

Calil Cage, BS

Calil's (he/ him) passion for serving local communities began as a young adult while interning for two summers at the Columbus Urban League's Summer Youth Empowerment Program (SYEP). At the SYEP, he engaged with his peers toward creating a more equitable neighborhood for the Near-East Side of Columbus through community development. As his studies at Kent State University advanced, so did his love for mentorship, community development, and social change.

Working with youth at a local recreational center and The Boys and Girls Club inspired Calil to create change beyond the basic curriculum of literacy, arithmetic, and the sciences. At the Boys and Girls Club, he recreated their "Passport to Manhood" Project to incorporate key values of character training, social awareness, and emotional intelligence. This experience pushed him to explore the world of social change in youth and ultimately, pinpointing the Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio as a pivotal force of executing change. Here at the Diversity Center, Calil is a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Specialist for the School and Youth Department. He develops and facilitates programs and presentations for K-12 students. Calil practices the use of establishing relationships and building communities so that all participants can engage with these important topics. He believes that for younger participants to be fully impacted, people in positions of power must shed authority and meet them where they are in their development.

Background:

Calil grew up in Chicago, Illinois and moved to Columbus, Ohio during his adolescent years. Recognizing the disparities in resources and opportunities between cities, Calil has committed himself to filling the gap wherever and however necessary. During his time at Kent State University, he studied Human Development and Family Studies with a concentration in Child and Youth Development. Approaching graduation, Calil has excelled while being planted in Kent. As he continues to bloom, he plans to attend graduate school to study community development and/or public policy.



EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATES

B.S. Human Development & Family Studies
Kent State University
Kent, OH

Experience:

- Development and facilitation of JEDI programs such as Diversity 101, Race & Ethnicity, Gender Identity & Expression, and Socioeconomics.
- Facilitation of leadership development programs for youth voice and social change.
- Course work in sociology, psychology, Pan-African studies in the Black Experience, human sexuality, public speaking, and facilitation.