

# JILLIAN "JAY" WATTS



Jay Watts (She/They), hailing from Appalachia (Poosey Ridge, Kentucky), has spent more than a decade in the field of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Informed by her impoverished roots and intersectional identity, she has aided in the support of more than 28 school districts, 30 higher educational institutions, 12 corporate settings, 42 non-profits, and more than 60,000 touch points of development at local and national conferences as a keynote and esteemed facilitator/speaker. In 2011, she also aided in the development of a student parent program at the University of Toronto.

In addition to this experience, Jay Watts has published more than 8 academic journals in the areas of social justice, education, and diversity. Most notably, two publications in the Encyclopedia of Social Justice and Diversity (2015) in the areas of rural education and cultural taxation. Academically, Jay has completed a Bachelors in Social Studies Education from the University of Louisville (2010) and a Master of Arts in Higher Education from Eastern Kentucky University (2012). She is currently completing her doctoral studies at the Teachers College at Columbia University in the field of Health Education and Behavioral Studies. Her dissertation topic is on Healing Centered Engagements: Community Responsibility in the Restoration & Empowerment of Intersectional Survivors of Trauma.

Jay Watts has an esteemed portfolio of professional experience. She was the previous Educational Coordinator at Eastern Kentucky University for TRiO, Educational Talent Search. She also served there as an Executive Diversity Council member for 2 years during that time. Jay also was an Academic Advisor II & Diversity Trainer for Kent State University. In addition, she was a Diversity Consultant for Dr. Roger Cleveland's Millennium Learning Concepts, LLC. where she aided in the development of culturally relevant and responsive curriculum, behavioral management plans, and co-created an equity audit tool being used around the United States. Jay also was the previous Assistant Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion/LGBTQ+ Resource Coordinator at Kenyon College where she developed training, policy, protocol, and pedagogy to assist in the college's strategic initiatives. She also has previously served as the Director of the CARE Initiatives, a domestic violence/sexual violence prevention department at Manchester University. Currently, Jay is the Executive Director of Diversity, Equity, and Belonging-Central Indiana for Ivy Tech Community College and sits on their executive cabinet as one of 12 leaders that make the decisions for the service area.

In 2018, Jay was awarded Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly 40 under 40: the second youngest in her cohort. She also has been honored with distinguished research awards from AACTE and a former Holmes Scholar. Jay is a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and a consultant for The Ministerium. She is also the President of Northwest Civic Community. Jay was on the founding board for the 1st GLSEN Chapter in Indiana (GLSEN-Fort Wayne).

## Contact Info



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