
Nakeia Daniels

Deputy Director

Oregon Youth Authority

In October 2018, Nakeia Daniels became the deputy director for the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA). The agency works to keep communities safe by holding youth accountable and providing them with guidance, education, and a support network. As its deputy director, Nakeia is partially responsible for overseeing the operations of the agency, which serves approximately 1,300 youth ages 12-24 at any given time — 540 in close custody in nine correctional and transitional facilities across the state, and another 770 on probation or parole.



Prior to her new role, Nakeia served in the Office of the Governor — first as affirmative action manager, beginning in June 2016; and taking on additional responsibility as veterans’ policy advisor beginning in January 2018. As affirmative action manager, she promoted awareness and commitment to affirmative action, equal employment opportunity, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. To accomplish this, she worked with agencies, boards, and commissions across state government on mandatory affirmative action plans and their implementation, and reported on the state’s efforts biennially to the governor, legislature, and community partners. In her role as veterans’ policy advisor, she worked with the state Department of Veterans’ Affairs and the legislative and judicial branches of government to increase awareness of veterans’ issues, develop and maintain policies and best practices that focus on service and the development of tools to provide the best possible care for veterans and their families.

Nakeia’s experience navigating Oregon state government has included stints managing data systems for the Oregon Department of Education Career and Technical Education Program. Before that, she worked as Equal Opportunity Employment Project Manager for the state highway administration in Maryland, and as Finance Administrator for the Maryland Transportation Authority and the U.S. Army.

Nakeia holds a bachelor’s of arts in organizational management and a master’s in business administration from Ashford University, and she is currently working towards a Ph.D. in business administration at Columbia Southern University. Long committed to equity and equal opportunity, she’s received training from the Equal Opportunity Commission (EEOC) on employment law and on compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Nakeia recently received certification from the EEOC this past July on investigation of formal complaints and leadership counseling. She’s also versed in Lean Six Sigma (a business method for using collaborative teamwork for continuous improvement and advancing organizational culture change). In her spare time, Nakeia enjoys reading, writing (she completed a novel in 2014), and spending time with her family.