



ALISON RODRIGUEZ

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION
COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIST

College educator and **DEI communications strategist** experienced in fostering a sense of belonging in organizational settings. Having incorporated DEI content in film courses for many years, my strengths include program innovation, inclusive engagement, and leadership development. I am passionate about coaching students and cultivating relationships with employers in the performing arts and media industries.

EXPERIENCE

Northwestern University, 2022 - present **Alumni Relations and Development** **Equity Adviser**

- Advise hiring managers on DEI best practices and advocate for equity throughout the hiring cycle
- Curated a resource of minority fundraising organizations for outreach to underrepresented populations
- Create diverse recruitment strategies

Talent Management Council

- Advocate for initiatives that foster employee engagement
- Provide feedback that nurtures a positive and inclusive culture

Diversity Council

- Foster racial equity and a sense of belonging in a learning-oriented environment
- Engage and cultivate relationships with alumni from underrepresented groups
- Coordinate events and panel discussions featuring alumni of color

Affinity Groups

- Build relationships and provide support to members of BIPOC@ARD, Black@ARD, & LGBTQ@ARD
- Designed a presentation and facilitated a discussion on racist images in the media

CONTACT



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Evanston, Illinois

EDUCATION

Northwestern University

MS in Communication, expected 2022

Columbia College Chicago

Bachelor of Arts: Film Directing

DePaul University

Bachelor of Fine Arts: Acting

CERTIFICATIONS & WORKSHOPS

University of Colorado via Coursera

Inclusive Leadership: The Power of Workplace Diversity. Certificate in progress

Northwestern University, MSC

Cultural Intelligence & Managing Inclusion Workshop

Northwestern University, via Coursera

Organizational Leadership Specialization, a 6-course program completed in 2020



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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Columbia College, 2000 - Present

Cinema and Television Arts

Adjunct Faculty

- Acting and Directing Workshop
- Screenwriting I
- Acting Techniques for Filmmakers
- Advanced Computer Animation, Guest Lecturer
- Special Events and Promotions, Guest Lecturer
- Art Director/Copywriter and Portfolio Development, Guest Lecturer
- Incorporate DEI programming into exercises and supplemental materials
- Counsel and advise students in navigating college processes and grant opportunities

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Northwestern University, 2018 - present

Alumni Relations and Development

Program Assistant 4, 2021 - present

- Assist senior leadership with portfolio management: proposals, briefings, campaign events, donor visits, travel arrangements, and solicitation reports
- Develop strategies for cultivation with alumni of color
- Track team's progress on DEI goals

Civil and Environmental Engineering

Assistant to the Chair, 2018 - 2021

- Coordinate special events, including the Big Ten CEE Chairs Conference, Department of Defense/MURI Conference, CEE Retreat, Achenbach Lectures, and Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (TAM) Seminars

EVENT MANAGEMENT

Wedding Chicago, Inc., 2005 - 2017

Owner and Producer

- Produced, emceed, and coordinated panel discussions with designers in the annual *Wedding Chicago Bridal Brunch & Fashion Show*
 - River East Art Center
 - Great Hall of Cafe Brauer
 - Millennium Knickerbocker Hotel

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Savvy Bride Magazine, 2020 - 2021

Publisher

- Wrote and edited online content
- Developed, uploaded, and maintained content from a variety of sources, including YouTube

The Favor, 2014 - 2015

Comprehensive Editor

- Provided comprehensive editing and re-writing of this novel for the author
- Coordinated all aspects of publishing, including copyediting for spelling and grammar, proofreading, formatting, and design

PANEL ENGAGEMENTS

- Northwestern Alumni Relations and Development
 - *George Floyd: Propelling Racial Reckoning from a Moment into a Movement*
- San Francisco Black Film Festival
 - *Distribution and Financing*; panelist
- Black Harvest International Film Festival
 - *Women of Color*; panelist
- VisionsBlu Symposium
 - *Black Directors in Hollywood*, featuring George Tillman; moderator



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FILM PRODUCTIONS

- *Crossing Jordan*: Director; Exec. Producer
- *Life after the Bullet*: Co-Director
- *Facing the Mountain*: Director
- *The Missing Peace*: Associate Producer
- *Cookie Bandit*: Executive Director
- *One Year, Five Months, and Seventeen Days*: Producer

THEATRE

- **National Pastime Theatre**: *Servant of the People! The Rise and Fall of Huey P. Newton and the Black Panther Party*
 - Kathleen Cleaver
 - Elaine Brown
- **Pegasus Players**: *Train is Comin'*
 - Eliza Walker
- **HealthWorks Theater**: *Wizard of AIDS*
 - Wicked Witch of Unsafe Sex
- **Bailiwick Director's Festival**: *The Coat*
 - Marie
- **Strawdog Theatre Festival**: *A Black Woman Speaks*
 - One-woman production
- **Tapestry Productions**: *Love and Happiness*
 - Ensemble
- **James Lynch Productions**: *Shakespeare in the Dark*
 - Hamlet

HONORS & RECOGNITION

- Aurora Award: *Cookie Bandit*
- Telly Award: *Cookie Bandit*
- Bailiwick Director's Festival: Best of the Fest for *The Coat*
- The Academy Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting: *Eighty/Twenty*, Quarter finalist

FILM FESTIVALS

- Cannes Film Festival: *The Missing Peace*
- Chicago International Children's Film Festival: *Cookie Bandit*
- San Francisco Black Film Festival: *Crossing Jordan*
- London Disability Film Festival: *Life after the Bullet*
- Crested Butte Reel Fest: *Crossing Jordan*
- Pan African Film Festival: *Crossing Jordan*
- Black Harvest International Film Festival: *Crossing Jordan*
- Black Harvest International Film Festival: *The Missing Peace*
- Black Women Film Festival in the UK: *The Missing Peace*
- Atlanta Women of Color International Film Festival: *Crossing Jordan*
- The Reel Sisters of the Diaspora Film Festival: *The Missing Peace*
- Northern Ireland's International Film Festival: *Cookie Bandit*
- National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.: *Cookie Bandit*
- Palm Springs International Film Festival Market: *Crossing Jordan*

SKILLS

- Inclusion Improvisation Workshops
- Public Speaking
- Organizational Leadership
- Data Research & Analysis
- Event Management
- Project Management
- Interpersonal Communication
- Collaborative Teamwork
- OnBase
- Cascade CMS