

ROKESHA BOOKER

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVOCATE

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SUMMARY

Over five years of experience advocating for fairness in the criminal justice system, supporting programs that offer hope to incarcerated individuals, and guiding youth toward a productive, fulfilling life. Skilled in the use of social media, virtual meeting platforms, and online learning systems.

EDUCATION

Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Walden University | Minneapolis, MN

Expected: Dec 2024

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

University of Washington, DC | Washington, DC

2012

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Program Coordinator

If Only Program | Minneapolis, MN

2019 - Present

The If Only Program seeks to prevent incarcerated people from re-entering the criminal justice system after release and advocates for change within prisons to facilitate successful transitions back into the community.

- Doubled the number of volunteer mentors from 10 to 20 within one year by sharing the mission of the If Only Program on social media and through speaking at community events.
- Expanded and enhanced the mentor training program from 12 hours to 25 hours with ongoing training and created a Mentor the Mentor initiative where experienced mentors support new mentors.
- Meet weekly with prison staff to coordinate activities and events for mentees and advocate for changes in visitation and communication to offer additional avenues for building relationships between incarcerated mentees and community mentors prior to release.
- Advocate for legislative changes to allow for increased educational opportunities for incarcerated individuals.

COMMUNITY AND ADVOCACY EXPERIENCE

Volunteer Program Organizer

Global Days of Service – Walden University | Minneapolis, MN

2020 - Present

- Organized a virtual program using the Walden Change Action Network (WeCAN) platform and recruited five volunteers.
- Partnered with a local nonprofit organization to provide a college readiness mentoring session for eight high school youth.
- Facilitated a Zoom meeting with breakout rooms for participants and volunteers.

Volunteer Re-entry Mentor

If Only Program | Minneapolis, MN

2017 - 2019

- Completed training on strategies to support and guide female inmates on steps to successfully transition into a productive and fulfilling life after incarceration.
- Mentored female inmates 6 months prior to and 8 months after release from prison, connecting weekly via phone or in person.
- Used active listening skills to support mentee with advice and guidance on a range of topics and relevant issues including employment, housing, and rebuilding family connections.

Volunteer

Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) | Minneapolis, MN

Jan 2015 - Jan 2018

- Completed the Basic, Advanced, and Facilitator Training sequence which included a total of nine days of training to become a workshop facilitator.
- Facilitated experiential workshops inside prison to prepare inmates for re-entry into the community.

Volunteer

Boys and Girls Club of Minneapolis | Minneapolis, MN

Jan 2012 - Jan 2017

- Mentored teenager through tutoring, active listening, and guidance.
- Taught summer coding camp for 10 youth.

AFFILIATIONS

Member National Criminal Justice Association	2019 - Present
Member National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc.	2015 - Present
Member Divine Nine Alliance, Walden University	2015 - Present
Member Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.	2010 - Present