

# Tackling Cultural Competency with Youth

**Time:** May 10<sup>th</sup> 10am – 5pm & May 11<sup>th</sup> 8am – 11:30am

**Location:** Regis University, Claver Hall

On the first day of this track, participants will go into depth on power, privilege, and oppression and how these issues can negatively impact a mentor's relationship when working with a young person. Then, the track will go into depth on the skills needed to breakdown these barriers and develop a deeper relationship with a young person. The main objectives of the workshops on day 1 are to see power, privilege, and oppression through a different lens and gain skills around empathy and attitude when working with youth from other cultures (LBGTQ, racial, gender identity, immigration, disabilities, etc.)

On the second day participants will be joined by panels of youth as they continue on this journey and have the added insight of the youth's particular situation. Each day will have issue/s and then a solution/s and action steps for the participants to explore in regards to changing cultural biases in their own programs. Networking and discussion are an integral part of this track and will be highly encouraged. The participants will leave with a better understanding of cultural competency and actions steps to improving their own mentoring programs.

### Objectives:

- The learner will be able to understand the importance of cultural competency through the voice of youth.
- The learner will learn the impact of power and oppression and the impact these forces have upon youth.
- The learner will learn the impact of attitude and empathy and how these skills can impact youth.

### Facilitators:



**Brian Sales**

Brian Sales is the Director of Training and Technical Assistance at MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership working extensively with collaborators on the recently launched National Mentoring Resource Center. Sales is a practice-based expert in the field of youth mentoring, non-profit capacity building, and cultural competency. He has over 25 years of youth development experience in a variety of settings including college campuses, human services, college access programs for first generation high school and college students, youth mentoring catering to specific populations, and consulting work. Sales has trained hundreds of volunteer mentors and staff in youth development principles and youth mentoring. In addition, he has provided technical assistance nationally to mentoring and youth development programs from Alaska to Puerto Rico. He graduated with honors from Hobart College with a degree in History and has a Master's degree from Cornell University in Africana Studies.



## Colorado Mentoring Summit



### **Vanessa Roberts**

Drawing strength from family roots stretching from Baltimore to Heidelberg, Vanessa Roberts is a community-based researcher, facilitator, and activist currently based in Denver, Colorado. The term “artist” refers to an intentional combination of the arts, activism, and academic practice. In Vanessa’s work all three are equally valued as each informs and influences the other...Her presentations are interwoven with humor, personal stories and a love of social justice. The crux of her work is held together by a steady belief in the power of story and self-expression tools for transformative social change...Currently, much of her time is absorbed with her doctoral pursuit and teaching/research duties in the Department of Sociology and the School of Education at the University of

Colorado-Boulder. Her specialty areas as an academic are race & ethnicity, cultural sociology, and youth development.

