

**Soraya Latiff**  
Soraya.Latiff@colorado.edu

**Education:**

**University of Colorado at Denver** - Master's in Public Administration and Concentration in Environmental Law and Policy (December 2021)

Capstone Thesis on Grassroots Tactics for Human Rights and Environmental Justice in Honduras.

**University of Colorado at Boulder** - BA International Affairs, Certificate in Global Environmental Affairs (May 2017)

**Florida Atlantic University**, Dual enrollment courses taken towards BA while in high school (*Honors Writing, Ethics in the Criminal Justice System, and Microeconomics*) (August 2012-August 2014)

**Mini Law School Fall 2018 and Fall 2019** - Certificates of Completion

**Atlantic Community High School** - International Baccalaureate Diploma Recipient (Summa Cum Laude, Student Government President) (August 2009-May 2013)

**Work Experience:**

**Public Achievement Program Director, CU Boulder** **2022-current**

Responsible for co-leading and developing and implementing a youth-led civic engagement and community organizing programming on racial and immigrant justice, ethnic studies, mental health, climate justice, domestic violence and access to advanced courses for students of color. Directing programming with two schools in Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) (200 k-12 students, 40 undergraduates, 2 teacher teams). Weekly implementation of curriculum, supervise and direct professional staff and 15 undergraduate teaching assistants. Responsible for all program and curriculum development, training, communication, university and community partnerships, coordination of annual statewide conference, reporting, budgeting, management of funds, and grant writing. Responsible for directly supervising work study students supporting our communication projects.

**Public Achievement Assistant Director, CU Boulder** **2020-2022**

**Public Achievement Program Coordinator, CU Boulder** **2017-2020**

**Instructor, School of Education, CU Boulder** **2022-current**

Instructor for LEAD 1000: Becoming a Leader.

Instructor for two sections of undergraduate courses each semester titled "Renewing Democracy in Schools and Communities" and "Teaching for Social Justice". Curriculum and pedagogy focused on concepts of privilege/power/identity, culturally relevant pedagogy, youth participatory action research, abolitionist pedagogy, critical race theory, healing justice, democratic education, and community organizing. Facilitating and teaching also for an extraordinary enrollment program for current seniors in our Public Achievement program at Centaurus High School, BVSD.

**Boulder Valley School District - Youth Equity Council Co-Founder and Facilitator** **January 2021-current**

Contracted by Coordinator of Equity and Partnerships to co-found and develop youth equity council. Guiding 50 students in community-based research and organizing to develop policies on student rights, resources anti-racism

**Yoga, Meditation and Healing Justice Teacher** **2020-current**

Guides bi-weekly decolonizing practices rooted in social justice, ancestral healing and trauma-informed care for Black, Brown and Indigenous peoples. Also works with elementary and middle schools students of color on accessing movement practices for self care and the history of people of color in yoga practices. Teaches workshops on yoga, social justice and storytelling and how to facilitate sacred healing circles.

**Empathy Grown Founder and Artist** **2020-current**

Handmade clay jewelry inspired by poetry by Soraya Latiff sold at empathygrown.com. Created in the summer of 2020 to support organizations raising money for black ,indigenous, people of color. Empathy Grown has supported 7

young entrepreneurs of color to start their small business through micro grants and has supported one young Black student to attend an HBCU through the Empathy Grown Healing Justice Scholarship in 2023.

**Communications Manager and Supervisor, CU Engage, CU Boulder** (promoted from Communications Coordinator in 2020) **2020-2021**

**Workshop Facilitator and Curriculum Support, School of Education, CU Boulder** **2018-2022**  
Workshop Facilitator and Curriculum Support for three sections of undergraduate courses each semester titled “Renewing Democracy in Schools and Communities” and “Teaching for Social Justice”.

**Community Engagement Specialist**  
**Dual Endorsement Community Engagement (DECE), M.Ed Program** **January 2019-December 2021**  
Design and implement community engagement endorsement within CLD & SPED Masters program in CU Boulder’s School of Education. Work with two faculty, one grad student, and 20 teachers.

**Campus Compact Americorps Supervisor** **Fall 2018-Spring 2019**

**Dreamers Achieve Community Action Scholarship** **Fall 2018-current**  
Coordinator of a scholarship fund for undocumented students and DACAmented students.

**Coordinator of Community Partnerships and ePortfolio Workshop Facilitator, Leadership Studies minor, CU Boulder** **Spring 2019**  
Developed materials for one hour workshop used by the minor to introduce and teach the ePortfolio to students in the Leadership Minor. Coordinated outreach and cultivated relationships with community partners to engage them in LEAD 4000 capstone work.

