

Talibah Aquil

1718 North Burkwood Court Apt C • Harrisonburg, VA 22802 • 646-734-1609 • Talibah.A.Aquil@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA
MA in Conflict Transformation

Graduation May 2019
GPA: 3.86

Howard University, Washington, D.C.
Bachelor of Fine Arts

Graduation May 2009
GPA: 3.35

LANGUAGES

Kinyarwanda

Intermediate High

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

Mediation & Negotiation

Truth-telling, Racial Healing & Restorative Justice

Research Methods for Social Change

Psychosocial Trauma, Identity & Dignity

Foundations for Justice & peacebuilding

Building Resilience In Body, Mind & Spirit

MASTER'S THESIS INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT

- “*Ghana, Remember Me...*” (December 2018-May 2019) ○ Created an arts based, independent research project located in Ghana, West Africa. The project was centered around healing historical trauma and exploring healthy and holistic approaches to reimagining the identity formation of African Americans and people of the diaspora who are descendants of slavery.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Program Coordinator, Furious Flower Poetry Center at JMU, Harrisonburg, Virginia

2020

- Serves as the program coordinator for the “Flowering Project.” This project centers around the digital future of the Furious Flower Poetry Center and will allow James Madison University’s College of Arts and Letters and the JMU Libraries, to develop a partnership model for digital library support of a living center for Black poetry.

Adjunct Professor, Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia

2019

- Created a course entitled “Re-imagining Identity,” that speaks to the intersections of Identity, Peacebuilding, storytelling and dignity.
- Cultivated a learning environment that honors and values safe, brave and free spaces for students to creatively use their voices for social change.

High School TEFL Teacher, Peace Corps, Kabuga, Rwanda

2014-2016

- Played an intricate role in strengthening and building the relationships amongst the school, parents, and Kabuga community by initiating in-house family visits to access and analyze the needs of the community.
- Sustained a girls and boys club that promoted English competency, gender equality, HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, Malaria prevention, community leadership, genocide prevention & strategic career planning.
- Led Training of Trainers (TOTs) to assist with building the capacity of the educators in the Kabuga community ● Partnered with the organization Mindleaps Rwanda, to provide English lessons to underserved street children.
- Facilitated the Diversity and Inclusion trainings for Peace Corps’ Pre-Service Training.
- Resided on the Peer Support Network Committee to provide emotional support to Peace Corps volunteers.
- Co-organized and facilitated a boys and girls camp that accommodated high school youth in the Eastern Region of Rwanda.

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Theatre & Musical Director, Mennonite Central Committee , Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

2011-2012

- Engaged in cultural exchange through building & strengthening the relationships of Mennonite Central Committee's Churches and partners in Zimbabwe.
- Shaped & chaired the performing arts program at a primary school in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.
- Traveled to Zimbabwe with the objective to better understand and support MCC in responding to social challenges faced in the community; including, but not limited to: poverty, peacebuilding and non-violence and child neglect.

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAININGS

- Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience (STAR) Practitioner
- Behavior Analysis Practitioner
- Diversity & Inclusion Training Facilitator
- Restorative Justice Circle Process Facilitator
- Summer Peacebuilding Institute
- Grassroot Soccer HIV/Malaria/Gender/Youth Development Facilitator
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Facilitator
- CPR/First Aid/AED Certified

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Youth & Community Developer/ Writing Corps Specialist, Harlem Children Zone, NY, New York

2013

International Dance Company Member/Instructor, STEP AFRICA!, Washington, DC

2009-2017 (Seasonal)

Black Girls Rock! Lead Production Assistant, Black Entertainment Television (BET), New York, NY

2012/2013