

ZOË JENKINS

Reimagining education and empathy
hello@zoe-jenkins.com | [LINKEDIN](#)

EDUCATION

University of Virginia, B.S.Ed, Youth and Social Innovation; B.A, Political and Social Thought; and Minor in Economics, May 2025

Holland Blackburn Ridley Scholar

Echols Scholar

University of Arizona, Non-Degree Seeking Student, May 2021

Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, Math, Science, and Technology Center, June 2020

EMPLOYMENT

Civics Unplugged, NYC, 2020-

Advisor, August 2022-

Director of Alumni Relations, May 2022 - August 2022

- Supporting and amplifying fellowship alumni projects
- Leading development of alumni platform to facilitate connections between alums, donors, and board members

Inaugural Steering Committee Chair, June 2020 - July 2021

- Directed allocation of more than \$10,000 to Gen Z civic projects
- Spearheaded partnerships with Meta, Schmidt Futures, YMCA, and The Rhodes Trust

Commence 2030 Host, June 2020

- Hosted and led the development of youth civic power celebration featuring Andrew Yang, Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, and Cory Booker

Kentucky Student Voice Team, Kentucky, 2017 -

Senior Advisor, August 2021 -

Executive Podcast Producer, May 2019 - August 2021

- Founded and produced *Get Schooled: Student Stories from Across KY* which amplified the voices of students across the state
- Received \$10,000 grant from National Geographic to expand podcast reach and impact

Coping with COVID-19 Student-to-Student Study Quantitative Analysis and Graphic Design Lead, March 2020 - May 2021

- Led analysis of student-led study of how 13,000 Kentucky students were experiencing the pandemic

Social Media Director, September 2019 - August 2020

LPPL 2100: The Resilient Student, University of Virginia, VA, 2022-

Teaching Assistant, August 2023 -

Course Manager, August 2022 - May 2023

Wyckoff, University of Virginia, VA, 2023-

Research Assistant studying the incentive structures of teacher pay schedules

DICCE, Virtual, 2020 -

Founder & Executive Director, 2020 -

- Facilitated workshops on anti-racism and DEI education for Generation Z with Stanford University's d.school faculty and Nobel Prize Summit
- Led development and piloting of Generation Z open-source DEI and anti-racism curriculum used by hundreds of students

Vanderbilt Summer Academy, Peabody College, Nashville, TN, June - July 2023

Proctor

- Facilitated residential life activities and student support for 700+ middle and high school students at an academic residential summer program

Search for Common Ground, Virtual, 2021

Consultant, June - December 2021

- Created media and skills-building opportunities for youth activists to better utilize dignity in their advocacy

Fondufe-Mittendorf Lab, University of Kentucky, Kentucky, 2019 - 2021

Student Researcher

- Researched the role of circRNA in arsenic-mediated carcinogenesis as a possibility for earlier lung cancer diagnosis for people in Eastern Kentucky

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

Gracie Award Original Online Programming – Standalone Audio, 2022

Washington Post “What teenagers talk about when they talk about race”

Harvard Kennedy School Institute of Politics Emerging Leader, 2022

Aerie Changemaker, 2021

\$20,000 to support DICCE

Spring 2020 National Geographic Young Explorer

\$10,000 to pioneer program to empower least-heard Kentucky students to create podcasts about their student experiences

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Research

[Coping with COVID-19 Student-to-Student Study Executive Summary](#), Kentucky Student Voice Team, 2020

Eleazer, R.; De Silva, K.; Andreeva, K.; Jenkins, Z.; Osmani, N.; Rouchka, E.C.; and Fondufe-Mittendorf, Y. (2023). PARP1 regulates circular RNA biogenesis through control of transcriptional dynamics. *Cells*, 12, 1160.

<https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4409/12/8/1160>

Articles and Opinion-Editorials

[How Finding A Personal Connection To The Greensboro Four Led Me To My Own Civic Activism](#), Blavity, February 2021

[Why I'm Designing Anti-Bias Training for My Classmates](#), Education Week, September 2020

Podcast

[What teenagers talk about when they talk about race](#), Washington Post

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

Presentations

How to Talk about Race Centered in Empathy, World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh, June 2021

[Roots of Change: Empathy as a Collective Responsibility](#), Nobel Prize Summit, April 2021

Institutionalized oppression, Stanford d.School, April 2021

[Stakeholder Voice, Agency, and Co-Creation for Equity in Education](#), WestEd for California County Offices of Education, March 2021

Coping with COVID-19 Study Results, National School Climate Association, May 2020

School safety and school climate workshops, Texas Association of School Boards, February 2019

A Day of Unreasonable Conversation, Propper Daley, September 2022

Speeches

[Saving the World from an Empathy Crisis](#), TEDxGEM, March 2021

[Who Are You Not to Be?](#), TEDxYouth Highlands, January 2020

Media Appearances

[America Talks](#), National Week of Conversation and CommonAlly, June 2021

[CBS This Morning](#), September 2020

Kids Pick the President, Nickelodeon, July 2020

COMMUNITY SERVICE

CIRCLE, Tufts University, 2021 -

Advisory Board, 2021 -

- Featured on Teen Vogue Growing Voters panel

EXTRACURRICULARS

Jefferson Literary and Debating Society, 2021 -

Historian, 2023-

Bicentennial Committee, 2022-

Diversity and Inclusion Chair, 2022-2023

Programs Committee, 2022-2023

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, 2023-

Hostess, 2023-

Connection and Social Action Chair, 2023-

National Pan-Hellenic Council, 2023-

Education Chair, 2023-

Virginia Mock Trial, 2021 - 2022

Placed 4th in national championship, 2022

Outstanding Witness

SKILLS

Public speaking and narrative

Social media

Managed social media direction and strategy of Kentucky Student Voice Team, DICCE, Jefferson Literary and Debating Society, and Civics Unplugged for a combined three years

Writing

Proficient in Spanish

Scored a 4 on the AP Spanish Exam

PERSONAL

Interests include playing piano, hiking, baking pies, cooking, traveling, and illustrating.