



Jacquelyn Santiago is Chief Executive Officer at COMPASS Youth Collaborative, Inc. “Youth are my inspiration and my deepest desire is to see them thrive in our communities” is how Jacquelyn (Jackie) Santiago describes her motivation for helping schools and youth succeed. She is a champion for equal opportunities for youth, a dynamic youth development trainer, and an advocate for youth at risk. To foster success in youth, Jackie has played an increasingly important role creating and developing after-school programs, creating comprehensive school day supports for schools, and creating impactful outreach and crisis intervention programs for youth at risk.

Jackie graduated from Trinity College in 2000 with a major in Sociology and received her Master’s Degree at the school of Business at Quinnipiac University in 2014. She began her career as a youth organizer at Hartford Areas Rally Together (HART) before joining COMPASS in 2001. Jackie serves as an internal leader that develops performance management processes that measure and evaluate progress against goals for the organization, builds and supports high performance teams at COMPASS. She oversees all programs, including the COMPASS Peacebuilders program. She develops and evaluates school-based out-of-school-time programs in four schools, initiates innovative projects and strategic alliances and provides leadership and support to the Hartford Community School Initiative, collaboration between Hartford Public Schools, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, United Way, City of Hartford, and community-based organizations. Jackie has been instrumental in developing measures, structures, and systems that guide COMPASS’ work with juvenile justice involved youth.

She also worked as a Partnership Coach for National Center for Time and Learning. She assisted school districts in the Hartford region to develop relationships with community, families, and businesses in order to support student success in school and in life.

Jackie is a national trainer in youth development practices and 7 executive functions for providers, parents, and community based organizations.

A native of Lawrence, MA, Jackie had the same early experiences as many of the kids who inspire her today. She was an excellent student at the public school she attended, Jackie received a scholarship to attend a prep school where, she says that she struggled to maintain decent grades. “In fact, I failed. It was then that I realized the schools in Lawrence hadn’t prepared me well academically.” Jackie decided that if she was lucky enough to go on to college, she would do something to help children, their families, and schools. Pingree School prepared her for her career at Trinity College and she wants to ensure others have the same opportunity.

Jackie was a recipient of the Hartford Business Journal’s 40 under 40 award in 2015 and 100 Women of Color Award in 2017. She has also been nominated as the 2018 Champion for Youth and Leadership Development.