



VANESSA PERRY DEREFF, PH.D. *Chief Training Officer*

Committed to adding value to those she encounters, Vanessa is currently the Chief Training Officer at the Metropolitan Peace Academy.

With 20 years of experience with Chicago Public Schools, Vanessa has served in the capacities of teacher, counselor, and building administrator. She credits her many mentors for the skill set she has developed allowing her to connect with people through facilitation, conversation, and right-relationship building. As the Chief Training Officer, Vanessa is charged with creating a professional pathway for the street outreach community.

A product of Chicago Public Schools, Vanessa graduated from Whitney Young Magnet High School before exploring the campuses of University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign, DePaul and Loyola University in Chicago. Along her educational pursuits, she has acquired a B.A. in History and a Masters degree in both Secondary Education and School Counseling. In addition, Vanessa currently holds an Illinois state Type 73 certification in School Counseling and a Type 75 certification in Leadership & Administration.

Vanessa holds a Ph.D. in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from Adler University.