

# MEET THE COMPOSER



**SHARDAE VAUGHN**

Shardae Vaughn is the founder of hudson&DEAN, specializing in project and event coordination. With a solid foundation in project management, she excels in strategic planning, operational streamlining, and problem-solving across the entire project lifecycle. As a versatile virtual assistant, Shardae offers crucial support in administrative tasks, e-commerce, and workflow management for both established businesses and startups, enabling them to focus on scalability. Her diverse career spans non-profit organizations, healthcare, local government, corporate, and startup environments.

Shardae's commitment to community shines through her role as the visionary founder of Hudson's Book Club, a local initiative dedicated to nurturing a love for reading and learning by building home libraries for Philadelphia's youth.

Shardae is a proud holder of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Michigan-Flint and a Master's in Public Administration from NYU Wagner, combining her education with practical expertise to drive success in various sectors.

**HUMANITY COMPOSER | SPEAKER**

# MEET THE CONNECTOR



**LEENA TRINIDAD**

Heyyy, I'm Leena, the proud owner of Trini HC Group! As a passionate promotional product distributor, I have the magic touch to put your logo on just about anything. I'm your go-to promo girl, ready to elevate your brand in style.

But that's not all! I'm also a vital member of the Traveling Cannabis writer team, led by the incredible Veronica. Together, we hit the streets to ensure that the voices and stories of minorities in the cannabis industry shine. We've made waves in top industry magazines like Honeysuckle Magazine and Skunk Magazine. Vee, the Traveling Cannabis writer, wields her pen for BIPOC and women in cannabis, making sure their voices are heard. Let's keep blazing trails together!

#CannabisAdvocate #PromoQueen #DiversityChampion

**THE CONNECTOR | VIPER | SPEAKER**



# MEET THE HISTORIAN



**SENATOR CONNIE JOHNSON**  
(RETIRED)

Senator Connie Johnson, a distinguished native of rural Southeast Oklahoma, is an alumnus of public schools, an Ivy League institution, and an HBCU. She made history as Oklahoma's first African American woman US Senate nominee and authored the state's inaugural medical cannabis law in 2007. During her 33-year career in the Oklahoma Senate, she notably served Oklahoma County's African American community for nine years. Her impactful work led to significant reforms in criminal justice, healthcare, and child welfare, including the passage of State Questions 780, 781, and 788, which notably advanced Oklahoma's cannabis industry and strengthened its economy.

Senator Johnson's advocacy efforts resulted in voter approval of five legislative proposals, despite legislative inaction. A passionate advocate for women's reproductive rights and the abolition of the death penalty, she serves on relevant boards and aims to amend the Oklahoma Constitution accordingly. She chairs the Forest Park OK Board of Adjustments, is a member of the NAACP, and maintains a life of spiritual persistence and commitment.

Founder of Advocacy Works, she educates and activates citizens on legislative processes. Connie is a mother of three, grandmother to three, and a caretaker of Lacey, her rescue dog. She enjoys traveling, the ocean, and engaging with diverse communities.

**SPEAKER | HISTORIAN**

# MEET THE VIPER



**CAROLYN MARONEY**

Carolyn Maroney is the Managing Partner & Systems Administrator at OK Canna Consulting, LLC, based in Oklahoma City. Originally from New York City, she pursued her Master's degree in Educational Psychology at The College of Saint Rose in Albany, New York. Transitioning from a lengthy career in computer education, Carolyn now dedicates her expertise to aiding licensed Cannabis businesses in maintaining compliance with regulatory bodies like the OMMA.

Her extensive knowledge in software is especially beneficial for clients needing support with state tracking software and reporting. Collaborating with her partners, Brandy Frisbee and Brian Keenan, Carolyn emphasizes personalized attention for each client's business needs. Driven by a philosophy of mutual success, she and her team at OK Canna Consulting are committed to supporting and advancing the cannabis industry.

Discover more at [OKCannaConsulting.com](https://OKCannaConsulting.com).

**OKLAHOMA VIPER | SPEAKER**



# MEET THE VIPER



**RANA McDONALD**

Rana McDonald's journey began in California's Bay Area and led her to over a decade in Guam before settling in Texas. Transforming from a single mother dependent on government assistance to an accomplished tech expert with 15 years of experience, Rana's story is one of resilience and growth. Her transition from the corporate world to the cannabis industry was driven by a desire to address the lack of female representation. In November 2020, she launched Candy Clouds in San Antonio, Texas. The brand, known for its unique, feminine, and artistic smoking accessories, made its debut in the local art scene through pop-ups in downtown San Antonio.

