

Nicole Lavonne Smith | 646.420.3424 | nicolelavonne@gmail.com

EDUCATION

New York University | New York, NY | *Masters in Urban Planning / International Development* | May 2002

Howard University | Washington, DC | *Bachelor of Science in Psychology / Public Relations Journalism* | May 1998

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Morningside Center for Social Responsibility | STAFF DEVELOPER

New York, NY | 2019 – Present

- Provide training and coaching to school staff in the areas of socio-emotional learning, restorative practices and equity

Sweet River Consulting at Science Skills Center High School | RESTORATIVE JUSTICE DIRECTOR

Brooklyn, NY | 2016 – Present

- Lead Sweet River consultant providing training and coaching in restorative practices with a focus on racial justice to non-profit organizations
- Launched and implemented school-wide restorative practices
- Provided professional development, coaching and support to staff and students implementing restorative justice practices
- Revamped school-wide discipline policy in collaboration with all key stakeholders
- Advised youth in the Restorative Justice Taskforce and Youth Leadership Council
- Trained student Restorative Justice Taskforce members in facilitating circles and mediations
- Developed restorative justice curriculum
- Creator of the Week of Social and Political Action™ annual school-wide event

Urban Assembly School for Collaborative Healthcare | FOUNDING DEAN OF SCHOOL CULTURE

Brooklyn, NY | 2014 – 2016

- Established systems and protocol for the purpose of building a strong school community culture
- Facilitated and taught the implementation of community-building and harm and conflict circles to students and staff
- Designed, taught and executed Advisory curriculum to support restorative justice practices, cultural responsiveness, and school culture
- Created restorative policies and systems to address student behavior and discipline
- Created and led the execution of systems and structures for student celebrations and Town Hall Meetings
- Assisted teachers in building positive relationships with students
- Conducted peer-peer, student-staff and parent meetings and mediations

Urban Arts Partnership at New Design High School | EXPANDED SUCCESS INITIATIVE COORDINATOR

Brooklyn, NY | 2012 – 2014

- Supervised alumni mentors
- Managed the \$250,000 Expanded Success Initiative grant budget
- Expanded youth development best practices through the creation of strategically aligned programming to promote college and career readiness for Black and Latino males
- Planned and executed culturally responsive experiential, multi-day learning trips for students
- Supported students academically and socially in groups and one-on-one
- Conducted weekly student progress reviews in order to create and manage action plans for achievement
- Collaborated with teachers and administrators to ensure culturally responsive and relevant curriculum
- Created and delivered culturally responsive and relevant professional development sessions for staff

KIPP: AMP Academy | FOUNDING CAPOEIRA TEACHER, DEAN OF ARTS & CULTURE

Brooklyn, NY | 2005 – 2012

- Authored and implemented original capoeira curriculum, inclusive of Portuguese and culture lessons
- Produced school-wide capoeira graduations, art department performances, and weekly assemblies
- Led staff professional development sessions related to the school's arts programming
- Led team-building capoeira sessions and activities for staff and parents/guardians
- Programmed individualized Saturday school schedules for 300 students and 35 faculty members
- Developed and launched the Ethics & Social Justice, Health & Sex Education, and Student Advisory Programs

Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment | Education Consultant | Brooklyn, NY | 2004 - 2005

- Created and executed age-appropriate urban planning and science curriculum for K-12 students

Faith Center Community Development | Education Consultant | Brooklyn, NY | 2002 – 2003

- Taught and facilitated homebuyer and financial education courses

Schutz & Kanomata English | English as a Second Language Teacher | Santa Cruz, Brasil | 2001

- Taught conversational English with a focus on culture to Brazilians ages 8-55

Children's International Workshop | Assistant Teacher | New York, NY | 2001 – 2002

- Taught 2-4 year-olds the basics of communication and culture through cooperative learning and arts

Covenant House Regional Training Center | Vocational Specialist | New York, NY | 1998 – 2000

- Created external partnerships in an effort to secure training opportunities for youth ages 16-22
- Managed recruitment, placement, and follow-up of youth involved in ten unique training programs
- Planned and executed life skills and education seminars for program participants

A C C O L A D E S:

- Curriculum Writer for Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility *Teachable Moments*, Aug./Dec. 2019
- Co-Presenter at 2019 National Association of Community Restorative Justice Conference
- Co-Presenter at 2019 Collaborative for Academic Social Emotional Learning Conference
- Selected for 2018 Academy for Teachers Master Class: Think Big/Change the World with Yazmany Arboleda
- Selected for 2016 Academy for Teachers Master Class: Promoting Activism and Social Awareness with Kenneth A. Cole and Marc Schneider
- Huffington Post Contributing Writer - HuffPost Black Voices and Education sections
- Selected for 2014 Cullman Center Institute for Teachers Nonfiction Summer Seminar with Graciela Mochkofsky
- Selected for 2014 Cullman Center Institute for Teachers Creative Writing Spring Seminar with Uwem Akpan
- Selected for 2013 Cave Canem Spring New York Poetry Conversation Series with Khadijah Queen

S K I L L S: Community-Building, Restorative Justice Practices, Culturally Responsive Staff Development, Program Implementation, and Curriculum Development; Youth Leadership, Event Planning, Student Engagement, Portuguese Language

H O B B I E S & I N T E R E S T S: Creative Non-fiction Writing, Travel, Cooking; Cultural Land Preservation, Arts Education, Griot Tradition