

Campus Compact of Oregon, Sep IST

Reflection Team Introduction

Reflection teams during IST exist to provide AmeriCorps Members a smaller group / more intimate space to reflect on topics introduced during Campus Compact In-Service Trainings. Reflection teams are led by Campus Compact Staff and will meet at different times during IST. Reflection teams ideally consist of Members across all programs to illuminate and encourage cross-program collaboration and community.

We would love to be more intentional about the cultivation of reflection teams by asking Members to share their preferences of which Staff leads their teams! Please take some time to read our bios and then complete the accompanying Google form (sent through email) to make your selections for a Reflection Team Lead.

A note: reflection teams are a collaborative effort by Campus Compact Staff to support the professional and personal development of AmeriCorps Members. This means we prepare for reflection team facilitation as a team and may share information with one another as Staff (unless explicitly requested not to by a Member) so that we may support you during and outside of IST. While you may personally be led by a specific Team Lead during IST, know that our reflection teams share purpose and intention. Also, there are other spaces in which reflection happens during IST. Example: in programs, through journal writing or creative arts practices, or in other organized debrief spaces.

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Staff Bios

Carmen Brewton-Denison (She/hers)

Carmen Brewton-Denison holds a B.F.A in Media Studies and M.A. in Critical Theory and Creative Research (now Critical Studies), with a focus on aesthetic and critical race theory from the Pacific Northwest College of Art and the Hallie Ford School of Graduate Studies. As an artist and writer, Denison's work draws heavily upon histories of social intervention, relational aesthetics, and institutional critique; exploring the potential for art to be a tool for social change. Ultimately, Denison's creative practice led to work in social and racial justice and the co-founding the Creative Activism Lab at Pacific Northwest College of Art in 2013. Since then, Denison has worked on collaborative projects with Portland's houseless community, youth at Donald E. Long Detention Center, faculty at Portland State University, and youth at Friends of the Children: Portland, to name a few. In addition to this, Denison supported the development of interdisciplinary and socially engaged -programming in Marylhurst University's art department. She also teaches Critical Race Theory in the Critical Studies Program at the Pacific Northwest College of Art. Her primary gig is as a Director of Community Engagement at Campus Compact of Oregon where she supports the development and implementation of racial justice programming for projects across the state of Oregon.

Josh Todd (He/his)

Josh Todd joined Campus Compact of Oregon in 2013 as the organization's 6th Executive Director and identifies as a white, queer father. Josh grew up poor in a predominantly Black and Latinx community, and learned he was white at an early age. Josh holds a Master's degree in Public Affairs with a concentration in public administration and policy analysis from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and

a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Aurora University in Illinois. His professional career began as an AmeriCorps member with the Bay Area Youth Agency Consortium where he conducted street outreach, HIV education and testing, and ran peer education groups for students in Marin County. Josh worked for the City & County of San Francisco Youth Commission and moved to Portland, OR in 2002 where he was Multnomah County's Youth Development Coordinator and then Director of the Commission on Children, Families & Community.

With a background in youth and community development, as well as organizational change related to racial justice and equity, at Campus Compact Josh has expertise in equity-focused organizational change and transformation. He also has expertise in collective systems organizing among networks of partners. Josh has a daughter who just started college and a son who is a senior at Franklin High School. Josh is actively working on his own anti-blackness, internalized white superiority, and learning how to decenter whiteness- especially when you hold positional authority that centers you automatically.

Justin Fontenot (He/his)

Justin Fontenot is Campus Compact's Connect2Complete Program Manager as of August 2019. In this position, Justin and C2C AmeriCorps Members focus on removing academic barriers for first-generation, low-income, and students of color in academic institutions throughout the state of Oregon. This is done through the practice of attendance initiatives, service-learning, restorative justice, and family engagement. Before Campus Compact, Justin worked at Self Enhancement, Inc. (where he worked with families experiencing homeless in an effort to find stable housing) and with the Department of Human Services (as both a Child Protective Services caseworker and Child Abuse Hotline Screener). Those two experiences instill a focus on engaging people with compassion, transparency, support, honesty, and trauma informed practices for Justin.

Additionally, Justin has experienced both community-oriented and very isolated supports while obtaining his B.A. in Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Texas-El Paso and M.A. in Sociology at the University of Oregon. His philosophies and work with Campus Compact is informed by experiencing these supportive differences at these schools, in addition to experiencing them as a first-generation, low-income, cis black man.

On a more fun and personal note, Justin is the proud dog dad of a longhaired pitbull mix named Leeroy. Being born and raised in southeast Texas, Justin often finds himself missing quality Cajun and Mexican food (where are the real sopapillas in this state!?). Justin also spends an overwhelmingly large amount of his time going to concerts (particularly ska, punk, reggae, industrial, and metal shows), cooking anything and everything from scratch (but never *ever* baking), and playing video games (particularly Civilization IV). Lastly, Justin is currently working on deepening his own understanding of relational neurobiology and how that works with the trauma that all humans experience.

Lo Miranda (She/hers)

Lo (Lauren) Miranda is a biracial Latinx, white-passing, first-generation Mexican American. She grew up in Southern California and attended San Francisco State engaging in the Ethnic Studies department but then moved home because of unforeseen circumstances and attended local community college. Lo then finished her degree at Long Beach State University and earned a B.A in Communication Studies. She found her way to Portland through serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA with Campus Compact of Oregon three years ago. For the past six years she has worked, part time and remotely, for an architecture firm located in Long Beach California where she serves in a back-end data base management capacity. The last three years, she has engaged in conversations and consultation to deepen equity work and hold space for reflection around design and architecture for the firm.