Rana's deepening engagement with the art community fueled her ambition to support emerging artists. Candy Clouds stands out for its commitment to creating distinct and elegant smoking accessories. The brand is a celebration of freedom from rigid corporate norms, with a focus on transparency, universal love, and collective healing. Candy Clouds also champions alternative healing methods, aiming to fill voids in mental health care by forming strategic partnerships.

Candy Clouds has marked its presence on Instagram @candyclouds.official and in 16 stores across San Antonio, with dreams of opening its own flagship store. Rana's narrative is a beacon of hope and encouragement, not just for single mothers and women, but for anyone bravely pursuing their dreams against all odds.

**TEXAS VIPER | SPEAKER**

# MEET THE VIPER



**NINA ALEXANDRA**

Nina Alexandra is a trailblazing entrepreneur and community advocate based in San Antonio, Texas. As the founder of Mama Janes Botanica, a cannabis retail business, she channels her personal journey with cannabis into her professional life. Nina discovered the healing powers of cannabis during her postpartum period, experiencing firsthand how it can positively transform mental and physical health. This revelation led her to create a business that focuses on providing high-quality, innovative cannabis products to her customers.

Her role as a cannabis business owner is just one facet of her dynamic life. Nina is deeply involved in civic engagement and community advocacy in San Antonio, participating in city council initiatives and working towards meaningful societal change. Her efforts are driven by her skills in people engagement and collaborative problem-solving.

**TEXAS VIPER | SPEAKER**



# MEET THE VIPER



**SHANON JARAMILLO**

A dynamic LGBTQ+ Latina leader, is the Founder & CEO of SeedCrest, Inc., a trailblazer in professional cannabis establishment training in New Mexico. Since 2017, she has revolutionized the industry, recruiting over 15,000 entrepreneurs and workforce members, many obtaining state-specific certifications.

Her remarkable leadership in business development earned her the 2020 Women in Business Development Award in New Mexico. Shanon also contributed to policy making as a participant in Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's 2019 Working Group for Legalization. Under her guidance, SeedCrest, Inc. received the "Best Community Business Essie Award" in 2022. Furthering her commitment to public service, she became the Representative for District 5, Bernalillo County, for the DWI Planning Council in Greater New Mexico in 2023. Shanon's work, representing the ethos of a woman-owned business, is pivotal in shaping a more responsible and educated cannabis industry. More about her and SeedCrest, Inc. can be found at [www.SeedCrest.io](http://www.SeedCrest.io).

**NEW MEXICO VIPER | SPEAKER**

# MEET THE VIPER



**VIOLETA RIVAS**

**MEET VIOLETA RIVAS:** A Distinguished Tax Expert in the Cannabis Industry. Violeta's exceptional expertise shines in her role as a Tax Advisor, where she masterfully navigates the complex world of cannabis taxation. Her approach is meticulously crafted, balancing strict compliance with evolving regulations and strategic financial optimization.

With a deep-seated understanding of the unique tax implications in the cannabis sector, she empowers businesses to enhance their profitability while efficiently managing liabilities.

Violeta's role transcends traditional tax advisory; she is a strategic partner, deeply invested in the financial success of her clients. Her insights are not just about meeting regulatory demands but are focused on contributing to the financial well-being and long-term growth of cannabis ventures.

Her ability to blend regulatory knowledge with business acumen makes her an invaluable asset. Violeta's guidance is pivotal for companies looking to navigate the intricate fiscal landscape of the cannabis industry, ensuring they remain financially healthy and poised for sustained growth.

**TEXAS VIPER | SPEAKER**



# MEET THE VIPER



Bryan Blondeau is an enthusiastic entrepreneur & advocate in the cannabis business. As a community organizer, his passion lies in enhancing the quality and regulation of the cannabis industry. Bryan is deeply committed to collaborating with individuals who prioritize kindness and safety, focusing on sharing wisdom, knowledge, and traditions to foster transparency in all aspects of the industry. His approach is consumer-centric; he envisions providing comprehensive information on cannabis use, including strain specifics, expected effects, and a robust system for traceability from seed to sale. Bryan advocates for informed consumer decisions, ensuring that every purchase contributes positively to the local community. His goal is to elevate the industry by spreading quality knowledge and best practices.

