

Em Richards

Em Richards (they, them, theirs) is a Program Associate for School and Youth at The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio. Em is an educator who is passionate about using creativity to empower adolescents to utilize their voice to create change in their relationships, schools, and communities. At The Diversity Center, Em specializes in the design and facilitation of diversity, inclusion, and social justice education for students.

BACKGROUND:

Em's background is in education and, from 2015-2018, they taught elementary and middle school English and Science. Em has extensive experience teaching social-emotional learning, creative writing, art, and theater to help students explore their role in creating a positive and affirming community for all. Em is passionate about advocating for inclusion and creating a long-lasting impact in their schools and community.

Em has worked with a cohort of high school students as a success coach and life skills/workforce readiness instructor. They supported students in regaining credits for graduation, creating and enacting post-high school career plans, and participating in community career exploration opportunities. Outcomes of this work included the improvement of attendance and participation as well as a decrease in drop-out rates and behavioral incidents. Em has mentored students as they overcame challenges related to poverty, substance abuse, and mental health.

Em specializes in trauma-resilience with youth, social-emotional learning, and creative expression. They utilize a person-centered approach to build positive relationships with youth that enables them to realize their potential to create change.

EXPERIENCE:

- *Social-Emotional Learning*
- *Trauma-Resilience and Trauma Informed Teaching*
- *Theater, Art, Creative Writing*
- *Classroom Management*
- *Restorative Practices*



EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATES

**B.A. Middle Childhood Education
Minor - Theatre Design & Tech**
Kent State University
Kent, OH

**Ohio Teaching License with
4-9 Reading Endorsement**

**Social-Emotional Learning and
Character Development 101/102**
Rutgers University

TRAINING

- Social/Emotional Development in Early Childhood
- Collaborative Problem Solving
- Trauma Sensitive Classroom
- Trauma Informed Care in Workforce Development
- Brain Science & Toxic Stress
- Understanding Neurodevelopmental Disorders
- Bridges Out of Poverty

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