



# WOMEN TRANSCENDING

## Collective Leadership Institute Cohort #8, 2026-2027



### *Bobbie Ebony Butts, California*

*Bobbie Ebony Butts is the Founder and General Manager of Equity Justice Consulting LLC, where she works as a legislative consultant, trainer, and advocate. With more than 15 years of experience in nonprofit leadership and community organizing, her work centers on advocacy,*

*political education, and leadership development.*

*Bobbie brings both professional expertise and lived experience to her practice, including her personal journey through family separation, incarceration, and reunification. She is committed to ensuring that those most directly impacted by harmful systems are at the forefront of shaping solutions. Through her consulting and organizing efforts, she works to advance family preservation, community healing, and justice for all.*



### *Brittany Bettison, Alabama*

*Brittney Bettison is a purpose-driven leader and advocate working at the intersection of education equity, reentry, and social impact, with experience spanning the nonprofit, higher education, healthcare, and social justice sectors. Her work is grounded in a deep personal understanding*

*of what's at stake when equitable access to education is denied, driving her commitment to building systems that work for those who've historically been locked out of them.*

*As the 2024 Rise Up Conference Fellow with Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison, she contributed to strengthening prison*

education programs and amplifying the voices of directly-impacted leaders. Currently, Brittney serves as Program Operations Consultant for the Formerly Incarcerated College Graduates Network, where she channels her social impact expertise alongside a community of leaders who embody the mission she's built her career around.



## Carshara Bradley, Ohio

Carshara Bradley is a dedicated community leader, mentor, and advocate committed to creating positive change in the lives of youth, families, and communities. She is the founder of Walking in My Truth, Inc., a nonprofit organization focused on restoring individuals, rebuilding families, and reforming communities. Through her work, she empowers transitional leaders by providing education, mentorship, and life-changing resources. Carshara is passionate about violence prevention, youth development, and community engagement. Her leadership is driven by faith, purpose, and a deep commitment to helping others discover their strength and potential. She continues to inspire those around her through service, advocacy, and her unwavering dedication to making a lasting impact.



## Dawn Oliver-Ramsey, Missouri

Dawn Oliver-Ramsey (she/her/Duchess) is a queer matriarch and homegrown cultural organizer from Kansas City, MO; her work is rooted in Black queer feminism, unapologetically focuses on abolishing institutions of harm and centers the leadership of those closer to the problem(s). Among other things, Dawn is a legal professional, avid gardener and authentic Aries. Her favorite color is green.

Dawn is the co-founder and serves as the Executive Leader of Operation Liberation, a Black queer led abolitionist organizing hub based in KC. Dawn is honored to serve on the board of the Missouri Justice Coalition and has organized and trained with various regional and national social justice formations. Leaning on a wealth of lived and professional experience, Dawn hopes to help build a world where cages aren't actively being built for her grandchildren.



## Denise Williams, Louisiana

*Denise Williams is the Founder and Executive Director of Operation Inclusion Center for Women, Inc., a trauma-informed nonprofit supporting women impacted by incarceration and generational trauma. A formerly incarcerated leader and author of *Let Your Wound Be Your**

*Witness: A Journey Through Mental Liberation*, Denise created the Decarceration of Incarcerated Trauma Reentry Project, reframing reentry as emotional and spiritual liberation. She also serves as Housing Intake Coordinator at A New Way of Life, advancing equitable housing and healing-centered reentry. Through storytelling and advocacy, Denise helps women transcend trauma and reclaim freedom.



## Eboni Burrowes, Florida

*Eboni Burrowes is a dedicated and results-driven professional with over 13 years of experience in behavioral health, program management, and community development. Recognized for her strategic vision and collaborative approach, Eboni specializes in developing innovative solutions*

*that enhance program effectiveness, ensure compliance, and foster meaningful partnerships.*

*She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from York College and her Master's Degree in Social Work from Walden University. Eboni has completed numerous professional trainings and is passionate about empowering teams, strengthening community services, and creating sustainable change.*

*Throughout her career, Eboni has successfully led large-scale initiatives that have transformed service delivery. Notably, she led the development of a care coordination model that increased participant engagement and retention, resulting in improved health and social outcomes. She also directed a workforce development and education program that increased both staff and participant retention and elevated service quality across multiple departments.*

*Eboni's expertise includes quality assurance, regulatory compliance, program development, and interdepartmental collaboration. Her commitment to data-driven decision-making and improving outcomes for diverse populations makes her a valuable leader dedicated to advancing organizational goals and fostering lasting community impact.*



