

CODY EDWIN OSTENSON

EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIPS

University of Colorado – Denver, Denver, CO (May 2020)
Master of Public Administration (MPA)
Summer Institute in Education Systems Leadership and Policy

University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI (May 2014)
B.A. English Literature, Creative Writing
Certificate in Educational Policy Studies

OnDeck Chief of Staff Fellow - Cohort 3 (January 2022 - Present)

- Selected to a cohort of 100 Chiefs of Staff, supporting nonprofits to Fortune 500 companies, to accelerate my skills as an operational leader.
- Participate in weekly peer-to-peer “mastermind” groups with 6 other Chiefs of Staff, and regularly scheduled speaker sessions and modules.

Urban Leaders Fellowship, Denver, CO (June – July 2020)

Research Fellow, Moonshot edVentures | Policy Fellow, Colorado HD-8 State Rep. Leslie Herod (D) (June 2020 – July 2020)

- Conducted a landscape and policy analysis with 30+ stakeholders of Moonshot edVentures, a Denver Metro charter and nonprofit launcher.
- Created a report exploring the school launch environment in the Denver Metro along to inform strategic planning for the next 1 to 5 years.
- Researched policy solutions related to hate crime reporting and addressing bias-motivated 911 calls through civil redress.

PAID POLITICAL, CAMPAIGN & ORGANIZING EXPERIENCE

Denver Families for Public Schools, Denver, CO (August 2022 - Present)

Manager of Field and Data (August 2022 – Present)

- Utilize data to support the team to track organizing program goals, identify opportunities, and inform decisions on organizational priorities.
- Monitor the organization's data gathering and data integrity practices while implementing our first CRM.
- Lead the development and implementation of the data collection practices of all organizers, including data collection tools and processes.
- Develop and execute educational and advocacy-generating programs directly within school communities with parents and educators.
- Implement leadership training programs focused on building power and politically engaging public school families and educators.
- Identify and recruit potential candidates for the Denver Board of Education through our LEAD 101 weekend-long training bootcamp.

Great Education Colorado, Denver, CO (January 2021 – August 2022)

Director of External Affairs (January 2021 – Present)

- Directed field operations for a statewide citizens’ initiative petition gathering campaign with 500 volunteers and 45 different volunteer sites.
- Led the implementation of Every Action, our CRM, to coordinate a statewide infrastructure for signature gathering for Initiative 63.
- Built reciprocal and strategic partnerships with grassroots and practitioner organizations across Colorado’s education policy landscape.
- Represented the organization in c3 and c4 coalitions, alignment tables, and community groups to broaden access to school finance.
- Supported the Great Schools, Thriving Communities (GSTC) coalition - a coalition of 20+ advocacy, policy, and social justice organizations.
- Represented GEC and GSTC as a trainer of trainers on presentations educating Coloradans about our state’s school finance system.
- Trained and supported a network of 17,000 advocates across the state of Colorado for legislative action and ballot initiative campaigns.
- Created and led a monthly, statewide advocacy program that provides leadership and advocacy development for 300 advocates.
- Served as GEC’s lobbyist to the 2022 Colorado General Assembly representing GEC on education bills and referred funding measures.
- Managed a Public Affairs and Communications Coordinator to execute our advocacy programs and coordinate the GSTC coalition.

VOLUNTEER CAMPAIGN & ORGANIZING EXPERIENCE

Elizabeth Warren (D) for President, Denver, CO (Dec. 2019 – Mar. 2020)

Canvass Captain, Super Tuesday / Get Out the Vote (Feb. – Mar. 2020)

- Trained first-time canvassers on canvassing best practices, connecting and listening to voters, and helping voters make voting plans.
- Led the largest Colorado GOTV location, as a volunteer, with over 227 canvass shifts and over 9,000 people spoken with at doors in 4 days.
- Reported data regularly, often daily, including outcomes for canvass operations, turf completion, volunteer scheduling, and reshifting.

Volunteer (Dec. 2019 – Mar. 2020)

- Recognized as a leader in utilizing fundamental organizing approaches to build support for Elizabeth Warren as a consistent canvasser.
- Provided day-of support and volunteer recruitment for events during the campaign, including debate watch parties and guest speakers.

