



Reimagining Aging: An Afrofuturist Approach to Healing Elder Abuse and Advancing Racial Justice

Presenter Bios February 14, 2024

Deja Taylor is a lifelong promoter of peace and a relentless advocate for improving the quality of life for all marginalized groups. With calculated success in program development and coordination in the non-profit sector, Deja is passionate about creating safe spaces for BIPOC to thrive in. After earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice at Mount Mary University in Milwaukee, WI Deja would spend several years investing in the liberation of survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking through a trauma-informed lens.

Deja is passionate about community-based development and engagement. She proudly resides in her hometown of Milwaukee, WI. Deja has experience using evaluative thinking with a broad range of stakeholders with an intentional focus on parents and families. She has created opportunities for learning through evaluation activities for stakeholders at all phases of project implementation.

Koren Dennison was born and raised in Milwaukee by a village of strong Black women. Strongly believing in community and aware that her accomplishments are extraordinary for folks where she's from, it is imperative for Koren to responsibly pass the torch. Koren, joyous Black woman, radical change maker, defies statistical odds to achieve success and currently works as an Evaluator and Communications Strategist at Ubuntu Research and Evaluation. She is committed to displaying to other young Black girls the power they possess to write their own narrative and consequently change others' lives.

Koren is a first-generation double alumnus of Marquette University where she studied Corporate Communications, was heavily engaged in the on-campus community through dance and leadership, and consistently exposed the dominantly-white student body to Black Girl Magic wherever

she went. During her service learning studies abroad in South Africa, Koren interned for U-Turn Homeless Ministry, where they "equip people with skills to overcome homelessness." Koren is prepared to utilize components of their structure as relevant in this context. From this, she's acquired the skillset to combat white supremacy and anti-Black ideals by serving the Black community through collaboration and constructive consultation. This allows Koren to tangibly take steps to create the world she and other Black people deserve to live in.

Koren's personality can be described as infectiously energetic, candid, eager to learn and try new things, philanthropic, and uproarious. Her driving motivators are setting an example for her little brother, making her family proud, and inspiring Black youth. She is ardent in her pursuit of breaking generational curses and establishing generational wealth.