After her AmeriCorps service year, Lo also worked for Friends of the Children and deepened her work with youth. She is currently on staff with Campus Compact as the College Access Corps Program Manager and aims to center youth of color, low-income youth, first generation youth, and historically and systematically underserved youth through intentional coaching and critical mentoring practices. She is hoping to name and engage in reflection in her time at Campus Compact on questions such as: what does youth centered programming look like and feel like *for* youth? What are strategies to center community in our work? When engaging in youth work, how do we share power alongside youth? And what strategies and ways can we, must we, decenter whiteness, white supremacy, and white saviorism in our youth work?

In her personal growth, Lo is reflecting, naming, and healing in her own intergenerational racial narrative while committing to addressing and de-centering her own privilege and positionality in whiteness. She has currently been exploring, in personal reflection, the chasm and the beauty of being Mexican American, multi-cultural, questioning/queer :

Ni de aqui, y ni de alla.

Lo plays indoor soccer on the weekends, goes running in her free time, and enjoys whispering sweet nothings to her beta fish L'Ariana Leslie Nope.

Rachel Hartley (She/hers)

Born and raised in NE Portland, Rachel Hartley is known best for her love of people, parties, and her work within the local community as a fiery millennial with a passion for activism. As a recent graduate of Saint Mary's College of California with a Bachelor's degree in Communication and Media Studies, serving as the president of the Black Student Union for two years, Rachel has accomplished the unthinkable such as a permanent requirement of diversity training within classrooms solely for professors. Rachel has immense skill with a long history of working in and studying live radio

broadcasting, and a recent accomplishment as the Associate Producer for the annual Creatives of Color event hosted by Wieden and Kennedy. Rachel has also worked on a project as a Production Assistant for a new series of intimate concerts titled Umbrellaslang hosted by Marmoset, and is a podcaster for a local black owned community radio station called The Numberz Radio. Rachel has a love for music, shoes, acting, bubble tea, and avocados.

Beloved Staff (transitioning but still available to support Reflection Teams for a period of time)

Kaycie López Jones (She/hers/ella, or they/them)

Kaycie López Jones identifies as a Black-Xicana-Indigenous-Femme. Kaycie grew up in Seattle, WA, and spent her childhood on stage dancing, singing, acting, playing musical instruments and sports (mostly basketball), dreaming in the NW forests, gazing at the stars and philosophizing about life. Her life's work revolves around the evolution of (human) consciousness, with a praxis of transmuting energy in ways that raise critical awareness, primarily through liberatory education, art and ways of being. Kaycie holds a B.A. in Environmental Analysis: Human Behavior from Pomona College and an intercollegiate M.A. in International Development and Service with foci in Intercultural Communication and Intercultural Education.

Kaycie has recently transitioned into the role of Director of Internal Equity at Campus Compact and is responsible for leading/administering our organizational Racial Equity Roadmap process, providing support to internal staff, supporting cross-program collaboration, helping to create sustainable accountability structures and maintain them through clear avenues of communication. Previously and for the past 4 years, Kaycie served as the Educational Equity Program Manager and administered a statewide critical mentorship program that aims to center youth of color, first-generation youth, and low-income youth. Kaycie also recently founded an Intercultural Education and Critical Equity consulting

group (Asana López Jones) and facilitates racial justice / educational equity / intercultural humility for institutions focused on improving their organizational equity lens. Additionally, Kaycie is a Qualified Administrator for the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI), a tap dance teacher, and recently served as adjunct faculty at Marylhurst University. Prior to her employment with Campus Compact of Oregon, Kaycie worked for the City of Portland's Bureau of Development Services, served on the Bureau's Equity Committee, and helped launch the citywide Racial Equity Roadmap initiative.

Kaycie strives to impact those around her in ways that inspire self-reflection, self-empowerment and self-actualization and desires to engage in restorative, contextual conversations informed by Critical Race Theory and Black Feminist Thought, as well as storytelling that centers self-exploration, healing, and liberation.

Mila Buckland (She/hers)

Mila Buckland is a second-generation immigrant, daughter of refugees from Laos, and grew up in North Portland, Oregon. She is a first-generation college graduate, holding a Women's Studies degree (now Women, Gender and Sexualities) from Portland State University. Mila served as a four-term AmeriCorps Member *for* Campus Compact of Oregon, before joining staff in 2017 as the inaugural Curriculum and Training Manager for the organization. From 2015-2017, Mila also served as a governor-appointed commissioner for Oregon Volunteers: Commission for Voluntary Action and Service, the oversight commission for statewide national AmeriCorps service funding in Oregon. In this commissioner role, Mila actively spoke to the experience of AmeriCorps Members to inform the collaborative's decision-making. She also spoke to the racialized experiences of AmeriCorps Members of Color, knowing that the experiences of Members of Color needed to be centered, if we truly shared goal a vision / goal of an Oregon that thrives, and communities that work in tandem for the betterment of all.

Much of Mila's work at Campus Compact centered on supporting the personal and professional development of AmeriCorps Members and in general, on cultivating spaces of belonging for Campus Compact's network (colleagues, partners, community members and more) to come together, share their stories, reflect and strategize on how to advance equity within Oregon's educational institutions. Mila's expertise lies in applying a healing-centered lens to the management of events and learning opportunities. Outside Campus Compact, Mila is the current Project Assistant for Our Bodhi Project, an organizing project that centers and integrates world indigenous knowledge and ways of being, environmental justice, spirituality, the creative arts, and mindfulness / body work to its educational or convening engagements, while asking the question: what does it mean to be belonging as we strive towards collective health and wellbeing for all?

Finally, Mila is a cat and plant mom, and budding podcaster (ask her more about her podcast Wine-ing with Friends in person!)/ She is continuing to work on understanding her own racial and cultural history, asking herself what it means to have a legacy of war as a part of her identity, and what it means to heal and *be* healing for herself, family and community.