

## Samantha Speck, M.A.

Samantha Speck (she, her, hers) serves as a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Specialist for School & Youth Programming at the Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio. In her role, she focuses on the development and facilitation of diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice education for youth and youth serving professionals. Samantha is an experienced qualitative researcher who utilizes her geography expertise to analyze social justice issues and inequities in the community.

### Background

Samantha is a Northeast Ohio native who recently moved back to the area. After receiving her B.A. in Geography from the University of Akron, she joined the Peace Corps as an Education Volunteer, serving as a Jr. High and High School teacher in Benin, West Africa from 2010-2012. While there, she worked with local colleagues to eliminate corporal punishment in the classroom by developing alternative disciplinary methods. She also coordinated and directed the first regional gender equality camp for boys. After completing her service, Samantha spent time in Washington, D.C. as a data manager and risk analyst for Georgetown University before moving on to graduate school. She received her M.A. in Geography from the University of Delaware, which fixated on critical geography studies and qualitative research methods. Her research studied immigrant labor shortages in the U.S.-based Mushroom industry with a focus on how risks created through modernization can encourage social change.

### Experience

- *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program development and facilitation for School and Youth Programming*
- *Research and data analysis using SPSS*
- *Conducting qualitative and quantitative social science research*
- *Facilitating workshops and conversations with youth and youth serving professionals*
- *Data management and collection, database customization and configuration, and report building.*



### EDUCATION

#### **M.A. Geography**

College of Earth, Ocean & Environment  
University of Delaware  
Newark, DE

#### **B.A. Geography**

College of Arts & Sciences  
University of Akron  
Akron, OH

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