

# Rolanda J. West, Ed.D.

4505 S Indiana Avenue · Chicago, IL 60653 ·  
[r-west2@neu.edu](mailto:r-west2@neu.edu) · 773.490.3074

## Education

Spring 2011

**Loyola University Chicago** – School of Education

Doctor of Education

Curriculum & Instruction: Concentration – Education Policy

▫ *Merit Award Recipient (2008 – 2011)*

Dissertation:

*Post-Correctional Education Interventions: A study of Empowerment Education Curriculum for formerly incarcerated African American males.*

Dissertation Committee Chair:

Ruanda Garth-McCullough, PhD

Spring 2007

**California State University Dominguez Hills** – School of Education

Master of Education

Teaching Curriculum: Concentration – Social Science

Action research capstone:

*Character Building Education as an Intervention for Incarcerated Juvenile Offenders in GED Preparation Courses*

Spring 2005

**Columbia College Chicago**

Bachelor of Arts

Major: Journalism

## Additional Graduate Education & Certifications

Spring 2008

Advanced Research Credential

**California State University Dominguez Hills** – Graduate School of Natural and Behavioral Sciences

Sociology

Action research capstone:

*Alternative Education Programming for Formerly Incarcerated Adults*

## Teaching Experience

1/2011 to – present

North Eastern Illinois University

Chicago, IL

Lecturer

JUST 101 – Introduction to Justice Studies

JUST 202 – Justice and Inequality

JUST 307 – Prisoner Reentry Systems

JUST 312 – Theories of Criminal Behavior

JUST 326 – Juvenile Justice Systems  
JUST 332 – Race and Ethnic Relations  
JUST 393 – Qualitative Field Research Methods (Independent Study)

3/2010 to 6/2010  
Project Restore/Inner-City Muslim Action Network  
Chicago, IL  
Lead Instructor/Researcher  
Empowerment Reentry Program

8/2008 to 12/2009  
Loyola University Chicago  
Chicago, IL  
Adjunct Instructor  
CIEP 229 – Educational Psychology  
CIEP 364 – Classroom Assessment  
CIEP 469 – Teaching and Learning in Urban Communities

### **Curriculum and Assessment Design Experience**

2012  
CeaseFire (Southwest)  
Chicago, IL  
Developed and Implemented 6-week behavior modification programs for female youth exhibiting violent behaviors.

- Empowerment Program for At-Risk girls

Northeastern Illinois University  
Chicago, IL  
Developed 300-level courses for Justice Studies Department

- Crime, Justice and Hip Hop
- Re-Entry Systems for Prisoner Reintegration

2011  
Inner-City Muslim Action Network  
Chicago, IL  
Developed program design and curriculum for:

- Green Reentry Program – Reentry program specializing in Green Building Technology
- Muslim-Run Initiative – Healthy Living program to address the issue of food deserts in low-SES communities

2010  
Project Restore/Inner-City Muslim Action Network  
Chicago, IL

- Post-Correctional Education Intervention - Applied research-based Empowerment Reentry program.

6/2007 to 9/2008  
Los Angeles Unified School District/LA's Best After School Program  
Los Angeles, CA

Personnel Training and Assessment: Research and development for staff-focused training and assessment modules.

- Missing and Absent Child Protocol
- Parent and Community Communication
- Incident & Accident Reporting
- Attendance (Database access)

11/2007

Federal Department of Probation/US Central District Court of California  
Inglewood, CA

- Job Readiness Training-Community Re-Entry Program: Curriculum designed for formally incarcerated men and women relegated to probation in order to assist with re-entry into society and the workforce.

1/2006

The Marcus Garvey School  
Los Angeles, CA

- HIV/AIDS Awareness Workshop: Workshop series designed to educate middle school students on HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness in the inner-city.

### **Scholarly Publications/Refereed Articles**

- **West, R.** (2014). Reexamining Reentry: Prisoner Reentry Systems in the United States. Textbook. Accepted for Publication. Lexington Academic Publishing. Landham, MD.
- **West, R.** (2013). A Study of African American Males and Post Correctional Education Intervention. Article. In review. Journal of Correctional Education. Ashland University
- **West, R.** (2013). Affective Teaching Strategies in Prisoner Education. Submitted for Review. Peace Education. Taylor and Francis Group.
- **West, R.J.** (2007) Higher Education: How the reauthorization of the higher education act will affect college-bound students. Echo Magazine. Columbia College Chicago
- **West, R.J.** (2004) What a Bargain?: The widespread practice of plea bargaining has increased repercussions for people of color. Color Lines Magazine. Applied Research Center.