## *Elizabeth Lozano, California*

*Elizabeth has spent over 30 years navigating the complexities of the justice system, profoundly shaping her understanding of its impact on individuals, families, and communities. Driven by a strong commitment to juvenile justice reform, she co-founded the Juvenile Offenders*

*Committee to advocate for redemptive programming, restorative justice, and meaningful opportunities for young people involved in the legal system.*

*Drawing from her personal experiences, Elizabeth offers valuable insights, compassion, and a nuanced perspective in her work. Her firsthand understanding of the challenges faced by justice-impacted individuals fuels her dedication to creating pathways for healing, growth, and successful reintegration. Through her advocacy, she champions positive change and works toward a more equitable and restorative approach to justice, directly engaging with inside members. Elizabeth currently serves as Assistant Director of Inside Initiatives with the Institute of the Arts and Sciences, Visualizing Abolishing and Program Coordinator for Inside Membership with Initiate Justice.*



## *Éva-Milan Zsiga, New York*

*Éva-Milan Zsiga (sometimes also known as Coyote) is a writer, artist, educator, and meditation facilitator whose work weaves together healing, creativity, and collective liberation. For the past nine years, she has shared mindfulness practices through meditation, yoga,*

*and other holistic wellness modalities with communities across the*

United States, Canada, and Mexico, partnering with organizations such as Meditating for Black Lives, the Aboriginal Womb Circle, Lab of Meditation, Watari Counseling & Support Services, Templo, and her own platform, Sanctuary of Self. She holds a B.A. in Journalism with a minor in Anthropology from SUNY Purchase and has completed trainings in Vipassana (10-day silent meditation), Social Emotional Learning (SEL), Hatha Yoga, and trauma-informed mindful movement. In addition to facilitating wellness spaces, Éva-Milan teaches art to children in Harlem, using creativity as a tool for accessibility, healing, empowerment, and liberation. Through the Legacy Project, she facilitates guided meditation for people formerly incarcerated and systems impacted, helping create spaces where rest, healing, and community become acts of resistance and pathways toward collective freedom. After her father, who lived with bipolar disorder, died by suicide in February 2020 while facing a wrongful conviction, this work became deeply personal and continues to fuel her commitment to making holistic wellness accessible to communities most impacted by systemic violence. She believes wellness is not separate from the work of abolition, social justice, and decarceration—it is what sustains our capacity to imagine and build more liberated futures. Legacy Project is in honor of the Life and Legacy of her father, Rahkeem Gray.



## Fatima Roque, Arizona

Fatima Muhammad Roque is a resident of Phoenix, Arizona. She has over a 20 year herstory of offering doula, midwifery, education and healing supports to her community near and far. She is the owner and founder of MODABA, which stands for Moms, Dads and Babies as well as the Co-Founder of MODABA EDUCATION. These two community based organizations offer homebirth midwifery, doula support, trainings, family/community classes, events, somatic awareness and microschoool education. Her “why” for doing this work is the love, healing, nurturing and support of the Black Family to THRIVE!



## *Glee Hayter, California*

*Glee Hayter has a personal connection to the impact of incarceration on families, having grown up as the child of formerly incarcerated parents. Her experiences have given her insight into the challenges faced by children and loved ones of those involved in the justice system. Through sharing her story, she hopes to contribute to conversations about prison reform, rehabilitation, and family support. Glee is passionate about creating understanding and encouraging positive change for individuals and families affected by incarceration. She believes that every person deserves dignity, opportunity, and the chance to build a better future. Her goal is to be part of efforts that strengthen families and communities.*



## *Haley Shell, Mississippi*

*Haley Shell is a Mississippi native whose life and leadership are rooted in resilience, recovery, and service. After incarceration and overcoming substance use disorder and experiencing the power of transformation, she found healing, discipline, and strength through boxing, turning her pain into purpose. As a justice-impacted advocate and harm reduction leader, she is committed to reducing stigma, expanding access to resources, and helping others find pathways to recovery. Through her work with Exchanging Pathways and her dedication as a blue-collar route driver, she embodies grit, compassion, and the belief that healing and accountability can coexist. Boxing is not only her passion but her calling—she uses the sport to inspire, empower, and help others discover their own strength, resilience, and possibility.*