Bryan actively engages with the cannabis community and shares his insights and experiences on his Instagram at [Bryan.Blondeau.3](#), inviting others to join him in raising the standard of the cannabis industry.

**NEW MEXICO VIPER | SPEAKER**

# MEET THE VIPER



**PAM LIN JONES**

A mother, stepmother, and Lala (grandma), is a passionate cannabis enthusiast with 38 years of experience. Navigating through various careers, including the oil and gas industry, she adeptly balanced her cannabis use with professional demands. A pioneering holder of a license post the passing of Oklahoma's State Question 788, Pam has since ceased using Xanax & narcotic sleeping pills, significantly reducing other pharmaceuticals. Her focus lies in exploring terpenes, maintaining a cannabis journal, and educating people from diverse backgrounds, cherishing their stories.

Previously managing a large grow operation for a year, Pam gained valuable insights before transitioning to a fulfilling role in cannabis banking. Here, she continues to engage with the cannabis community, contributing to the industry's legitimacy and growth.

**OKLAHOMA VIPER | SPEAKER**



# MEET THE VIPER



**DJ FONO**

## Introducing DJ FONO: The Groove Guru of Detroit's Cannabis Scene

Meet DJ FONO, the sonic sensation behind the cannabis-inspired beats of Detroit, Michigan. With a passion for music as deep-rooted as his love for cannabis, DJ FONO has become a distinguished DJ and music producer, offering a unique audio experience tailored exclusively for the cannabis community.

From the heart of the Motor City, DJ FONO has cultivated a sound that harmonizes perfectly with the therapeutic and creative vibes of the cannabis culture. With a diverse range of influences, from classic hip-hop to psychedelic rock, he crafts auditory journeys that elevate your cannabis experience to new heights.

But DJ FONO offers more than just a musical backdrop; he provides audio services specially designed to complement the cannabis experience. Whether you're hosting a cannabis-themed event, seeking the perfect playlist for your smoke session, or want to infuse your dispensary ambiance with groovy beats, DJ FONO is the maestro who understands the intricate connection between sound and sensation.

Beyond his professional pursuits, DJ FONO boasts a lifelong passion for cannabis advocacy and education. He's not only a purveyor of great music but also an ardent cannabis enthusiast who understands the profound impact this versatile plant can have on both individuals and communities.

**MICHIGAN VIPER | SPEAKER**

# MEET THE VIPER



**LESA EVANS**

Lesa is a dynamic business accelerator specializing in elevating small and medium-sized enterprises. She partners with growth-oriented business owners and executives, particularly those facing significant challenges or feeling stuck. Her expertise spans a broad range of areas including technology, marketing, sales, digital solutions, & operations. Lesa is also skilled in negotiations and education. What sets her apart is her unique blend of strategic guidance and what she playfully terms "gentle ass-kicking." This approach ensures that her clients not only identify their growth paths but also actively pursue them with vigor and confidence. Lesa's work is pivotal in transforming businesses from stagnant to thriving entities.

**NEW MEXICO VIPER | SPEAKER**



# MEET THE VIPER



**DR. BRIDGET COLE WILLIAMS**

Dr. Bridget Cole Williams, M.D., a compassionate and knowledgeable medical cannabis specialist, operates an integrative practice with services in Ohio and Michigan. We do cannabis differently. As the founder and former CEO of Green Harvest Health, she has devoted her career to understanding the benefits of medicinal cannabis and advocating for patient-centered care.

Board certified in family medicine, Dr. Bridget not only consults with patients and provides medical cannabis cards, but also incorporates holistic practices into her comprehensive approach. Her empathetic nature and commitment to education empowers patients throughout their healing journey.

Dr. Bridget is also the acclaimed author of the best-selling book series, "Courage in Cannabis", which sheds light on compelling stories of cannabis and CBD usage. Through her work, she brings these stories to the forefront of the industry conversation, emphasizing the need to maintain medical cannabis access for patients in need.

In addition to her clinical practice, Dr. Williams collaborates with cannabis schools to develop educational curriculums and delivers informative talks at events across the country. She also hosts the "Reclaim Your Wellness with DrBridgetMD" segment on Black Star Network, further expanding her impact on the medical cannabis community.

