

# ROMARILYN RALSTON

California State University, Fullerton  
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## Education

*Master in Liberal Arts - Washington University in St. Louis*, 1 Brookings Drive St. Louis MO 63130, May 2016.

*Bachelor in Arts with Honors in Gender and Feminist Studies - Pitzer College*, Claremont, California 91711, May 2014

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## Work Experience

*Cal State University, Fullerton – Project Rebound* October 2016 – present

Program Director primary functions are to facilitate the enrollment of all formerly incarcerated students who qualify for the program based on university and program criteria, serve as Program liaison developing and maintaining strong relationships and partnerships with faculty, staff, and administrators in various departments on campus (e.g., Admissions, Financial Aid, Academic Advising, Academic and Student Affairs), local community colleges, and key stakeholders and partners in the external community (e.g., reentry organizations, probation, parole, and corrections) that promote the success of Project Rebound. Grant making, fundraising, policy advocacy and community outreach are also significant responsibilities and roles within this position.

*Center for Women in Transition Reentry Program* August 2015 – October 2016

Program Assistant hired to assist with developing and implementing programming, including gender-responsive, restorative justice, and trauma-informed programs and provide direct client services and supervision, including life skills, house management, student internship supervision, and social media administration. Extended duties: Research and community engagement liaison.

*Washington University in St. Louis* September 2014-May 2016

- Annual Giving Caller for university's alumni and parent support asking for contributions of \$5 to \$1K.
- African American & African Studies Department, as administrative support working closely with professors in the organizing of course material, lecture series support, escorting visiting professor, and student support;
- Women Gender & Sexuality Studies Department, working closely with professors in the organizing of course material, lecture series support, escorting visiting professor, and student support.

*Coro Fellow Focus St. Louis* September 2014-May 2015

- Guardian Angel Settlement House Social Services (Hosea House) researching Social Services best practices for agency best fit.
  - Missouri's Amendment 3: Electoral Campaign as the Statewide GOTV coordinator.
  - St. Louis City Comptroller's Department learning the functions of the department to assess its functionality.
  - St. Louis Economic Development Partnership outline objectives for a National grant application for Ferguson recovery efforts.
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- Missouri Jobs with Justice researching campaign finance, developing sign on letters for legislators and members.
- Reinsurance Group of America (RGA) work on contingent labor workforce RFP.
- Ameren Diversity & Inclusion Department, develop ERG membership campaign, analyzed Diversity reports and made recommendation on ways to improve overall industry standard.

Researcher & Assistant

September 2012 – May 2014

- Pomona College Claremont, California; Professor Claudia Rankine – Researched topics of interest and other duties.
- Pitzer College Community Engagement Center (CEC) Summer Internship 2013 facilitated writing/poetry workshops “Camp Afflerbaugh-Paige Detention Camp La Verne, CA

## Public Presentations

Visiting teacher, Prison Education Project-Scotland, *HMP Addiewell Prison* Edinburgh, Scotland, July 28-August 3, 2019

Panelist, “Ending Perpetual Punishment,” American Friends Service Committee & The Sentencing Project, Detroit Michigan, July 11-14, 2019

Panelist, “The Real HR-OC,” Professionals In Human Resources Association (PIHRA), Orange County, California, April 11, 2019

Keynote “Thinking Gender 2019: Feminists Confronting the Carceral State annual conference, *Abolitionist Feminist Futures*, University of California Los Angeles, February 2019.

Panelist, “A Review of Sarah Haley’s book, *No Mercy Here: Gender, Punishment, and Jim Crow Modernity*,” American Studies Association annual conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2018.

Panelist, “Presidential Panel,” National Women’s Studies Association annual conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2018.

Panelist, Prison Education Project-London, *HMP Brixton & HMP Whitmore Prisons*, London, England, June 18-26, 2018

Panelist, The Third Annual Conference on Reintegration of Formerly Incarcerated Populations: Convening Formerly Incarcerated Students and Alumni, Cal State University, Los Angeles, April 6-7, 2018.

Keynote speaker, Ventura Youth Correctional Facility, Women’s History Month Celebration, *Honoring Formerly Incarcerated Women*, Camarillo, CA, March 27, 2018.