**Program Coordinator, Puksta Scholars** **Fall 2019-Spring 2020**

**Americorps National Service, I Have A Dream Foundation Boulder, CO** **May 2017-2018**

**Courses Co-Taught**  
**EDUC2919: Renewing Democracy in Schools and Communities** **Fall 2018-current**  
**EDUC4919: Teaching Social Justice** **Fall 2018-current**  
**DECE: Family and Community Engagement** **January 2019-December 2021**

**Pedagogical Presentations and Professional Facilitation**  
**Healing Justice Convening**  
**Trauma-Informed Certification Teacher, Urban Sanctuary’s BIPOC Yoga Teacher Training** **Fall 2023**  
Certified upcoming teachers of color to teach yoga with decolonized practices and trauma informed approaches including race-based trauma.

**Women’s and Gender Studies Consortium: Sustaining Hope: Feminisms, Freedom, and the Future**  
**April 2023**  
Conference speaker on “Cultivating Free Spaces Within Oppressive Institutions”. **April 2023**

**Workshop on “Tending to Our Nervous Systems with Care” at the Teacher’s of Color and Allies Summit, CU Boulder** **October 2022**  
Guided educators, organizers and students on understanding our nervous systems and provided and practiced breathwork and movement to self-regulate and co-regulate as we engage in public work.

- A Queer Endeavor's Educator Institute for Equity and Justice** **October 2021**  
Workshop Facilitator on UndocuAlly resource for K12 educators and administrators.
- Decolonization in Ourselves and the Natural Environment with INVST Community Studies** **April 2021**  
Presentation on past, present and future of colonization and decolonization and how to decolonize our relationship with the natural world.
- CU Boulder, TEDx Talks: The Pale Blue Dot** **September 2020**  
TEDx Speaker on "Six Lessons of Youth Activism" at TEDxCU: Pale Blue Dot.
- CU Boulder's School of Education, Lafayette Place-Based Partnership Poster Session** **February 2020**  
Asked to present a poster on the Public Achievement's school-based partnerships in Lafayette, Colorado with other School of Education faculty, doctoral students, and community members.
- Workshop Facilitator for the 15th Annual Teacher's of Color and Allies Summit, CU Boulder** **October 2018**  
Selected to plan and facilitate a workshop for 50+ k-12 teachers and administrators from across Boulder Valley School District on best practices for transformational civic engagement with youth.
- Guest Lecturer in School of Education, CU Boulder** (Fall 2018, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Fall 2021)  
Kira Pasquesi's LEAD 1000: Becoming a Leader on *Emotional Intelligence and Leadership Values*  
Roudy Hildreth's INVS 2005: Puksta Scholars on *Collective Care in Activism and Public Work*  
Kira Pasquesi's LEAD 1000: Becoming a Leader on *Public Narrative and Leadership Identity*  
Jenn Korbelik's LEAD 1000: Becoming a Leader on *Bell Hook's Critical Thinking*  
Kira Pasquesi's LEAD 1000: Becoming a Leader on *Leadership Prototypes*  
Allison VanBuskirk's LEAD 4000: Leadership Capstone on *Public Narrative and Storytelling in Leadership*  
Sabrina Sideris' INVS 3931: Community Leadership in Action on *Black Lives matter and Voting*  
Dennis Donovan's Leadership Class on Public Narrative  
Sabrina Sideris' INVST Community Studies course on Black Lives Matter and Decolonial Practices
- Workshop Facilitator for the 15th Annual Teacher's of Color and Allies Summit, CU Boulder** **October 2018**  
Selected to plan and facilitate a workshop for 50+ k-12 teachers and administrators from across Boulder Valley School District on best practices for transformational civic engagement with youth.
- Reclaiming Your Narrative, Afro Yoga Online Studio** (December 2020)  
Workshop for women of color on reclaiming and writing our stories that center intersectional identities, experiences, values, and our inherent power.
- Imagining America National Gathering, University of New Mexico** **October 2019**  
Invited to present on Public Scholarship in closed session with Imagining America leaders and organizers.
- Journey to JD - University of Colorado Boulder** **June 2019**  
Taught two seminars and workshops on Self Interest, Social Justice and the Law for a one-week residential program for 20 rising high school juniors and seniors.
- The 71st Annual Conference on World Affairs, University of Colorado Boulder** **April 2019**  
Speaker and panelist on "Mobilizing for Social Activism". One of the youngest panelists for this conference.
- Colorado Public Achievement Conference - University of Colorado, Colorado Springs** **April 2019**

Workshop presenter on “Storytelling for Social Change: Public Narrative” for 30 undergraduate and graduate “coaches”, staff, and faculty.

**Diversity Summit Dialogue Facilitator, CU Boulder**

**Spring 2019**

Selected as a facilitator during a workshop on deliberative dialogues around race, power, and privilege.