**MICHIGAN AND OHIO VIPER | SPEAKER**

# MEET THE VIPER



**TYE TOKES**

Tye Tokes began his professional path at a humble, veteran-owned mom-and-pop dispensary in Eufaula, Oklahoma. This initial experience ignited a passion that led him to manage multiple dispensaries, simultaneously delving into marketing and advocacy. The inception of "Tye Tokes" was fueled by a personal understanding of the patient's perspective, recognizing the confusion and need for guidance in choosing the right products. His mission evolved into providing genuine, insightful feedback on cannabis products, coupled with an educational approach for the community.

As a transgender male who navigates his own mental health challenges, Tye's venture transcended beyond mere product reviews. It became a beacon of encouragement & acceptance, resonating deeply with those who shared his experiences. His efforts stand at the forefront of challenging and ultimately dismantling stigmas surrounding LGBTQ+ identities, mental health, and cannabis use. The "I'm proud of you" movement, spearheaded by Tye, is not just a statement but a testament to inclusivity, understanding, and the transformative power of shared experiences in the journey towards wellness and acceptance.

**OKLAHOMA VIPER | SPEAKER**



# MEET THE VIPER



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**OKLAHOMA VIPER | SPEAKER**

# MEET THE VIPER



**BRANDI RICE**

Brandi Rice, a seasoned professional in the cannabis industry, began her remarkable journey in 2011 in Michigan. She played an instrumental role in launching one of Burton, Michigan's first dispensaries, where her primary focus was on educating patients about the therapeutic and medical benefits of cannabis. Her expertise in patient education and marijuana's medical applications propelled her to success, leading her to manage the dispensary and conduct educational seminars.

Transitioning her focus to compliance and industry standards, Brandi became proficient in navigating platforms like Metrc, as well as local and state laws. Now residing in Oklahoma, she travels statewide, sharing her knowledge with business owners on effectively operating their businesses through Metrc, POS systems, and owners on effectively operating their businesses through Metrc, POS systems, and CRM Management.

Additionally, Brandi holds the role of Operations Manager at Captain Kirk's Edibles, where she and her fiancé, Kirk Reid, produce award-winning edibles for Oklahoma's patients. This venture, a true "mom and pop" operation, marks a significant achievement, having flourished over three years. Brandi eagerly anticipates touring across Oklahoma, engaging with like-minded individuals, and fostering collective growth in the cannabis industry.

**OKLAHOMA VIPER | SPEAKER**



# MEET THE VIPER



**EMILY-SUE**

Emily-Sue Snyder, 33, skillfully juggles her roles as a licensed hairstylist since 2009, artist, philanthropist, mental health advocate, & loving mother of two. In her hairstyling career, she excels in uplifting her clients, guiding them on paths to healing & self-discovery. Beyond her professional role, Emily-Sue passionately leads "Stay Another Day," an Oklahoma-based organization dedicated to suicide prevention and technique workshops, self-love sessions, and art therapy.

Her dedication to mental health also manifests in public outreach efforts, notably through sign-holding events that promote love and self-worth. Personal struggles with anxiety, depression, and PTSD led Emily-Sue to explore and advocate for alternative therapies. Embracing the therapeutic potential of microdosing psilocybin and cannabis, she successfully transitioned away from pharmaceuticals, finding solace in these natural remedies.

Emily-Sue extends her knowledge & experiences through harm reduction work at festivals in Oklahoma and Arkansas, educating many about psilocybin and Cannabis Breathwork. Her mission is deeply rooted in the advocacy of plant medicine and empowering others to find healing within themselves. She remains committed to making a positive impact in every life she touches.

**OKLAHOMA VIPER | SPEAKER**

# MEET THE DOCENT



**STEPHEN FARMER**

Steve Farmer  
Owner, La Casa Verde  
Tucumcari, NM

## A CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT

My mission is driving Community Development through growth of the Cannabis Industry. My focus is on Education and Awareness relating to the Plant, our Bodies, and our Communities.  
My personal and business dedication is to Collaborative Sustainability  
- Healthy People Build Healthy Communities.

Stephen Farmer (@steve.ganjawellness)  
<https://www.facebook.com/legacyacresmarket>  
Legacy Acres Market @ La Casa Verde.NG (@lacasaverde.ng)

**NEW MEXICO DOCENT | SPEAKER**



# MEET THE DOCENT



**SANDY MOORE**

Sandy Moore, a tenacious advocate and the CEO & Founder of Hemp Box Etc, has a unique journey deeply rooted in her status as a disabled veteran. Her innovative venture transformed a shipping container into mobile hemp food truck while also pioneering the Hemp Box Essentials CBD Product line. Sandy's personal transformation with Full Spectrum CBD, which alleviated her PTSD, depression, sexual trauma, & severe anxiety, ignited her passion for cannabis advocacy.