Keynote speaker, Napier Initiative Awards Banquet, *It’s not About the Money*, March 24, 2018, Claremont, CA, March 24, 2018

Panelist, University of California, Berkeley, “Invisible No More Conference” *Policing, Reproduction, Sex & Sexuality panel*, March 22, 2018

Presenter, Cal State University, Fullerton 2017 Social Justice Summit, February 25, 2018

Panelist, “What Good are the Humanities in Prison?” USC Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics, January 24, 2018.

Panelist, “With the Guidance of Our Foremothers the Combahee River Collective and Black Lives Matter Movement,” National Women’s Studies Association annual conference, Baltimore, MD, November 2017.

Presenter, Crossroads, Inc. Second Annual Gala, Claremont, CA October 21, 2017

Panelist, Mass Incarceration and the Global Rise of Authoritarian Capitalism, Los Angeles, CA September 21, 2017.

Presenter, University of California San Diego, Student’s Against Mass Incarceration “Gender and Mass Incarceration, May 30, 2017.

Panelist, Cal State University, Long Beach, CA California American Studies Association Conference, April 29, 2017.

Panelist, National Domestic Violence Conference, “Shifting the Lens” March 15, 2017.

Presenter, Cal State University, Fullerton 2017 Social Justice Summit, February 25, 2017.

Panelist, 2016 USC Lifer School, USC Gould School of Law, Los Angeles, October 2016.

Panelist, Mayor Garcetti’s Access to Higher Education Challenge Event, USC Gould School of Law, Los Angeles, June 2016.

Keynote Speaker, “How People Like Me Get Degrees,” Missouri Eastern Correctional Center, Pacifica, MO, June 2016.

Panelist, “Claremont Colleges Alumni: Prison Justice and the Liberal Arts,” *Criminal Justice Symposium*, Pomona College, Claremont, March 2016.

Student Convocation Speaker, University College in Arts & Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis, September 2015.

Panelist, “Seeking Justice Inside and Outside the Walls: A Roundtable,” National Women’s Studies Association annual conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 2014.

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### **Certifications and Training**

- Alive and Well STL How Trauma Impacts Social, Emotional and Mental Health workshop, February 8, 2016.
- Peacemaking Circles within a Restorative Justice Framework Workshop presented by Kay Pranis February 1, 2016.
- Focus on St. Louis Coro Fellow in Public Affairs 2014-2015
- New Leadership Southern California: *Training women for politics and public affairs*, Scripps College, Claremont California June 22-27, 2014.
- Breining Institute Registered Addiction Specialist (RAS) license number #B1110261904.
- Choice Theory Basic Intensive Weeks Training, William Glasser Institute; Reality Therapy, Choice theory, and Lead Management, Los Angeles, California, March 2010.

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### **Academic honors and awards**

- California Legislature Senate Certificate of Recognition-Senator Connie Leyva, Senate Bill 960, November 18, 2018

- National Coalition of 100Black Women Inc. Orange County Chapter, *2018 Civil Rights Advocacy Award, November 14, 2018*
- California Legislature Assembly Certificate of Recognition-Assemblymember Mark Stone, Assembly Bill 2533, November 11, 2018
- California Legislature Senate Certificate of Recognition – Senator Holly Mitchell Women’s Policy Institute-State, July 31, 2018
- Women’s Policy Institute Fellow 2018, Sacramento, CA, Sept 2017-Jul 2018
- California Senate Certificate of Recognition-Senator Josh Newman, *Project Rebound*, April 27, 2018
- Pete & Carol Beckendam Legacy Award, *Crossroads, Inc, Claremont, CA*, August 2017
- Just Leadership USA Fellowship 2017, New York, NY Jan-Sept 2017
- National Strategic Planning Committee for Higher Education in Prison, appointed June 2016
- Concordance Institute for Social Justice *Community Liaison Board Member*, appointed May 2016
- Washington University in St. Louis, *Mary McLeod Bethune Award* in graduate leadership, community service, scholastic achievement and perseverance, May 2, 2016.
- Pomona College Criminal Justice Symposium, *panelist*, March 28-30, 2016
- Missouri House of Representatives resolution awarded by Rep. Sharon Pace District 74, March 2, 2015.
- Honors in Gender and Feminist Studies Pitzer College 2014, Thesis “Good Start” for African American Children: The importance of early childhood education Claremont, California 91711
- Claremont University Consortium: Office of Black Student Affairs 2014, *Academic Excellence Award*
- Claremont University Consortium: Office of Black Student Affairs 2014, *The John Payton Leadership Award nominee*.
- PNME Ecumenical Mission Scholarship Grant 2014 Recipient for “Good Start”
- *Napier Initiative Fellow* 2014, “Good Start” Pilgrim Place in Claremont, California 91711
- Pitzer College “Bernard Osher” Educational Scholarship Award recipient 2012/2013 & 2013/2014.
- Pitzer College Summer 2012 Internship Fund Award for reentry/reintegration project at Crossroads Inc. “Camp Onward” project, Claremont, CA.
- California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation Association of Black Correctional Workers (ABCW) Youth Program co-founder “Continuing the Dream 2011.