### **Scholarly Presentations**

- **West, R.**, (2013). African American Prisoner Identity and Islam. Moderator/panelist. Annual Equity in Action Conference. Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL
- **West, R.**, Shivers, K., (2013) Black Power and Empowerment: A critical look at the re-conceptualization of Black Power. Paper presentation. Annual conference of the Peace and Social Justice Association. University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
- **West, R.**, Shivers, K., (2013) Black Power and Empowerment: A critical look at the re-conceptualization of Black Power. Paper presentation. Annual conference of the Peace and Social Justice Association. University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

- **West, R.** (2013) The Copenhagen Project: A global perspective of gang intervention, race relations and policy. Moderator. Annual conference of the Peace and Social Justice Association. University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
- **West, R.** (2013). Justice, Hip Hop and Criminalization in the United States. Workshop Presentation. Annual conference of the Peace and Social Justice Association. University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
- **West, R.,** Peterson, H., Tulipano, G. Tate, A. (2012). Community Collaborations and Job Training Alternatives for Formerly Incarcerated Adults. Conference Moderator/Panelist. Annual conference of the Peace and Social Justice Association Tufts University, Boston, MA.
- **West, R.,** Gomez, H., Pearce, S., West-Abdallah, I., Odjana, A., Bravo, C., Bravo, D. (2012). Teaching for a Revolution: A Study of Venezuelan Social Reform Efforts and its Impact on Afro-Venezuelans. Conference Moderator/Panelist. Annual conference of the Peace and Social Justice Association Tufts University, Boston, MA.
- **West, R.** (2011). Empowerment Education as a Reentry Intervention. Paper Presentation. Annual conference of the Peace and Social Justice Association and the Gandhi-King Conference. Memphis, TN
- **West, R.** (2011). Reexamining Reentry: A discussion about the pitfalls and politics of reentry. Founder and Moderator. Community Forum in conjunction with Northeastern Illinois University. Chicago, IL.
- **West, R.** (Guest Speaker). (2011, August 28). Youth Reentry and Education. Chicago Youth Centers Teen Summit. Dowagiac, MI
- **West, R.** (2011). Post-Correctional Education Interventions: A study of Empowerment Education Curriculum for formerly incarcerated African American males. Paper Presentation. Annual conference of the Urban Affairs Association, New Orleans, LA
- **West, R.** (2010). A Social Justice Approach to Post-Incarceration Education Interventions – Pilot Study. Paper Presentation. Annual conference of the Urban Affairs Association. Honolulu, HI
- Garth-McCullough, R., Farmer-Hinton, R. and **West, R.** (2009). Assessing Preparation and Perseverance: An evaluation of urban charter school alumni's post-secondary experiences. Paper presented at the national annual meeting of the American Evaluation Association, Orlando, Florida.
- Garth-McCullough, R., Farmer-Hinton, R. and **West, R.** (2009). Student Resiliency and College Success: An evaluation story of a four-year college preparatory high school. Paper presented at the national annual meeting of the American Evaluation Association, Orlando, Florida.
- Peterson, R. & **West, R.** (Interview). (2009, September 13). Recidivism in the Muslim Community [Radio broadcast episode]. Douglass Wilson (Producer), Monthly Edition. Chicago, IL: WLWU Independent Community Radio.
- **West, R.** (2008). Character Education as an Intervention for Formerly Incarcerated Adults on Federal Probation. Unpublished Manuscript. California State University, Dominguez Hills School of Natural and Behavioral Sciences.
- **West, R.** (2006). People of Color in the Newsroom. Paper presenter and panelist at the National

Association of Black Journalist annual meeting w/ Northwestern University- Medill School of Journalism. Evanston, IL

## Mainstream Publications

- West, R.J. (2004, April). *THE STORM WARRIORS*, Screen Magazine
- West, R.J. (2004, June) *COMING ATTRACTIONS: Added Incentives Making Midwest More Production Friendly*, Screen Magazine
- West, R.J. (2004, June) *HOOSIER IDOLS*, Screen Magazine, Publication Date: 6/14/2004
- West, R.J. (2004, June) *GREAT FINISH: Crash & Sue's HD Capabilities*
- West, R.J. (2004, June) *ROLL WITH IT: Teitel and Tillman's New Flick to Film in Chicago*, Screen Magazine
- West, R.J. (2004, August) *DETROIT ZOO'S ANIMAL LIFEBOAT*, Screen Magazine
- West, R.J. (2004, August) *DO THE HUSTLE*, Screen Magazine,
- West, R.J. (2004, August) *AMITYVILLE OPENS HOUSE IN THE MIDWEST*, Screen Magazine
- West, R.J. (2004, September) *HEY MR. DJ Profile: Daron Walker*, Screen Magazine
  
