

Emuni Sanderson, MPA

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Preferred Pronouns: She/her/hers/herself

Personal Brand

Cultural Strategist, Multidisciplinary Artist, and Storyteller committed to leveraging over 13 years of experience at the intersection of community health, social justice, and public policy to uplift marginalized and directly impacted voices and catalyze collective healing. Skilled in creating culturally relevant narratives through film, public storytelling, and strategic partnerships that foster community empowerment and systemic transformation. Passionate about authentic storytelling that challenges dominant narratives and celebrates marginalized Southern communities with heart and truth.

Skills

- Cultural Strategy & Storytelling: Narrative development, community engagement, public narrative strategy, film production
- Policy & Advocacy: Legislative research, coalition building, stakeholder engagement
- Leadership & Project Management: Strategic planning, partnership cultivation, diversity initiatives
- Data Analysis & Research: Thematic analysis, program evaluation, socioecological frameworks, and phenomenological frameworks
- Technical Tools: Salesforce, EveryAction, Mobilize, SPSS, Microsoft Office, NVivo

Education

University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Educational Studies of Diverse Populations (ABD)

Concentration: Health Disparities | Expected Graduation: Summer 2026

Dissertation: Margins of Justice: A Socio-Ecological Study of Women's Lives Amid Family Incarceration in Birmingham, AL

Outstanding Doctoral Student, SOE ESDP-HC (2022-2023)

UAB Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Birmingham, AL

DEI Ambassador Certification, 2020

University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

Master of Public Administration (MPA), Nonprofit Specialization, 2014 – 2015

Alabama State University, Montgomery, AL

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Public Relations, 2009 – 2013

Professional Experience

Policy Administrative Coordinator

JustUS Coordinating Council (JCC), JustLeadershipUSA | Nov 2023 – Present | Remote, New York, NY

- Cultivated strategic partnerships with 25+ federal agencies advancing policy initiatives on economic justice, health equity, and community infrastructure.
- Collaborated with leadership to align work plans ensuring impactful policy reforms in Municipal Court Reform and Reentry 2030.
- Developed monitoring tools and led data analysis to inform national policy discussions.
- Spearheaded social media strategy and communications plan for public enrollment, boosting stakeholder engagement.
- Initiated the Health Equity Incubator to integrate policy and leadership initiatives.
- Led planning and implementation of JCC Second Chance Month Days and Federal Speaker Series connecting impacted groups with regulators.
- Co-designed website redesign to enhance user experience and communication of Council's mission.

Mobilization Strategist

National Democratic Redistricting Committee | Aug 2022 – Nov 2023 | Remote, Washington, DC

- Led grassroots mobilization strategies and segmented email campaigns exceeding fundraising targets of \$15K-\$30K monthly.
- Crafted data-driven messaging aligned with political landscapes to increase donor engagement.
- Coordinated cross-departmental teams ensuring compliance and unified campaign execution.

Research, Policy, and Communication Fellow

Lamar P. Higgins Fellowship Program, Alabama House Democratic Caucus | Aug 2022 – May 2023 | Remote, Montgomery, AL

- Conducted policy research and analysis supporting legislative health committee decisions.
- Developed constituent messaging and social media strategies to increase caucus visibility.

Program Director II

University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Health Professions | Nov 2016 – Jun 2022 | Birmingham, AL

- Designed and led diversity recruitment initiatives increasing representation by 13%.
- Managed outreach programs serving 1,200 students and a \$500K scholarship fund.
- Developed socioecological health disparities curriculum impacting 320+ students annually.

Women's Policy Institute Fellow

Women's Foundation of Alabama | Mar 2022 – Jul 2022 | Remote, Montgomery, AL

- Partnered with leaders to advance women's policy issues through cross-sector collaboration.
- Moderated panel on voting rights restoration, elevating community advocacy.

Social Media Strategist Fellow

REFORM Alliance | Jan 2022 – Jun 2022 | Remote, New York, NY

- Developed social media content and campaigns to advance probation and parole reform.
- Analyzed engagement data to optimize messaging and audience reach.

Community Outreach Specialist

Aletheia House | Sep 2014 – Nov 2016 | Birmingham, AL

- Created outreach strategy supporting incarcerated women's successful community reintegration.
- Built partnerships across courts, nonprofits, and healthcare sectors.
- Managed marketing and fundraising events increasing organizational visibility.

Multidisciplinary Arts & Storytelling Projects

- Co-Producer, 'Some Kind of Heavenly Fire' (2024 Narrative Short Film) – Selected for Pan-African, Arizona International, and New Orleans Film Festivals.
- Published chapters on health communication, social entrepreneurship, and digital media education.
- Speaker and panelist on storytelling, health equity, and community engagement at national and regional conferences.

Community and Civic Engagement

National and regional memberships and leadership roles across cultural, health, social justice, and arts organizations including:

- Society for Health Communications
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- National Criminal Justice Association
- Black Film Space
- Birmingham AIDS Outreach Board
- Fairfield Alabama Housing Authority Commissioner
- Birmingham Education Foundation Junior Board President