

Denise Manjarrez-Renteria (she/her/ella)

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Education:

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, School of Nursing

Master of Sustainable Peacebuilding (MSP) | September 2022 - May 2024

Alverno College

Bachelor of Arts (BA), Global Studies & International Affairs Major, Political Science Minor | September 2016 - May 2020

Languages:

Bilingual - Fluent in English and Spanish

Work Experience:

Wisconsin Policy Forum (WPF) and Milwaukee Community Justice Council (MCJC)

Administrative Coordinator, Milwaukee, WI | April 2025 - Present

- Coordinated with WPF Director of Business & Community Operations with implementation of membership and development strategies, including scheduling meetings with prospective donors and maintaining executive board and member communications and materials
- Lead WPF's Social Services Committee; oversaw research pertaining to health and human services; major reports include reports pertaining to Milwaukee's justice system, policing, and Medicaid expansion report
- Facilitated and maintained relationships with external clients, partners, and stakeholders on behalf of WPF and MCJC
- Collaborator for MCJC's committees focused on youth justice, violence prevention, mental health, and re-entry
- Assisted with collecting, analyzing, and disseminating program data and support grant reporting

Leaders Igniting Transformation (LIT)

Statewide Election Manager, Milwaukee, WI | June 2024 - April 2025

- Managed and coached two cohorts of Election Fellows, creating campus-specific voter engagement and registration plans while ensuring accountability through weekly check-ins and progress tracking
- Led the hiring and onboarding process for Election Fellows across 10 colleges, collaborating with College Organizers and department managers
- Designed and executed non-partisan and partisan civic engagement program and curriculum, including voter outreach activities, call campaigns, and campus collaborations with student organizations
- Implemented and maintained metric tracking tools, streamlined administrative processes, and ensured timely approval of timesheets to support operational efficiency and team success

The Working Group - Not In Our Town (TWG-NIOT)

Operations and Administrative Manager, Remote | January 2023 - August 2024

- Prioritize and direct work efforts, providing guidance and direction
- Coordinate and supervise multiple operations, ensuring that everything complied with the company's vision and goals
- Design marketing collateral for film campaign while communicating project status to stakeholders
- Develop strategic plans for campaigns across email, social media
- Create promotional materials such as newsletters, brochures, posters, and flyers
- Implemented an Equal Opportunity Statement (EOS) and ensured its integration into all organizational policies and practices, fostering a culture of inclusivity and diversity awareness

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM), School of Architecture and Urban Planning (SARUP)

Researcher for the Center for Equity Practice and Planning Justice | January 2024 - May 2024

- Conducted interviews with equitable practitioners to create a digital archive tool for students and community members to use as a resource
- Finalized the mission and objectives of the center's proposal
- Promoted the advancement of public policy solutions that seek to embed equity-building strategies into city and regional planning/development and placemaking initiatives

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM), School of Nursing (SON)

Teaching Assistant for PEACEST 203: Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies, Milwaukee, WI | August 2022 - May 2024

- Supports teacher's lessons by reviewing material with students
- Recordkeeper, such as calculating grades and tracking attendance and tardiness
- Lead and guide discussions of conflict transformation, restorative justice, and peacebuilding with students, using workshops, scenario-based training, and community connection

The Community

Fieldwork Intern, Milwaukee, WI | January 2023 - October 2023

- Facilitated meaningful conversations and workshops between previously incarcerated individuals, fostering a supportive and empowering environment for dialogue and reflection
- Conducted in-depth research and evaluation of data collected from the organization's newsletter audience, utilizing analytical skills to extract valuable insights and inform strategic decision-making
- Supported the organization's mission by actively contributing to initiatives aimed at promoting reintegration and empowerment for individuals affected by the criminal justice system
- Collaborated with team members to develop and implement innovative programs and resources tailored to the needs of the target audience, demonstrating a commitment to advancing social justice and equal rights

Urban Ecology Center (UEC)