With a remarkable background as a 10-year United States Army Combat Veteran and a 12-year former Law Enforcement Officer, Sandy is on a mission to bridge gaps between these worlds and champion Criminal Justice Reform. Her recent projects include aiding the release of cannabis conviction prisoners and collaborating with organizations like the Georgia Justice Project and Snap4Freedom. Sandy Moore's commitment extends to standing by the veteran community and advocating for their choice of plant-based medicinal healthcare.

**GEORGIA DOCENT | SPEAKER | DISABLED ARMY COMBAT VETERAN**

# MEET THE DOCENT



**KIMMIE HUGHES**

Kim Hughes, also known as Kimmie Cannabis, is a passionate advocate for cannabis legalization and human rights. As she approaches her 55th birthday, Kim is a proud mother of four and a doting grandma to many. Her life journey has been marked by witnessing the injustices of cannabis prohibition and the struggle to avoid incarceration. For 38 years, Kim has pursued her career as a self-employed hairstylist, cultivating a canna-friendly environment for her clients. Her personal experiences, including the loss of her father due to prescribed opioid addiction, ignited a fervent mission to educate society about the benefits of choosing plants over pills. Kim has dedicated the last six years to educating the public about the endocannabinoid system & promoting the use of hemp-derived CBD. Her advocacy extends into the medical cannabis industry in Oklahoma City, where she serves as a patient advocate and educator. Her primary goal is to dispel the reefer madness stigma surrounding cannabis, which offers numerous therapeutic benefits. Kim is a multifaceted advocate, known for creating the "Canna Talk About It?" podcast, where she discusses various aspects of cannabis and its impact on society. She has also pioneered the "High N Heelz" art auction fundraiser, leveraging her creativity to support causes she holds dear. Kim Hughes is a tireless champion for cannabis reform and a staunch advocate for women's and human rights.

