

MENDELL GRINTER, MPA

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SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Nonprofit Leadership and Resource Development**—Accomplished nonprofit executive with over a decade of leadership experience across education, nonprofit, and advocacy organizations, showcasing a deep understanding of governance principles and adept organizational management skills. Proven track record in securing multi-year individual gifts, foundation grants, and orchestrating successful fundraising campaigns. The most significant gift was \$5 million for programmatic, operational, and project support.
 - **Awards & Recognition** - Recognized by Forbes magazine as among the top 30 under 30 for exceptional contributions to education and social impact in 2017, acknowledged for entrepreneurial spirit and innovation in driving positive change. This prestigious honor underscores a commitment to excellence and leadership on a global stage.
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President and Chief Executive Officer

Wesley House Community Services

2024-Present

- Spearheaded organizational recovery and strategic growth after a four-month leadership vacancy, ensuring continuity of services and operational stability.
- Oversaw a \$1.3 million annual budget, maintaining financial integrity through strategic planning, efficient resource allocation, and targeted fundraising efforts.
- Built and led a high-performing team of 23 staff members, fostering a collaborative and mission-driven workplace culture.
- Expanded funding streams by cultivating relationships with donors, grantors, and community partners, increasing annual revenue by \$300,000 within the first 3 months.
- Increased organizational visibility through media outreach, public speaking engagements, and community leaders and policymakers partnerships.
- Modernized operational practices, including updating technology systems, streamlining reporting mechanisms, and enhancing staff professional development opportunities.
- Secured multi-year funding agreements to support the long-term sustainability programs in early childhood education and youth services.

Chairman (Jan. 2023 - Dec. 2023)

Member, Board of Directors (2019 - present)

Country Music Association (CMA) Foundation

2019 - Present

- Led initiatives to advance arts and music education programs nationally, providing strategic direction and executive leadership to the CMA board and staff and facilitating the strategic planning process.
- Cultivated impactful partnerships with key national stakeholders, driving collaborative efforts to amplify the foundation's reach and influence within the education sector.
- Revitalized the foundation's grantmaking framework, implementing a strategic evaluation process that led to positive outcomes for community partners, demonstrating a commitment to effective and sustainable nonprofit governance.

Consultant for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Contract)

Country Music Association (CMA)

2022

- Spearheaded the creation of CMA's Music Industry Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, steering the development and implementation of strategic initiatives that champion diversity across the music industry.
- Fostered collaborative partnerships with key industry stakeholders to pinpoint avenues for enhanced representation and inclusivity at award shows, external events, and corporate offices, fostering a more inclusive and empowered workplace environment.
- Delivered impactful training sessions on unconscious bias, cultural competence, and inclusive leadership, fostering heightened awareness and practical application of diversity and inclusion principles among staff and external stakeholders.
- Guided investments in support of DEI programs internally and externally.

Director, Equity & Policy

Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence

2020 - 2020

- Directed the successful re-launch of a coalition, unifying diverse stakeholders across business, higher education, and nonprofits statewide. Facilitated the development and advocacy for legislative policies geared towards advancing educational equity.
- Championed the passage of a legislative agenda, significantly enhancing access to quality education across the state. Demonstrated legislative acumen as a former lobbyist and leader navigating political landscapes to effect positive change.
- Regularly convened and facilitated monthly meetings of the equity coalition, cultivating an environment for collaborative dialogue and decision-making. Facilitated the exchange of ideas and ensured the momentum of the coalition's mission.

Diversity and Inclusion Consultant

Forbes

Jan. 2019 - Dec. 2020

- Co-founded and played an instrumental role in establishing Forbes the Culture, which has evolved into ForbesBLK and the Black Excellence Society, a dynamic global network dedicated to amplifying the voices and stories of business people of color.
- Provided strategic guidance to Forbes on diversity and inclusion initiatives, significantly influencing the organization's dedication to fostering diverse perspectives and voices in all facets of its events.
- Cultivated external partnerships and orchestrated impactful events to elevate underrepresented voices, showcase their achievements, and foster a more inclusive media landscape.
- Successfully broadened the network's influence and reach by securing strategic partnerships with external organizations, further reinforcing its commitment to DEI on a global scale.

Executive Director and Founder

Campaign for School Equity (CSE)

2016 – 2019

- Founded a local nonprofit organization through the strategic spin-off from a national branch under my state leadership, ensuring the continuation of our mission after the closure at the national level.
- Successfully secured a multi-year program and operating grant, raising substantial funds to drive educational equity initiatives benefiting students of color and their families throughout Tennessee.
- Developed and implemented comprehensive strategic plans, innovative programs, and impactful grassroots advocacy campaigns to mobilize communities and establish influential coalitions to advocate for local, state, and national policy reforms to address the root causes of educational disparities.
- Received recognition for exceptional leadership and impact in the nonprofit sector, earning a spot on the Forbes 30 Under 30 list.
- Strategically secured and curated over 100 earned media placements, significantly elevating the organization's visibility and enhancing public awareness of its crucial mission.

Tennessee State Director (2015-2016)

Kentucky State Director (2014-2015)

Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO)

2015 - 2016

- Led the expansion of community engagement initiatives as the State Director for BAEO, overseeing operations in two states.

- Successfully led and executed impactful grassroots advocacy campaigns, positioning the organization as a catalyst for positive education policy change. By developing and implementing a community engagement model involving faith-based leaders, I achieved a 25% surge in community participation.
- Recognized for driving tangible results and embodying strong leadership skills.
- Cultivated and maintained robust relationships with key elected leaders and strategic partners, fostering a collaborative environment and supporting the organization's goals.
- Spearheaded fundraising efforts, securing vital resources to sustain and expand organizational initiatives, showcasing the ability to connect with donors and stakeholders.
- Oversaw and managed a dedicated team of 10+ direct reports, ensuring programmatic efficiency and alignment with the organizational mission and goals. Demonstrated a commitment to leadership development and fostering a cohesive working environment.

Deputy Chief of Staff (2015)
Field Coordinator (2013-2014)

StudentsFirst New York

2013 - 2015

- Orchestrated and directed the execution of the organization's strategic plan, working closely with the executive director and senior leadership to drive initiatives that significantly enhanced organizational impact.
- Implemented a development outreach program targeting prospective donors, resulting in increased funding and expanded support for the organization's mission and projects.
- Leveraged previous experience as a field coordinator within the organization, assisting its advocacy and community organizing efforts and managing a team of 50 staff members.
- Cultivated relationships with key stakeholders, collaborating seamlessly with internal and external partners to drive successful project outcomes and amplify the organization's reach and influence.

Field Organizer

Obama for America, WA

2012

- Executed comprehensive grassroots outreach strategies, successfully mobilizing a diverse and engaged voter base for President Obama's re-election campaign.
- Coordinated and managed high-impact events, rallies, and community forums, fostering direct connections between the campaign and local constituents in Washington state.
- Developed and maintained strong relationships with key community leaders, influencers, and stakeholders to amplify campaign messaging and garner widespread support.
- Led a dynamic team of volunteers in executing targeted canvassing and phone-banking initiatives, which increased voter registration and turnout.

- Utilized data analytics and voter targeting tools to identify key demographics and tailor campaign efforts for maximum impact in crucial swing regions.
- Facilitated volunteer training sessions, enhancing their understanding of campaign goals, messaging, and effective outreach techniques.

EDUCATION

New York University

Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) in Leadership and Innovation, *Expected Dec. 2025*

Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs

Master of Public Administration (MPA)

University of Kentucky

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science