



Keynote Speaker **Nubia Peña**

Disciplined Too Young & Too Often: Understanding the School-To-Prison Pipeline

Across the country, school systems are shutting the doors of academic opportunity and funneling children into the juvenile and criminal justice systems by using overly harsh discipline practices to address student misbehavior. Advocates, prevention educators, administrators, law enforcement, and community partners must be aware of current issues that increase a youths vulnerability to victimization, exploitation, and court involvement, in order to create innovative and relevant ways of engaging with targeted youth.

This presentation will provide an overview of the School-to-Prison Pipeline (STPP) and the various intersections of vulnerability that increase a child's risk of being streamlined into the justice system. In addition, participants will be encouraged to get involved in mitigating STPP issues by increasing protective factors through policy change and reform.

Who is Nubia?

- In 2016, Nubia was selected as one of 25 law students in the nation to be recognized and highlighted for her social justice activism by National Jurist magazine, a leading news source in legal education.
- She has been involved in the anti-violence movement for over a decade. She provides a strong voice and presentations that are engaging, dynamic and inspiring to audiences.
- Nubia served as the Program Coordinator for Racially Just Utah, which worked to successfully pass a house bill to combat the school-to-prison pipeline in 2016.
- She has recently joined the zealous team at the Utah Juvenile Defenders Office where she advocates for youth rights during detention and delinquency proceedings

Nubia, what inspires you to do social justice work?

"Very early in my career as an advocate, I realized that issues relating to disenfranchised populations would often fall to the wayside if someone was not readily advocating on their behalf. I pursued a legal career as the natural extension of my activism so that I could use my degree to give voice to those who had been silenced and invisible."

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