

## Em Richards

Em Richards (they, them, theirs) is a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Specialist with DCNEO's School & Youth Department. Em is an educator who is passionate about using creativity and dialogue 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 K-12 students and educators.

### 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

#### **Bachelor of Science**

*Middle Childhood Education*  
*Minor: Theatre Tech & Design*  
Kent State University  
Kent, OH

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

### Certificate Program & Practicum

*Social Emotional Learning &  
Character Development*  
Rutgers University  
New Brunswick, NJ

### TRAINING

Social/Emotional Development in Early  
Childhood

Collaborative Problem Solving

Trauma Sensitive Classroom

Trauma Informed Care in Workforce  
Development

Brain Science & Toxic Stress

The Science of Well-Being

Bridges Out of Poverty

Fostering Civil Discourse in Students

Identity, Race, and The Classroom

Creating Safe and Inclusive Spaces for  
LGBTQ Students

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