

Bios for Nikki Pardo & Jessica Meyer – Mercy Diversity Workshop Facilitators

Nikki Pardo is the owner of Global Alliance Solutions, a consulting company that offers customized diversity training to management, staff, and law enforcement agencies. She has worked in the corporate and government sectors, and served as an Executive Director for a human services non-profit agency in Detroit. The highlight of her career was working for the State of Michigan Department of Civil Rights as an Investigator and diversity trainer for nearly a decade.

Nikki has been featured in several online publications such as *Crain Detroit Business*, *Michiprenuer*, *Model D*, *Recruit/Detroit*, and on talk radio shows regarding diversity and inclusion. She has served on numerous boards, and currently serves on Birmingham's Race Relations and Diversity Task Force (RRDTF) Board, and the Board of the Hispanic Police Officer Association – Michigan Chapter. Nikki is also a graduate of the New Detroit-The Coalition's *Multicultural Leadership Program*, the recipient of Birmingham's RRDTF's 2015 *Diversity Champion Award*, a facilitator for the *Build Institute*, a small business incubator in Detroit, and is a consultant on several diversity and inclusion projects.

Nikki is an avid researcher and earned a Master of Business Administration degree in Management/Leadership, a Master of Science in Administration degree with a concentration in International Administration, and a Bachelor of Science degree. She is also a nationally certified Global Career Development Facilitator, a member of the National Career Development Association, and the National Diversity Council.

Jessica Meyer moved to Detroit from Chicago to serve a year as a City Year Detroit AmeriCorps member and she never left. After City Year, she was hired by Detroit Public Schools to be the College Advisor for 2 more years. After a year and a half of the most difficult period of her life (she'd really love to talk to you about it), she left DPS. She joined D:hive, the welcome center of Detroit, as the Build program manager while being a student in a Build class for her own business idea. Jessica took the role of Director of Programming when Build transitioned out of D:hive in January 2015 and became Build Institute, a small business and entrepreneurship training and support program. In January 2016, she transitioned as the director of engagement for Human Scale Studio, an urban consultancy company transforming urban planning and public space development by putting people first.

Her passion is her organization The Pack, a workshop based safe space for intimate, vulnerable conversations about personal experiences, perceptions, fears, and dreams in order to cultivate authentic human connection, and provide meaningful social support that stays beyond the experience. Co-founded with Nikki Pardo, The Pack provides an opportunity for individually sharing our truths and collectively creating a call to action that inspires Pack members to be catalysts for change in their own communities.

She graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University in 2011 with a Bachelors in International Studies and Human Rights and has attended Wayne State University for a Masters in Counseling. She is also a Kiva Zip micro-loan fellow, Ashoka Emerging Innovator, board member for Detroit SOUP, Millennial Trains Project alumni, writer for Model D Media, and comrade in the Black Lives Matter movement.