



VANESSA PERRY DEREEF

Director of Training

Committed to adding value to those she encounters; Vanessa is currently the Director of Training at the Metropolitan Peace Academy.

With twenty years of experience with The Chicago Public Schools, Vanessa has served in the capacities of teacher, counselor, and building administrator. She credits her many mentors for the skill set she has developed allowing her to connect with people through facilitation, conversation, and right-relationship building. As the Training Director, Vanessa is charged with creating a professional pathway for the street outreach community.

A product of Chicago Public Schools, Vanessa graduated from Whitney Young Magnet High School before exploring the campuses of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, DePaul and Loyola University in Chicago. Along her educational pursuits, she has acquired a B.A. in History and a Masters degree in both Secondary Education and School Counseling. In addition, Vanessa currently holds an Illinois state Type 73 certification in School Counseling and a Type 75 certification in Leadership & Administration.

Vanessa continues to build her professional capacity as she works on her PhD. in Industrial and Organizational Psychology at Adler University.