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#### **Online Publications, Newsroom and Contributions**

<https://www.oregister.com/2019/05/22/csufs-project-rebound-graduates-on-path-to-success/>

<https://www.oregister.com/2019/01/30/project-rebound-students-at-csuf-share-their-stories-of-success/>

<https://www.oregister.com/2019/01/30/csufs-project-rebound-helps-formerly-incarcerated-students-reinvent-their-lives/>

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/romarilyn-ralston/revisiting-prison-industrial-complex>

<https://capitalandmain.com/paroling-the-mind-a-college-program-opens-new-doors-for-former-convicts-1107>

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/incarcerated-women-risk-their-lives-fighting-california-fires-its-part-of-a-long-history-of-prison-labor>

[https://www.democracynow.org/2017/10/18/why\\_are\\_incarcerated\\_women\\_battling\\_california](https://www.democracynow.org/2017/10/18/why_are_incarcerated_women_battling_california)

<https://dailytitan.com/2017/08/project-rebounds-bridge-to-success-event-introduces-educational-opportunities-for-the-previously-incarcerated-csuf-california-state-university-fullerton-fall-2017/>

<http://www.univision.com/los-angeles/kmex/noticias/educacion/hombre-de-40-anos-se-graduado-de-la-universidad-estatal-de-california-tras-pagar-sentencia-por-transportar-droga-video#rel>

<http://justusvoices.com/romarilyn-ralston/>

<https://medium.com/@csuftuskmagazine/from-prisoner-to-scholar-138b68d403fa>

<http://www.scpr.org/programs/take-two/2016/12/19/53870/program-for-formerly-incarcerated-students-expands/>

<http://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/entertainment/tn-wknd-et-1023-project-rebound-cal-state-fullerton-20161112-story.html>

<http://colleges.claremont.edu/ifc/student-news/>

<http://pitweb.pitzer.edu/>

<http://www.dailytitan.com/2016/10/project-rebound-hits-csuf/>

<https://www.pomona.edu/criminal-justice/upcoming-events/prison-justice-and-liberal-arts>

<http://ampersand.wustl.edu/were-all-teachers-and-were-all-students-veterans-and-university-college>

<http://msmagazine.com/blog/2015/10/29/silenced-by-the-pain-of-a-tumultuous-life/>

<http://pitweb.pitzer.edu/communications/2014/05/26/two-pitzer-students-one-alumnus-win-coro-public-affairs-fellowship-set-college-record/>

[file:///C:/Users/drrom/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/APYPPYFX/2014\\_Fellows\\_Bio\\_Sheet.pdf](file:///C:/Users/drrom/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/IE/APYPPYFX/2014_Fellows_Bio_Sheet.pdf)

[http://www.pilgrimplace.org/napier/2014\\_fellows\\_archive.php](http://www.pilgrimplace.org/napier/2014_fellows_archive.php)

[Rankine, Claudia. Citizen: An American Lyric. London, UK: Penguin Books, 2015.](#)

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## Community Service

NAACP National member, 2018

Blue Ribbon Commission on Fair Employment & Equity, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles, CA, July 2017- present.

California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP), Co-coordinator research & organizing, Los Angeles Chapter, October 2016- present.

National Strategic Planning Committee for Higher Education in Prison, June 2016 – Jan 2017.

Concordance Institute for Advancing Social Justice, Community Liaison Board, Washington University in St. Louis, May 2016 – present.

References upon Request