- West, R.J. (2004, November) *YURBAN PIONEERS: The New Leadership At Burrell Communications*, Screen Magazine
- West, R.J. (2004, December) *FINDING PREET*, Screen Magazine
- West, R.J. (2005, January) *ON TRACK: "Derailed" Shoots In Illinois*, Screen Magazine
- West, R.J. (2005, April) *HEROIC EFFORT: Ohio Film to Debut At NAB*, Screen Magazine

## Research Projects

10/2012 to present

Lead Researcher/Delegate

Alternative Education Research Institute in conjunction with Northeastern Illinois University

Venezuela Research Delegation

*How the current social change movements, prisons and drug policies affect Afro-Venezuelans: A comparative analysis.*

12/2008 to 5/2010

Research Assistant

SUCCEED Consulting

*North Lawndale College Preparatory Charter High School (NLCP) Program Evaluation*

3/2010

Researcher

Havana, Cuba

*Women in Social Justice and Human Rights Research Delegation*

1/2008 to 8/2008

Co-Investigator

Federal Department of Probation/US District Court-Central District of California

*Alternative Education Programming for Formerly Incarcerated Adults*

9/2007 to 2/2008

Research Assistant

California State University Dominguez Hills

Urban Community Research Center

*Syringe Exchange Program/Intravenous Drug User Research Study*

## Other Professional Experience

5/06 to present

Alternative Education Research Institute

Chicago, IL

*Co-Founder /Executive Director*

- Senior consultant for non-profit alternative education consulting firm dedicated to working with prison populations.
- Managed programs for community based organizations and school districts in Los Angeles and Chicago
- Responsible for the development of specialized curricula geared to the advancement of our target population.
- Provide staff development training for personnel of partner agencies.
- Responsible for project: Fund development, program expansion, community influence and awareness, staff development.
- Program evaluation research –qualitative and mixed-method analysis.
- Implement research-based evaluation reports of community based programs
- Oversee and manage project budget

10/05 to 8/2008

Los Angeles Unified School District/ LA's BEST After School Enrichment Program

Los Angeles, CA

*Program Coach/Program Support Consultant*

- Managed staff of nine schools elementary schools within West Los Angeles area for the LA's Best program.
- Primary duties included: development, organization, and facilitation of training and workshop opportunities for staff.
- Advised and assisted site coordinators in planning unique programs based on the talents and interest of the staff and the interests and needs of the children that are developmentally, linguistically and culturally appropriate.

12/02 to 9/05

Youth Service Project, Inc./ Chicago Public Schools

Chicago, IL

*Career Coach/Career Development Manager*

- Managed staff of three in the Career development department.
- Served as primary instructor for career development training programs.
- Prepared curricula, coursework and taught, Foundations/Job Readiness Training, Biz-Tek Small Business Management and Technology, Interpersonal Communications and Character Building courses within the Chicago Public School District and other social service agencies in the Chicago area.
- Primary duties: counsel student's ages 14 to 24 on career goals and create individualized work plans.
- Additional duties: write and edit proposals to secure funding for the agency-wide programs; career counseling, project management and additional tasks as assigned.

## **Professional Association/Organization Service**

- Reviewer – American Educational Research Organization (AERA)
- Graduate Representative – Loyola University Chicago (SOE) Diversity Committee
- Volunteer – Los Angeles Brotherhood Crusade
- Board member - The Renaissance Collaborative (Bronzeville)
- Advisory Committee Member – National Reentry Initiative

## **Memberships**

- American Educational Research Association
- Urban Affairs Association
- Human Rights Watch
- NAACP Loyola University Chicago Chapter
- Los Angeles Urban League

## **Grants**

2011 – Northeastern Illinois University (International Studies Research Grant: \$7,000)

2007 – Brotherhood Crusade (Research and Development Grant: \$15,000)

2006 – Urban League Los Angeles (Community Organizing Start-up Grant: \$10,000)

2005 – Mayor Daley’s Office of Workforce Development (Program Development Grant: \$25,000)

2004 – Mayor Daley’s Office of Workforce Development (Program Development Grant: \$25,000)