



WOMEN TRANSCENDING

Collective Leadership Institute Alumnae Network Cohort



Bleu Inkk Watkins, California

Born and raised in Compton, CA. Bleu Inkk served 28 years, 6 months, and 4 days before being released as a woman who found her voice and her soul's purpose while being quieted in a broken system. She became a resident of A New Way of Life and after being there a year,

Bleu became the housing Coordinator where her new way of Life continues. She speaks on how unresolved traumas as youth affects the choices as women.



Cass Severe, New Jersey

Cass Severe is a mother, certified social worker, survivor, activist, credible messenger, and change agent living and working in Newark, New Jersey. She currently works with the Newark Housing Authority to support the Asset Manager and the Department of Operations. Cass previously

worked as advertised Project Manager at Newark Community Street Team. NCST is a community-based violence reduction strategy that trains and deploys Outreach Workers and High-Risk Interventionists in the South and West Wards. Cass knows firsthand the difficulty and challenges people face after traumatic life experiences, has made it her mission and passion to incorporate healing in her social work practices.



Chanel Rhymes, Washington

Chanel Rhymes is the co-owner of Monarch Consulting LLC and the Director of Advocacy for the Northwest Community Bail Fund. Prior to joining the Northwest Community Bail fund, Chanel served as the Court Program Analyst for the Washington Supreme Court Minority and

Justice Commission., executing the mission of ensuring that all courts in the state of Washington remain free of bias so that justice might be adjudicated in a neutral and fair manner. Previously, she was a Program Manager for the Freedom Education Project of Puget Sound where she developed and coordinated college courses for women seeking to attain their AA degrees while incarcerated at the Washington Correction Center for Women. Chanel has worked with the Council of State Governments Justice Center, supporting their work on national criminal justice reform. She also has legislative experience as a Political Field Organizer and as a Legislative Liaison for the Washington Student Association, where she lobbied for the interests of students in higher education around issues of affordability, administration transparency, and accessibility.



Charlotte Garnes, Georgia

Charlotte Garnes launched ReNforce (pronounced reinforce) in 2020 because of her experience with discriminatory employment and professional licensing practices. She received her undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice from Georgia Southern University in Statesboro,

GA, and her Master of Arts in Counseling from Webster University in Columbia, SC. Ms. Garnes is a trained Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion professional with a DEI certificate from the University of South Florida. ReNforce provides support and training to individuals returning home from incarceration and assists them in making a successful transition back into the workforce and society. ReNforce also engages employers open to learning more about the benefits of hiring qualified job candidates with a conviction on their record. ReNforce broadened its portfolio with the establishment of

Redemption House, a supportive Safe House Initiative aimed at aiding justice-impacted women located in Augusta, GA.

Through her vision, Charlotte intends to use her focus to shift the community's perceptions associated with mass incarceration, reintegration, the workforce, and economic development for those impacted by the criminal legal system. Advocate, mentor, social change agent, and educator, Charlotte's passion for merging both her personal and professional experiences to become a champion for change in educating others on the importance of diversifying the labor force for justice-impacted individuals, mental health care pre- and post-incarceration, and changing the narrative for impacted individuals. She is a 2020 Leading with Conviction Cohort Graduate from JustLeadership USA, a 2021 Women Organizing for Justice and Opportunity Graduate, and a 2022 Women's Transcending Collective Leadership Fellow with Columbia University.



Kristie Puckett, North Carolina

Kristie Puckett is the Statewide Campaign for Smart Justice Manager for the ACLU of North Carolina and is a working scholar in Mass Incarceration with a focus on the treatment of women including pregnant women in carceral facilities. Recently, Kristie was appointed by NC's

Governor to serve as the Chair of the Women in Incarceration, a working group for the State Reentry Council Collaborative. Also, Kristie is currently traveling across the state of North Carolina with the Attorney General and his staff to conduct roundtables to talk about pretrial detention practices in the state. Her goal is to use her educational and life experiences to convey a message of strength and hope in the community as well as a message of recovery, restoration and redemption.



Lauren Hansen, Colorado

Lauren Hansen is the Communication and Community Engagement Coordinator for the Alliance for Higher Education in Prison. Lauren served as the co-chair for the 2019 National Conference for Higher Education in Prison (NCHEP) planning committee and serves on the advisory board for NJ F.O.R.T.E. House and Princeton University's Prison Teaching Initiative (PTI). She has been speaking about the dangers of drunk driving since 2011. She co-founded STERR in 2019, a company to speak in tandem with her brother, Ryan Hansen, about the dangers of drunk driving which they hope to launch nationally in the near future. She regularly speaks about her experience of higher education in a prison program to now working for the Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison She is passionate about empowering, educating and supporting people affected by incarceration.



Leslie Credle, Massachusetts

Leslie leads a local non-profit in Boston, MA where our mission is to end the homelessness problem for formerly incarcerated women and women currently involved in the criminal legal system who have lost housing. We fight to change the current legislation surrounding these discriminatory policies that disproportionately affect people of color.



Pauline Rogers, Mississippi

Pauline Rogers is the co-founder of the Reaching and Educating for Community Hope Foundation (RECH) located in Jackson, Mississippi. She also runs the statewide employment and life skills training initiative known as MORE (Mississippi Offender Reentry Establishment). She was the former Field Director for the National Prison Fellowship Organization along with accolades as a Public Speaker, Evangelist, Moderator, and Panelist on reform topics of social and criminal justice and civic

issues. an ordained minister whose work has been acknowledged and gained her appearances on CBN News the 700 Club, along with The Link, The Word Network, TBN (Trinity Broadcast Network), and various universities, colleges, magazines, publications and local newspapers during her 30-year dedication to prison activism.



Tonie Willis, Pennsylvania

Tonie is the Founder and Executive Director of Ardella's House. As a visionary leader, Tonie's advocacy supports access to transitional housing for family reunification. This has been a priority especially when as many as 60 percent of incarcerated women are mothers. Her work at Ardella's House aids over 300 hundred women and their families annually and offers a continuum of care in the area of employment, housing, family, health and wellbeing, and criminal justice compliance.