

Jarrell E. Daniels

Jarrell E. Daniels is a 2021 Truman Scholar at Columbia University's School of General Studies. He is the founder and Program Manager of the Justice Ambassadors Youth Council (JAYC) Program at Columbia University's Center for Justice. JAYC brings New York City youth together with city officials to discuss community challenges and to co-author policy proposals that seek to reform systems and institutions. His primary focus is bringing policymakers together with community members to work across differences to improve social challenges, particularly challenges facing youth. In his work, he provides young people with policy advocacy leadership opportunities while explaining the extent to which mass incarceration and criminalization impacts minority communities and causes disenfranchisement. He collaborates with policymakers, civil servants, academics, community organizers and directly impacted communities to create a new vision for the criminal legal system, which can ultimately shape policies that help individuals, families, and communities thrive.

Since his release from prison, he has become a sought after speaker for colleges, high schools, community centers, Alternative-to-Incarceration programs, and juvenile detention facilities. Which has led to him giving a [TED Talk](#) that highlights the factors that led to his incarceration and while also introducing an innovative approach to collaborative education for community members and public officials. His work is driven around changing the narrative of the criminal justice system to ensure that justice and democracy is applied equally to all. As a result of his dedication towards transforming systems, Jarrell is aspiring to become a United States Senator. His ultimate goal is to propose legislation to remove the exception clause of the U.S. 13th Amendment and eliminate the collateral consequences of a felony conviction that strip away guaranteed citizenship rights.