



ASHANTI D. JONES, PHD

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Experience

William Paterson University | Wayne, NJ
Student Success Advisor
10/2023 - Current

- Advisor to Honors College Students
- Guided students in setting goals and achieving educational objectives.
- Evaluated student needs and developed educational plans, fostering academic progress.

New Jersey Institute for Social Justice | Newark, NJ
Policy Analyst, Criminal Justice Reform
01/2020 - Current

- Develop and execute strategy to close New Jersey's youth prisons and build a continuum of care.
- Liaison with policy makers and New Jersey legislature to prioritize the values of the campaign.
- Leverage social media exposure to gain free and useful pushes directly with citizens.
- Build successful political coalitions to drive message to forefront.
- Write op-eds, letters to the editor, and other media tools to engage the public.
- Oversee youth and adult governance teams.
- Wrote detailed reports explaining policy actions and impacts.

SchoolHouse Connection | USA
Senior Policy & Advocacy Manager
08/2022 - 10/2023

- Developed and executed coalition building and mobilization strategies to support state and federal policy reform campaigns that improve outcomes for children, youth, young adults, and young families experiencing homelessness.
- Cultivated and managed relationships with state and federal partners in SHC's reform campaigns, including youth experiencing homelessness, service providers, advocates, community organizations, associations, elected officials and their staff members, to ensure implementation of effective advocacy strategies.
- Conducted legislative research and producing reports on legislators, legislative campaigns, bill histories, committee hearings, and related activity to support policy work.
- Organized and lead advocacy training sessions for youth/young adults, coalition partners and supporters.
- Built and managed a national advocacy network and contributed to national discourse on intersectionality in youth homelessness including youth justice, LGBTQ issues and class.

William Paterson University Of New Jersey | Wayne, NJ
Adjunct Professor
08/2021 - Current

- Instruct courses in the Department of Community and Social Justice Studies to undergraduate students.
- Deliver course lectures using modern technology to enhance student comprehension.
- Prepare, administer, and grade exams and assignments to evaluate student progress.
- Design exams, lecture material and writing assignments.

South Ward Children's Alliance | Newark, NJ

Director of Community Engagement

04/2018 - 01/2020

- Developed and implemented strategies for recruitment, engagement and retention initiatives.
- Responsible for providing administrative leadership to the South Ward Children's Alliance community outreach and coordinator team.
- Managed partnerships within the community; other organizations, schools and community members.

Education and Training

Rutgers University | Newark, NJ

J.D. in Juris Doctor

Expected in 05/2027

Walden University | Minneapolis, MN

Doctor of Social Work in Social Work; Policy; Criminal Justice

2024

Columbia University | New York, NY

Master of Science in Social Work

2018

William Paterson University | Wayne, NJ

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

2015

William Paterson University of New Jersey | Wayne, NJ

Bachelor of Arts in Africana World Studies

2015

Activities and Honors

- Board Member, Rowan University College of Humanities and Social Sciences Advisory Board to the Dean
- Steering Committee, Vital Villages Network; Boston Medical Center
- NJ Resiliency Coalition
- Member, Network for Social Work Managers
- Winner, Harvard University 2019 Saul Zaentz Innovation Challenge
- Human Services Management Certification

Projects

- Contributing Author in the American Bar Association's Second Edition Model State Statutes Book for Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness (2023)
- Harvard's Saul Zaentz Innovation Challenge Winner: Strong Families, Mighty South Ward Loyalty Program - a non-profit loyalty program designed to incentivize parents to participate in two generation programming to ensure academic success for their children (2019)
- Lead Author: Investing in Youth, Not Incarceration: A Toolkit for Creating a Community-Led Approach to Mental Health (2021)
- Secondary Author: A Youth Justice Toolkit: A Community-Led Restorative Justice Approach (2020)
- Lead Interviewer; Secondary Author: \$600K to Damage Our Kids Forever: A Youth Incarceration Disaster (2022)

Websites, Portfolios, Profiles

- [linkedin.com/in/ashantidjones](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ashantidjones)
- www.ashantidjones.com
- https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/homelessness_poverty/publications/model-state-statutes.pdf