**OKLAHOMA DOCENT | SPEAKER**



# MEET THE DOCENT



**BRANDON JONES**

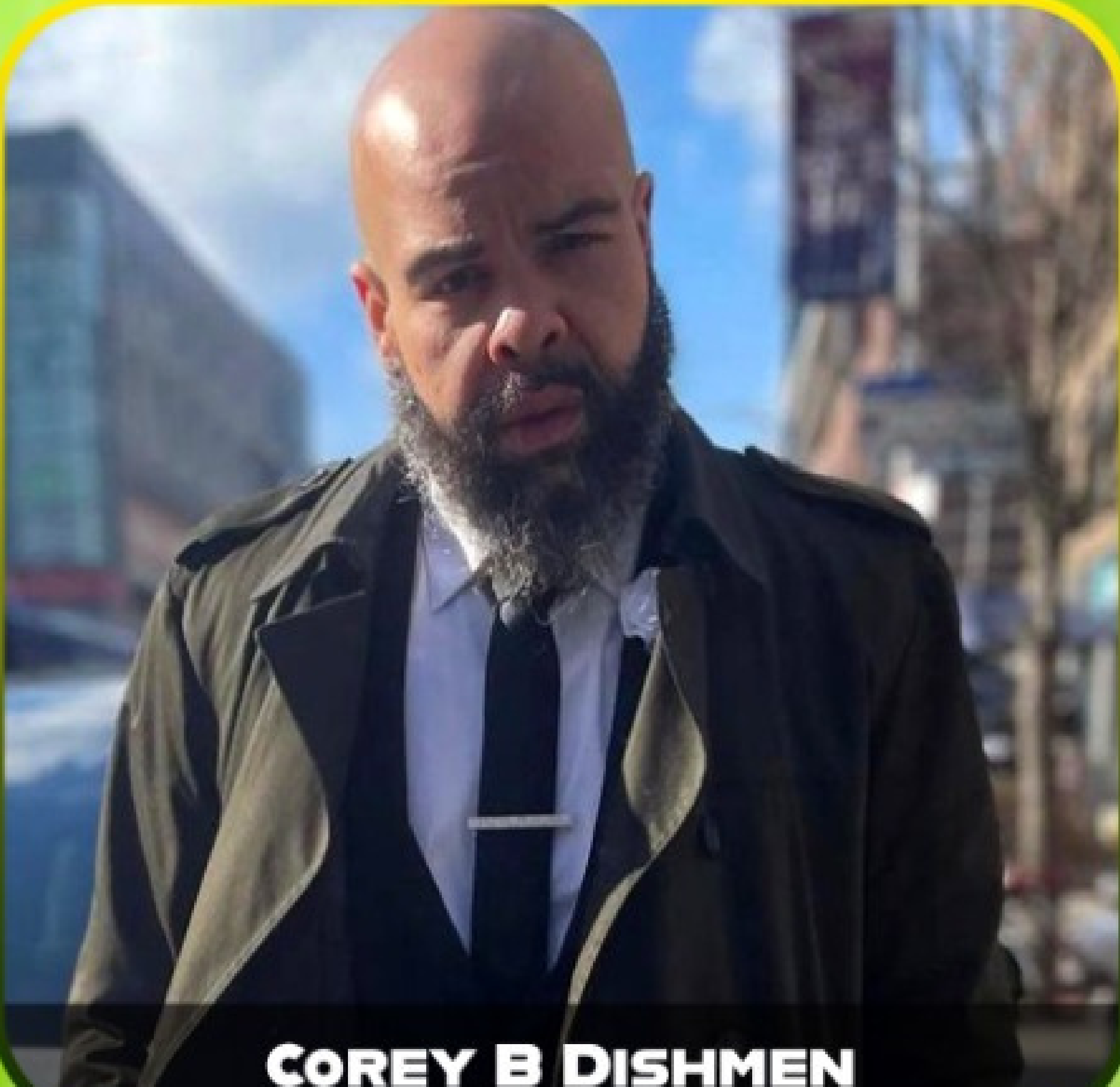
I was lead to the cannabis industry after a near fatal car accident. I had 150 stitches in one side of my face and was placed on a morphine drip every 8 minutes. I was then prescribed numerous pain killers for almost 3 1/2 years and was up to 28 ibuprofen a day when I was out of opioids. I found myself addicted and having significant health issues at 23. I had only used Cannabis recreationally and did not know its ability to help. I was introduced to Cannabis as medicine by a friend, and it instantly made a significant change to my quality of life. I have a history of sales and wanted to find a product I believe in to find a career that made a difference. I wanted to sell products that helped the industry and did not have a long-term effect on the planet. That is why I ultimately decided that my flagship brand would be Integra Boost Products! I have compiled a group of likeminded people that believe in Plant over Pill medicine to help gain access for all in need.

BGreen is focused on delivering quality products at a great price and to support the local community both with financial support and be an advocacy group for those without a voice!

PLANTS OVER PILLS

**MISSOURI DOCENT | SPEAKER**

# MEET THE DOCENT



**COREY B DISHMEN**

Corey, originally from Michigan is now a proud resident of West Orange, NJ, and a devoted father of three. With a BA in Sociology from Seton Hall University, a Master's in Education, and an upcoming Doctorate in Education, he has excelled academically. Corey has also achieved recognition as a Master Mason & Collegiate Hall of Fame Essex County inductee. Personally affected by the inequities surrounding cannabis, Corey is a social equity license holder in NJ.

**NEW JERSEY CO-DOCENT | SPEAKER**



# MEET THE DOCENT



**CANDY FLORES**

Texas native #1 Best Selling Co-Author 2021 & 2023, certified cannabis/cbd health coach medical cannabis patient, advocate & enthusiast with a passion for plant medicine due to her personal experiences with its life saving benefits. Candy strongly believes in healing benefits of cannabis and cannabinoids. Through her healing she continues to share the therapeutic purposes by raising awareness education & offering support to patients new to plant medicine. As the strong warrior she is & huge passion she holds dear to her heart, she continues to inspire others with her eagerness to explore the plants potential benefits and enhance human health & wellbeing without dangerous pharmaceuticals.

**TEXAS & NEW MEXICO DOCENT | SPEAKER**

# MEET THE DOCENT



**CHARLES PENN**

Charles is a determined entrepreneur who holds an Associate's Degree in Audio Engineering and is close to completing a BA in Sociology at Rutgers University. Currently serving as President and Co-founder of The Library of New Jersey Inc., he has earned media recognition on networks like ABC, CBS, PBS, and MSNBC. Charles' journey, from retail to education and law enforcement, highlights his dedication, strong work ethic, and personal growth in the community.

**NEW JERSEY CO-DOCENT | SPEAKER**