Neighborhood Engagement Coordinator, Milwaukee, WI | June 2021 - March 2023

- Supervisor for several staff members: creating schedules, ensuring a professional and compassionate relationship with the team
- Managed budgets for equipment lending, events, and programs
- Member of the organization's Equity, Dignity, and Justice Committee
- Collaborator with community members, organizations, and neighbors to strengthen community ties; specifically in the Southside neighborhood of Milwaukee (a predominantly Latinx/Spanish speaking area).
- Led and planned center's events; responsible for coordinating guests, reserving spaces, creating fliers/posts (for major events like *Noche de Altares*)
- Successfully led a walking group for Latina women, providing a safe and inclusive space for physical activity, community building, and support

Intern, Milwaukee, WI | January 2020 - August 2020

- Reworked and improved the high school internship program
- Assisted with program evaluation and data entry
- Created lesson plans for the weekly summer camps

Leaders Igniting Transformation (LIT)

Canvass Lead, Milwaukee, WI | February 2021 - May 2021

- Supported the recruitment and development staff; assisted in building a team of canvassers by conducting outreach, and interviewing prospective staff
- Ensured that data and canvassing activities were accurately recorded, and reported using assigned technology
- Created and led campaigns using online programs; such as VAN, ThruText, and ThruTalk
- Responsible for drafting, revising, and enhancing the training materials in proposal development and writing
- Member of the Fundraising Committee and Transformative Justice Committee

Activities and Leadership:

Youth Empowered in the Struggle (YES)

President, Milwaukee, WI | September 2018 - May 2020

- Coordinated and organized events that YES hosted
- Collaborated with multiple student organizations
- Led recruitment efforts; to, increase the student and activist presence on campus
- Increased the organization's annual budget through fundraising
- YES was awarded *Outstanding Campus Program* for the organization and participation in United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS)'s annual Mexican Independence Parade

Alverno's College Democrats

President, Milwaukee, WI | September 2019 - May 2020

- Connected with nationwide organizations to receive resources for students
- Registered students to vote in local/state elections
- Hosted multiple educational and bipartisan events based on voting rights, information on elected officials, and Wisconsin voting laws

Certifications, Achievements, and Volunteering:

Certifications

- **IRB-Social and Behavioral Researchers | CITI Program**
 - Issued Oct 2022, Expires Oct 2025.
 - Credential ID: 11728067
- **Community Building Skills Training**
 - CBI - Community Building International
 - Issued Sep 2022

Awards

Equity and Inclusion Award | Awarded by Alverno College in 2020

Volunteering

Lobbied for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

- Met with State Representatives and State Senators to advocate against crimeless revocation and mass incarceration

Canvassed for multiple candidates for Wisconsin's Spring 2021 Elections

- Phone-banking and door-to-door canvassing
- Understanding of canvassing social media platforms

Speaker and sit-in protester for Voces de la Frontera (VDLF)

- Organized civic disobedience charge for Madison, WI's Joint Finance Committee
- Stern, vocal, and committed to the script when speaking to several news outlets
- Leading member and last arrestee

References:

Name	Employer	Title	Phone	Email
Jaszy Segarra(*)	Leaders Igniting Transformation (LIT)	College Organizing Director	414-349-8434	jaszy@litmke.org
Daphne Felten-Green, JD(*)	DSFG Solutions	Consultant	202-699-3815	daphne@dsfgsolutions.com
Dr. Lynne Woerhle(*)	University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee	Associate Professor and Program Director: Peacebuilding Programs	414-517-9519	woehrle@uwm.edu
Pardeep Kaleka(*)	Carroll University	Director BHR	414-364-6263	pardeep.kaleka@yahoo.com
Dr. Sarah Macdonald(*)	University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee; Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning	Facilitator of Inclusive Teaching Toward Justice and Instructor	414-229-7005	macdonal@uwm.edu
Angelica Sanchez Mora(*)	Urban Ecology Center (UEC)	Former Branch Director	920-264-7824	

(*) Indicates professional reference