

Biographical Summary: Chiquita McKenzie-Bennett (visionaryyes@comcast.net)

Chiquita McKenzie-Bennett was appointed to the Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice in 2005 and re-appointed in 2008 by the Governor of Michigan. In 2005 she was also appointed as the Chair of the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Sub Committee for MCJJ and continues to serve in that role. Chiquita has worked in the K-12 and Post-secondary field her entire career serving as a consultant or trainer from 3rd grade and upper levels in various schools in Detroit. During her service for the State Financial Aid Minority Concern Committee she also served as chair, was part of a fall semester teaching group who prepared students to attend college, prepare for a writing competition and organized day-long tours to local colleges. Additionally, Chiquita has worked as a trainer in middle school and bilingual classes teaching year-long Dispute Resolution programs, Peer Mediation Programs, trained mediators on cultural sensitivity in Washtenaw County and served as a mediator in Oakland County. During these programs she has implemented day-long cross cultural trainings for students to visit with 'same grade students' in other communities.

Chiquita McKenzie-Bennett earned a Master's Degree in Dispute Resolution, a Master's Degree in Counselor Education, is a Licensed Counselor with the State of Michigan, and is approved as a mediator for the Court Mediation Roster in Oakland County. She holds several certifications within the mediation-dispute resolution field, cultural training sensitivity and has served as a trainer and facilitator for Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion (formerly NCCJ). She is a 2007 Fellow of the Michigan State University Political Leadership Program (MPLP). Her efforts on behalf of the Michigan MCJJ and DMC Committees have been to decrease the number of minority youth who encounter law enforcement for other than positive reasons or placement in intern-cadet programs. She currently works at Marygrove College(Detroit) in the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid where she is responsible for the On and Off Campus Work study program, Student Payroll, serves as Champions of Character Liaison for the Athletic Department and works with various students organizations. Within her community Chiquita serves as coordinator of the renewed Block Club, as Precinct Delegate working toward wider neighborhood improvements and recently ran for a seat in the 2009 Detroit Charter Revision Committee Primary race.