

Edward DeJesus

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- Accomplished, respected, and results-driven executive with 30 years+ of leadership experience in developing and managing youth service initiatives for high-risk youth including youth in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Proven track record in addressing the educational, social and employment needs of complex needs youth and young adults through evidence based service programming and a social capital framework. Adept at working with diverse stakeholders and facilitating community change to support organizational objectives. Strong background in budgeting and management, cross-departmental project management, information technology utilization, human resources development and public speaking.
- Demonstrated effectiveness in staff leadership, supervision and contract management. Extraordinary ability to build close knit teams and elicit loyalty. Excels in facility and contract compliance to ensure success of organization and safety of clients and staff.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Youth Program Design & Evaluation | Social Capital | Juvenile Justice | Workforce Development | Qualitative & Quantitative Research | Budget Management | Strategic Project & Program Management | Cultural Competence | Leadership | Mentoring | Family Involvement | Violence Reduction | Curriculum Development | Project Evaluation & Reporting | Excellent Public Speaking

PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS & EXPERIENCE

DeJesus Solutions/Social Capital Builders

2018 - Present

President

- Provide technical assistance and program development services to more than 100 youth serving organizations across the U.S.
- Assist foundations, research institutions and government agencies in developing effective social capital development solutions to the provisions of educational, workforce, and social services to marginalized populations.
- Developed state of the art, innovative programming and solutions to issue of youth disconnection and long-term economic opportunities.

Youth Advocate Program, Inc.

2014 - 2018

National Director of Workforce Development Program and Policy

- Collaborated with YAP's grant development office and secured \$5.4 million in funding to support a social capital workforce and educational development framework for justice involved youth and young adults. .
- Developed and initiated innovative programs and policies targeted to complex need youth, including youth in the juvenile justice, behavioral health and child welfare system across the United States.
- Supervised more than 10 program managers and over 100 direct youth service staff throughout the Baltimore/DC region.
- Established creative partnership with corporations, educational institution and media outlets that benefit America's most disenfranchised youth and young adults.
- Cooperated with YAP's National Policy Director influenced affective change at Federal, State and Local workforce on juvenile justice policies and practices.

Strive DC

2012 – 2014

Executive Director

- Led fundraising and grant development activities for budget of \$1.036 million which represents a 38% increase over the budget prior to the December 2012.
- Under my Leadership Strive DC was named “one of the best of the best” small charities in Washington, DC for 2013/14 by The Catalogue for Philanthropy Greater Washington.
- Acknowledged for Quality of Excellence for effective training for all new hires/existing employee and handled of human resource, finance management, fundraising, policy making and leadership and mentoring of a team that consistently exceed organization goals and personally successfully set-up over 300 new clients.

Youth Development and Research Fund

1999 – 2012

President

- Developed a sound youth engagement methodology adopted and used by 25+ youth service organization.

- Provided technical assistance and training services to 100+ workforce and youth development organizations on issues surrounding youth employment, engagement, and development.
- Researched numerous national foundations, U.S. Department of Labor and National Education groups on key issues affecting youth recruitment, retention, placement, and education.

Promising & Effective Network (PEPNet), National Youth Employment Coalition Director	1995 – 1999
Youth Fair Chance, Phipps Community Development Corporation Director	1994 – 1995
Center for Employment, Training, and Education (CETE), Washington Heights, New York City Director	1991 – 1994
East Harlem Teen Program, Children’s Aid Society, New York NY Coordinator	1992 – 1995
Career Advancement Program, Higher Education Development Program, Bronx, NY Coordinator	1987 – 1991
Harlem’s Men’s Employment Shelter, New York Department of Human Resource Case Manager	1985 – 1991

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

New School for Social Research MS Management and Urban Policy Analysis Fordham University	1991 1986
BA Political science	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Youth Employment Coalition ▪ National Association of Workforce Boards ▪ American Civil Liberties Union ▪ Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity, Inc. 	

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Recipient, Top 40 under 40 Leaders in Washington, DC	2000
Recipient, Eli & May Rudin Community Service Award, New York University, Wager School of Public Policy	991
Fellow, W.K. Kellogg Foundation National Fellowship Program	1994 – 1997
Fellow, Rutgers University, Canter for Strategic Planning and Urban Community Leadership	1992 - 1993

PUBLICATION WORK

Books

Countering the Urban Influence

Youth Development and Research Fund, 2005

MAKIN’ iT

Youth Development and Research Fund 1999 – 2001, 2019

Journals & Articles

- “Answering the Call”, *Addressing the Drop-Out Crisis, National Education Association*, 2008
- “Listening to the voices of Disconnected Youth”, *United State Department of Labor*, 2005 (Unpublished)
- “Barriers and Promising Approaches to Working with Young Offenders”, *Annie E. Casey Foundation*, 2001
- “Youth Cultural Competence”, *U.S Department of Labor*, 2001 (Unpublished)
- “Undervalued & Overlooked”, *Educational Standard & Out-of-School Youth Prepared for the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation*, 2000

Curriculum

MAKIN’ iT Curriculum and Program Manual, Published by Youth Development Research Fund, 2008

21st Century Success Principle, Edward Dejesus, and Valarie Uccelani, Published by New Orleans Jon Initiative, 2000

Foundations in Social Capital Literacy (FISCL), Published by DeJesus Solutions in 2021.

Opportunities Up- Violence Down, published 2022.

Selected Presentation & Lectures

- After-School Institute. *Creating Quality After-School Initiatives.*
- Alabama Workforce Investment Board. *Improving Labor Market outcomes for At-risk Youth*
- Brown University. *The Role of Social Entrepreneurship*
- Nevada drop-Out Prevention Summit. *Building an Effective Youth Workforce System*
- Children’s Defense Fund. *Effective Principle in Juvenile Justice*
- National Hip-Hop Summit. *Hip- Hop Responsibility*
- Commonwealth Corp. *Youth Cultural Competence*