## Halima Gellman, Mexico

*Halima Gellman is an international human rights advocate and international peacebuilding professional. She has 20 years of experience working with local and international organizations across the globe. Her experience ranges across multiple fields including prison education, gender-based violence, refugee resettlement, women and youth empowerment, labor rights and humanitarian aid. Halima has extensive experience working in conflict and post-conflict countries as well as emergency contexts, such as in Sudan, Yemen and Guinea Bissau. She has a Masters from NYU in International Relations and is a certified yoga teacher and conflict mediator. She is co-founder of The Legacy Project, which was born out of her experience working with incarcerated people at Pollsmoor Prison in South Africa and San Francisco County Jail, as well as her personal experience having incarcerated family members. Travel and exploration of various healing modalities have been two of the most transformative privileges of her life. The Legacy Project will work to share these tools for wellness and transformation with those who have faced the most systematic violence and have the least amount of access.*



## Jateika Bailey, Kentucky

*Jateika Bailey is a barber, boxer, community advocate, and native of Hopkinsville, Kentucky. After spending six years as a professional truck driver, she dedicated her life to serving and uplifting her community. As a formerly incarcerated leader and credible messenger, Jateika uses her lived experience to inspire change and support individuals impacted by the justice system. She serves District 1 through ABLE (Advocacy Based on Lived Experience), advocating for community engagement, leadership, and second chances. Working with multiple organizations across Kentucky, she is passionate about empowering others and creating opportunities for growth. Jateika believes that lived experience is a powerful tool for healing, advocacy, and lasting community impact.*



## Laquita Peaches Baker, Tennessee

Laquita “Peaches” Baker is an author, entrepreneur, advocate, and Community Support Coordinator dedicated to empowering individuals impacted by incarceration and reentry. After overcoming personal challenges and serving nine years in prison, she transformed her life into a testimony of resilience, faith, and purpose. She is the author of *From Cradle to Grace: The Story of a Torn and Driven Woman*, a powerful memoir that chronicles her journey from adversity to triumph. Through her work with *Free Hearts* and various community initiatives, Laquita provides support, mentorship, and resources to individuals and families seeking a second chance. She is passionate about criminal justice reform, community empowerment, and helping others discover their strength through life’s challenges. Her mission is to inspire hope, healing, and transformation wherever her story is shared.



## Latrisha Jones, New York

Latrisha S. Jones is a nonprofit leader, advocate, writer, and community strategist committed to advancing justice, healing, and opportunity for women, girls, and families impacted by incarceration and systemic inequities. As a Founding Member of *Step Beyond Women & Girls*, she helps lead community-driven initiatives focused on participatory defense, youth development, healing-centered support, and systems advocacy in Harlem. Her commitment to this work is rooted in lived experience and informed by a deep understanding of the ways public systems shape the lives of children and families. Latrisha is a published author of two books, creator of a television series, and an accomplished public speaker who uses storytelling to elevate issues of resilience, justice, and community transformation. She is currently completing her law degree, further strengthening her ability to advocate for policies and practices that promote equity and lasting change. In addition to her nonprofit leadership, Latrisha serves as a senior executive in the real estate and asset management sector, where she leads complex strategic initiatives while remaining dedicated to empowering women and girls to heal, lead, and thrive.



## *Lisa Toney, Illinois*

*Lisa Toney is a dedicated community advocate and retired Human Resources professional with more than 25 years of experience in workforce development, employee relations, and organizational leadership. As a member of the Talk2Me Foundation and the National*

*Council, she is committed to supporting and empowering formerly incarcerated women and girls through advocacy, mentorship, and community engagement. Since retiring, Lisa has devoted her time to helping others build brighter futures and access meaningful opportunities. A devoted Christian, she is guided by her faith, compassion, and commitment to service. Family is at the heart of her life, and she cherishes time spent with her son and granddaughter while continuing to make a positive impact in her community.*



## *Nina Simone, Maryland*

*Nina D. Simone serves as Program Manager for Out for Justice, where she coordinates and coaches programs including legislation and advocacy, voting, member empowerment, and organizational community events. She is also the owner of Original Party Girl Productions and is*

*known locally as Baltimore's Exclusive Celebration Technician, "Able to Get the Fun Done!"*

*Through her work, she creates opportunities for empowerment, healing, connection, and community engagement. Her professional experience includes leadership and management, training, customer experience, and community outreach. Nina is a community-focused radio host who blends her love of house music with amplifying the voices of leaders, entrepreneurs, and changemakers. As a member of Women Transcending Cohort 8 through Columbia University, Nina is committed to empowering others through education, advocacy, and celebration.*