**2019 Conference on World Affairs Panel Speaker “Mobilizing Social Activism”**

**Spring 2019**

Selected as a panel speaker with Senior Department of Ed Council, Principals, and Deputy Assistant Superintendent on best practices for inclusive school climates and discipline at Teach for America’s National Alumni Conference.

**Professional Development:**

**Online Teaching Academy**

**Spring 2024**

Micro-credential increasing the skills and knowledge of faculty and instructors teaching Online and Hybrid Remote/Online.

**Trauma-Informed Certification**

**2022-2023**

Certification course in Trauma Informed Yoga, Meditation and Facilitation for Sexual Assault and Trauma Survivors.

**Leading for Sustainable Change**

**2022-2023**

Consulted for the Posner Center for International Development’s leadership program for organizational leaders looking to engage in sustainable change and participated in the remainder of the programming.

**Foundation of Data Equity, We All Count**

**2022**

Training on a seven-step approach to identifying, making, defending, and celebrating your data process decisions in a way that is congruent with your equity priorities.

**CUEngage, School of Education, CU Boulder**

**2017-current**

Continued professional development on Theory of Change, teaching and learning, grant writing, equity and inclusion, program and community partnership evaluation, reciprocal partnerships, community-based research.

**Somatics for Social Justice, Both/And**

**January 2022**

Learning embodied justice and how white supremacy impacts our bodies.

**Anti-Oppression Facilitator Training**

**August 2021**

**Facilitator for the Be the Change Seminar: Practicing Inclusive Excellence in the Classroom**

**January 2019**

**Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, Train the Trainer - Denver, CO**

**April 2019**

**UndocuAlly Training, CU Boulder (November 2018)**

Training on supporting students, families, staff given immigration contexts and status.

**Public Achievement National Organizing Training (November 2017)**

Site visit and training with program founder and national organizer in Minnesota on models of democracy and citizenship

**Research and Community Collaboration:**

**Youth-Led Ethnic Studies for Colorado (YES4CO)**

**Fall 2023-current**

Researcher and healing justice facilitator with the movement to implement Ethnic Studies in high schools in Colorado. Inspired by the work of the public achievement ethnic studies team I have guided and worked alongside for the last several years.

**Voices of Healing, Renée Crown Wellness Institute, University of Colorado at Boulder** **Spring 2023**  
Participant and researcher on a Participatory Action Research centering healing justice and healing in Black, Brown and Indigenous young people and youth organizers.

**Women in the School of Education (WISE) Grantee, University of Colorado at Boulder** **Fall 2022-current**  
Granted an instruction, outreach and research grant for a grant entitled “Co-Designing, Implementing, and Researching Ethnic Studies in BVSD with Public Achievement”. This work enables our intergenerational team of women organizers, educators, and leaders to continue the work to sustain our pilot ethnic studies curriculum.

**Right to Learn (R2L) Dignity Lab, University of Colorado at Denver** **Fall 2019-current**  
Invited to join R2L research collective with Dr. Manuel Espinoza for educational research on dignity in education.

**Voces Unidas Organizing Committee** **Spring 2019-2022**  
Organizing local non-profits, educators, community wellness professionals, and lawyers to offer legal, mental health and community based resources to immigrant and undocumented families in Boulder County.

### **Publications and Guides**

Speaker/featured in *Reclaiming the Narrative: A Documentary About LGBTQ+ Students*. **Fall 2023**

Latiff, S. (2022) From fertile soil: co-creating a youth-led ethnic studies curriculum. *Voices Magazine, CU Boulder School of Education*.

Agnoletti, C., Latiff, S. & Nelson, A., (2021). Promising partnership practices: Youth equity council. *Colorado Department of Education Annual Edition of Promising Partnership Practices, 12. P.13*.  
<https://www.cde.state.co.us/uip/promising>

Host and writer, [AMPLIFY: Stories of University and Community Collaborations](#) “Expanding Voting Rights and Puksta Scholars Edition” **May 2019**

Host and writer, [AMPLIFY: Stories of University and Community Collaborations](#) “Multicultural Leadership Scholars Edition” **February 2019**

Host and writer, [AMPLIFY: Stories of University and Community Collaborations](#) “Americorps and Women of Color in the Workplace” **January 2019**

### **Awards**

**The Center for Inclusion and Social Change’s Women Who Make A Difference Award** **Fall 2023**  
Recognized for my role in Public Achievement and as a woman who has impacted the lives of people at CU Boulder and different communities in a positive way.

**CU Boulder Marinus Smith Award Recipient** **Spring 2023**  
Recognized as faculty that has a positive impact on students and advances the quality of education at CU Boulder.