and Politics program at Columbia University's Teachers College. Jeremy's focus is on underprivileged students in public schools, with significant research experience in English Language Learner theory and practice.

Prior to his employment with New York City's public schools, Jeremy attended Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. At Rollins, Jeremy's experience can best be described as eclectic, as he was involved in varsity and intramural athletics, social justice issues, and the honors degree program. Jeremy majored in Spanish and minored in Education, but also graduated with a Magna Cum Laude Honors degree after successfully completing an honors undergraduate thesis on the English Language Learner populations in three of Florida's most populated districts.

Jeremy was also a two-year member of the men's varsity soccer team and was an intramural assistant for two years. In addition to his athletic and academic responsibilities, Jeremy was an active member in the grass-roots social justice organization IMPACT which sought to spread awareness and inspire leadership throughout the Rollins community in areas of diversity, leadership, and multiculturalism.

Growing up as an international citizen, Jeremy spent his childhood in Asia, South America, Europe, and the United States. He speaks Spanish fluently after attending a local school in Montevideo, Uruguay, where he spent his middle school years. He is an active follower of sports on both sides of the Atlantic, supporting the NFL Jacksonville Jaguars and Liverpool FC in the English Premier League.

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Michael Woodruff

Coordinator for the Center on Sentencing and Corrections at the Vera Institute of Justice

Michael Woodruff joined the Vera Institute of Justice in May 2008 as the Coordinator for the Center on Sentencing and Corrections. Since then, Michael has been providing the Center with administrative and logistical support in their efforts to provide technical assistance for criminal justice policy reform in various jurisdictions.

Michael recently graduated from Clark University where he received a BA in Philosophy and Psychology. In his time at Clark, Michael held various leadership positions on campus that helped him gain experience in event planning and coordination. In the summer of 2007 he worked as the Administrative Orientation Coordinator for the university's new student program. In his junior year, Michael was elected President of the Student Council and served in this position through his senior year. Michael was recognized for his service to the community as a recipient of the Clark University Dolan Award during Convocation in 2007.

In the summer of 2006, Michael participated in the Everett Public Service Internship program where he worked as an intern for New York Cares, a community volunteerism organization. As an intern, Michael worked in Annual Events where he helped prepare for New York Cares Day, the single largest day of service helping revitalize the City's public schools. Through his experience in the internship and the weekly lectures sponsored by the Everett program, Michael developed his interest in working in the public sector.

Michael currently resides in Jersey City, and enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking and golf. He is also looking forward to buying a new bike in the spring! In the future, Michael is planning to further his education, in graduate or law school. In any event, Michael hopes to further develop his professional experience and strengthen his commitment to public service.