Denver Schools of Science & Technology: Conservatory Green Middle School, Denver, CO (Aug. 2017 – Jan. 2018)

Parent Advocacy Coordinator (Aug. 2017 – Jan. 2018)

- Co-founded a Parent Advocacy Team by recruiting 8-12 parents of DSST Conservatory Green Middle School students.
- Utilized community organizing principles of relational one-on-one meetings and house meetings to surface advocacy goals.
- Supported community organizing skill building and leadership development for PATs at all DSST schools in collaboration with a team of 8 other Parent Advocacy Coordinators and 2 lead Advocacy Managers.

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VOLUNTEER CAMPAIGN & ORGANIZING EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

Equity Network United For Metro Denver (ENUF), Denver, CO (May 2017 – Jan. 2018)

Regional Strategy Team (RST) Member (Oct. 2017 – Jan. 2018)

- Supported ENUF members through the development of organizing skills and strategy in 4 campaigns as 1 of 15 leader members.

Issue Action Team Co-chair (May – Oct. 2017)

- Led a team of LEE and community members in organizing to address oppressive school behavior policies in Denver Public Schools.
- Created agendas, led meetings, and followed up with action team members between meetings to ensure action team progress on goals.

Jennifer Bacon for School Board District 4, Denver, CO (July – Nov. 2017)

Canvasser (July – Nov. 2017)

- Utilized fundamental organizing approaches to ensure local school board candidates and their campaigns were informed by, and rooted in, the grassroots concerns of students, families, educators, and community members.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Denver Public Schools, Denver, CO (January 2018 – January 2021)

Partner, Regional Community Engagement – Near Northeast (September 2019 – January 2021)

- Founding member of the district's Regional Community Engagement Strategy and Advocacy team with 5 regional engagement partners.
- Supported Near Northeast DPS region of 35 schools, 18,850 students, and 125,582 Denver residents across 12 Denver neighborhoods.
- Consulted on the design and evaluation of district, regional, and school community engagement processes with an emphasis on culturally responsive best practices for engagement, identifying missing community voices, and ensuring those impacted by decisions are represented.
- Conducted an ongoing community network analysis to build relationships with community partners and begin to rebuild broken trust.
- Designed and facilitated community engagement experiences ranging from personalized 1:1 engagement to large group community meetings.

Coordinator, Family Empowerment and Academic Partnership (January 2018 – August 2019)

- Supported 135 schools in developing family and community engagement best practices in the Parent Teacher Home Visit program (PTHV).
- Ensured fidelity of PTHV program implementation by supporting 135 site coordinators with training and year-round technical support.
- Supported data management of the nation's second-largest Parent Teacher Home Visit Program with 11,000 visits annually.
- Facilitated additional professional development for teachers, school leaders, and district staff on family engagement topics including data sharing with families, family leadership, and best practices for home visits annually reaching approximately 1,500 of 12,000 district staff.
- Managed training and compensation for 2,000 district staff who participate annually in the Parent Teacher Home Visit Program.

ADULT LEARNING & COACHING

Teach For America National Institute, Phoenix, AZ (March 2017 – July 2017); Tulsa, OK (March 2016 – July 2016)

Teacher Educator Advisor, Upper Elementary and Middle School Literacy (March 2017 – July 2017);

Coach Teacher Educator, Secondary English/Language Arts (March 2016 – July 2016)

- Coached and advised cohorts of 16 and 11 onboarding Teach For America Corps Members during a 5-week summer training institute.
- Collaborated with a leadership team of 3 other Teacher Educator Advisors and a School Director to develop and support school culture.
- Aligned and coordinated coaching with 7 school-based mentor teachers and 2 content-based coaches for our corps member cohort.
- Designed and facilitated Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity development on culturally responsive practices and developing allyship.

CLASSROOM TEACHING

Denver Schools of Science & Technology: Conservatory Green Middle School, Denver, CO (August 2016 – January 2018)

8th Grade Literacy Teacher (August 2017 – January 2018); **Founding 8th Grade Writing Teacher** (August 2016 – July 2017)

Denver Center for International Studies at Montbello, Denver, CO (August 2014 – June 2016)

7th Grade Language Arts Teacher, Teach For America, Corps Member (August 2014 – June 2016)

TECH PROFICIENCIES

CRMs: Every Action, Salesforce

Campaigns: NGP VAN, Scale to Win, m{insights

Project Management: Trello, Asana

Web Development: WordPress, Prezi, Canva

Google Suite: Gmail, Docs, Sheets, Slides

Microsoft Office: Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint

Virtual Meetings: Zoom, Google Meets, Calendly