## Sheree Davis, Illinois

*Sheree Davis is a passionate community leader, advocate, and servant dedicated to empowering individuals and families through outreach, mentorship, and transformative programming. As the Director of Community Engagement, she is committed to building strong community partnerships, connecting people to vital resources, and creating opportunities that foster healing, growth, and long-term success.*

*From 2000 to 2010, Sheree served as an Correctional Officer with the Safer Foundation Reentry Program for Men. Sheree worked directly with justice-impacted individuals as they transitioned back into their communities. Her experience also includes volunteering with the Save Program at Cook County Jail in Chicago, Illinois, where she provided support, encouragement, and guidance to individuals navigating incarceration and reentry challenges.*

*With extensive training in domestic violence advocacy, cognitive behavioral intervention, and nonviolence, Sheree brings compassion, leadership, and lived understanding to every space she serves. She is deeply committed to uplifting youth, strengthening families, and helping communities thrive through mentorship, empowerment initiatives, and collaborative action.*



## Starkesha White, Washington

*Starkesha's passion for helping others has guided her career in behavioral health and substance use disorder (SUD) services. Throughout her professional journey, she has had the privilege of supporting adults facing mental health challenges, substance use disorders, and behavioral health crises. Her work has been centered on providing compassionate, person-centered care while empowering individuals to achieve stability, recovery, and improved quality of life.*



## Tracy Stanton, Missouri

*Tracy (T-Spirit) Stanton is an award winning international spoken word artist, cultural organizer, peacemaker, trainer, and certified well-being coach who primarily uses spoken word poetry to foster connections, spark hope, disrupt systems of oppression, and ignite transformation.*

*She deeply understands the need for connection, collective liberation, creative expression, and cultural reclamation.*

*T-Spirit is the founder of Some Things Must Be Heard: Spitting & Politicking which is an art-centered movement building initiative that merges art, spirituality, advocacy, and embodied organizing to ignite transformation, a founding member of Freedom Community Center which is a Black-led restorative justice abolitionist organization, and the owner of Spirit-LED Coaching & Consulting. Her he(art) was gifted to her by the ancestors, elders and predecessors so it shall remain grounded in transparency, vulnerability, resilience, righteousness, resistance, joy, and truth. Her poetry, advocacy, and spiritual offering are catalysts for personal and social transformation and it speaks to and for those that are battling oppressive systems: internally and externally. T-Spirit is also a member Black Healers Collective and the Mass Liberation Network where she is training to become a somatics practitioner.*



## Trindalin Browning, Georgia

*Trindalin Browning serves as a Reentry & Office Supervisor at Women on the Rise GA, supporting women as they transition home after incarceration. As a justice-impacted individual, Trindalin brings empathy, credibility, and firsthand understanding to her work with women*

*navigating reentry. Her lived experience has shaped her understanding of the barriers women face after incarceration, including employment challenges, housing instability, healthcare access, family reunification, and rebuilding trust within the community.*

*Trindalin is passionate about helping women create realistic transition plans, access meaningful resources, and move forward with confidence. Her leadership is rooted in compassion, accountability, and the belief that every person deserves the opportunity to rebuild their life with dignity.*

*Beyond her role, Trindalin continues to build her own expertise as a Certified Peer Specialist with Mental Health and Forensic Peer Mentor certifications through the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network. She is a 2025 graduating alumna of Women Organizing for Justice & Opportunity and a 2026 graduating alumna of JLUSA's Leading with Conviction program, and she is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Nonprofit Management with a concentration in Leadership Development at Liberty University.*



## **Tyquandra "Tye" Stephens, Florida**

*Tyquandra "Tye" Stephens, also known as Tyquandra Alrasul El Bey, is an Indigenous singer, songwriter, creative strategist, and community builder whose work sits at the intersection of art, wellness, and justice. After navigating her own journey of transformation, she dedicated herself*

*to creating spaces where people can reconnect with their creativity, purpose, and one another. That commitment led her to co-found The Givers Revival, where she serves as Creative Director, helping design experiences that strengthen community and support collective well-being. As the creator of The Wholey Vibe choir and productivity tribe, Tye continues to explore how sound, storytelling, and community can bring people fully into the present moment and leave them changed. Building on that work, she founded Cre8tives Returning, an initiative that supports artists, entrepreneurs, and visionaries rebuilding their lives after incarceration and other major life transitions. She is currently pursuing a degree in Entertainment Business at Full Sail University to strengthen the business foundation behind her growing body of work. Whether through music, restorative justice, or community-building initiatives, she is committed to helping people remember their value, reclaim their voice, and create something new.*