



JIMMY WU IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT INSIDEOUT WRITERS (IOW). IN HIS 9 YEARS ON STAFF AT IOW, JIMMY HAS EMBRACED OTHER ROLES AS IOW'S CASE MANAGER AND ALUMNI ADVOCACY DIRECTOR, FOLLOWED BY INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. JIMMY WAS ALSO A VOTING MEMBER OF A HISTORIC INITIATIVE CALLED THE ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION (ATI) WORK GROUP FORMED BY THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. HE WAS ALSO INVOLVED WITH THE RIDE HOME PROGRAM, PART OF THE STANFORD LAW SCHOOL'S JUSTICE ADVOCACY PROJECT.

JIMMY WU

FROM INSIDE TO OUTSIDE

"InsideOUT Writers is a nonprofit in LA that is now in its 27th year of providing creative writing classes in LA county juvenile halls so that incarcerated youths can share their experiences in a safe space. By sharing their writings they can see how they have many shared experiences and more similarities than they do differences. InsideOUT Writers also works with formerly-incarcerated youth and young adults find employment, sign up for school, and develop life skills to successfully reintegrate into society. I was a participant in the InsideOUT Writers program, and I joined InsideOUT Writers as a case manager after having such a positive experience with the group. I took on larger roles within InsideOUT Writers until I became Executive Director in 2018, committed to spreading the good work that InsideOUT Writers does for incarcerated youths."

HUMANIZING THE INCARCERATION EXPERIENCE

"From my personal experience with the criminal justice system, I realized that there was a need to offer better treatment, care, and support for incarcerated individuals. The incarceration experience requires a humanizing aspect to it and it is important to raise to the surface the root cause of crime and better understand why crime occurs in the first place. Crime often occurs when communities lack resources, so there are times committing a crime is a means of survival for individuals and their loved ones. Shifting the perspective to focus on understanding why people end up committing crimes gives the opportunity to provide individualized support based on needs. With these conversations, incarcerated individuals can gain the opportunity to show how they can better themselves and heal from any type of trauma or abusive experiences that may have propelled them to make certain decisions leading up to their arrest."

IMPROVING HEALTHCARE FOR THE INCARCERATED

"In my time incarcerated and in my time working as part of InsideOUT Writers, I saw that incarcerated people can feel as if the healthcare professionals that treat them are more apathetic to their concerns due to them being incarcerated. I have seen people pass away from their illnesses that could have been prevented if they were treated more as a person rather than just an inmate. Healthcare professionals should not hold a negative perception of the incarcerated and treat them equitably. For citizens returning from incarceration, they can encounter difficulties seeking the best medical attention as many of them come from low-income and under-resourced communities. We have to figure out how to offer equitable healthcare to everybody regardless of whether or not they are, or have been, incarcerated."