GREGORY GAITHER

Contact Information:

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I. EDUCATION

Doctoral Candidate (ABD) - College of Education
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Department of Educational Organization & Leadership
Dissertation Title: *"Education Reentry: Examining Post Release Educational Experiences of School-Age Youth Exiting Juvenile Detention in Chicago"*

M.A., Concordia University, Chicago
Education Administration

M.A., University of Chicago
School of Social Services Administration
Community Organization, Juvenile Justice Policy

John Marshall Law School, Chicago
Coursework: Torts Law, Agency & Partnership Law

B.A., University of Illinois, Chicago
Major: African American Studies
Minor: Spanish

CERTIFICATES
Illinois State Board of Education Type 75 School Administrative Certificate,

Illinois State Board of Education Type 73 School Social Work Certificate,

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, State of Illinois

AWARDS
Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA) -- Community Service Awards
ENRITE Women's Organization --- Educational Excellence Awards

II. Higher Education & School Leadership

Northeastern Illinois University - Dept. of Social Work & Social Justice 2007-09
Faculty

- Social Welfare Policy I & II
- Quantitative Research Analysis I & II
- Instructional Supervision & Field Practicum
- Student Advising

Board of Education - Chicago Public Schools 2005 – 07
Assistant Principal

- Leadership and administrative support to 60-member teaching and ancillary staff.
- Oversight and supervision of Curriculum & Instructional Programs
- Staff Development & Training
- After School & Saturday Academy Programs
- School Safety & Discipline

Chicago Public Schools - Region-6 Administration Office 1994-98
Regional Coordinator

- Coordinate and Manage Region 6 - U.S. Department of Education Safe & Drug Free Schools $12.5 million Budget
- Oversee Region-6 (25-High Schools & 100-Elementary Schools) Community Violence Prevention Programs
- Lead Development-Design-Implementation of Region School-Community Based Safety Improvement Plans
- Supervise Lead Teacher In-Service Prevention Trainings (125- Schools)
- Coordinate/Region-Wide Prevention Training for Local School Councils, Parents and Community Based Organizations
- Provide Administrative Support to Region 6 Transition Centers & Alternative Schools, Summer-School Bridge Programs, Drop-out & Truancy Prevention Programs

Chicago Public Schools – Dept. of Community Information & Outreach 1992-93
Lead Trainer

- Develop System-Wide In-Service Training for Local School Councils (LSC)
- Conduct School & Community Based Outreach LSC Training Institutes
- Organize Training Workshops for School Administrators, Teachers, Local School Council Members, Parents & Community Leaders

III. Human Services & Correctional Education

Chicago Public Schools **2002-05**
Social Worker- Correctional Education

- Cook County Department of Corrections – Consuella B.York Alternative High School (Inside Correctional Facility)
- Provide social services in correctional educational setting to support educational and human service needs of high school student population detained inside Cook County Dept. of Corrections
- Oversee student transition / reentry services from facility to local high school communities

Chicago Public Schools **1999-2002**
Social Worker - Juvenile Correctional Education

- Cook County Juvenile Detention Center-- Nancy B. Jefferson Alternative School (Inside Detention Facility)
- Provide human services in educational setting for juvenile detainees at Cook County Juvenile Detention Center
- Develop transitional/aftercare services delivery at post-release and school community re-entry stages

Chicago Public Schools **1985-93**
School Social Worker

- Deliver full-range of social services in educational setting to students/families from diverse racial / ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
- Provide diagnostic clinical assessments /educational evaluation of students eligible for Individualized Education Plans (IEP) as member of school multi-disciplinary team

NIA - Comprehensive Center for Developmental Disabilities **1984-85**
Program Manager – Mental Health

- Manage Agency Independent Living Programs
- Coordinate clients' successful transition and community reintegration from State of Illinois Department of Mental Health
- Supervise line staff, case management services delivery to clients with co-occurring needs (e.g., alcohol, substance abuse, mental health, etc.)

Community Mental Health Council **1999-2002**
Therapist - Mental Health

- Provide therapeutic services targeting youth with special education/mental health/substance abuse needs community-based mental health agency on South Side of Chicago
- Conduct youth and family therapeutic services

Cook County Department of Corrections
Correctional Officer

- Perform responsibilities in correctional setting to include care, safety and security of inmate population,
- Assignment to inmate population - admissions and work release programs

IV. Entrepreneurship & Professional Consulting

Project C.I.T.Y. Inc.

- CEO/Founder –(2002)
- Private Contractor – Illinois Department of Correction (2002)
- Illinois Department of Human Services Grants Recipient (2003)
- U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Grants Recipient (2002)
- Youth Gang / Community Organized Peace Effort - C.O.P.E. (2000)

Illinois Department of Corrections

- Conduct Staff Development & Training Seminar -- Youthful Offender Reentry Project (2004)

Shore Bank Inc.

- Conduct Workforce Development at The Neighborhood Institute (1999)

John D. & Catherine T. Mac Arthur Foundation

- Consultant & Expert Panelist "Hoop Dreams Movie" project (1995)

V. Graduate Internships & Volunteer Services

VISTA Volunteer **1978-79**

- Volunteers In Service To America
- Community services Vista Volunteer serving youth residents in Illinois Department of Children & Family Services Community Residential Group Home Programs

University of Chicago School of Social Services Administration
Graduate Internship – Community Gang Crisis Intervention Specialist **1983-84**

- Assist development/implementation of Community Organized Gang Intervention Research Model to reduce violent homicides in Humbolt Park, Logan Square, Wicker Park Communities on North Side of Chicago
- Provide Direct Street Outreach Services targeting major Chicago Street Gang Organizations (e.g., Latin Kings, Spanish Cobras, Simon City Royals, Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, etc.)

University of Chicago School of Social Services Administration **1982-83**
Graduate Internship – Urban Mass Transit Public Policy
Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)

- Co-teach SSA graduate level course - Urban Mass Transit Policy
- Conduct research/policy studies informing Urban Mass Transit Policy
- Prepare RTA-Board of Directors reports and presentations for local public transit systems (e.g., Chicago Transit Authority, PACE & METRA)
- Bus Operations – full-time CTA bus operator at North Park, 77th Street & Hyde Park Bus Depot

VI. Professional Presentations

- Featured in Chicago Tonight - Public Broadcast Systems (PBS) WTTW-TV Chicago Channel - 11 "Cook County Jail School" (2005)
- Conference Presenter - National Juvenile Detention Association - National Conference & Training Institute – "Developing Community Based Programs -- Serving Aftercare Needs of Urban Street Gang Members" Indianapolis, Indiana (2001)
- Conference Presenter - Correctional Educational Association of America - 56TH International Conference -- "Transitional Services – Correctional Institutions and Community Partnerships" Scottsdale, Arizona (2001)

VII. Community Services Profile

- Coalition to Improve Education in South Shore Task Force
- Board of Managers, Chicago Youth Centers (CYC) Crown Community Center
- Member National Juvenile Detention Association
- Member Correctional Education Association
- Member National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice
- Member National Association of Black Social Workers
- Member National Alliance of Black School Educators
- Treasurer, Board of Directors - South Side Community Sports Coalition
- Executive Director, Community Organized Peace Effort (C.O.P.E.)
- Board of Directors, Illinois Association of School Social Workers
- Board President, West Suburban Neighborhood Development Corporation 2010