

Michelle Bess

Manager of Talent Recruitment, OneGoal - Chicago

Michelle Bess is a premier connector of people: she strives to champion diverse cohorts of leaders in order to solve the greatest challenges that face the United States education reform movement. Michelle currently serves as the Manager of Talent Recruitment at OneGoal-National, an innovative, three-year college persistence program that aims to close the college divide by enlisting and training our nation's best educators to teach historically underserved high school students how to enroll in and complete college. In this role, she leads the organization in identifying, cultivating, selecting, and hiring new talent nationally. Under Michelle's leadership, OneGoal has increased staff diversity from 39% to 51% in the last year.



Prior to OneGoal, Michelle was the Assistant to the Director of Posse Chicago, where she significantly increased alumni giving and event attendance.

In addition to being selected as a 2016 Surge Fellow, Michelle serves as the Board Director of Degrees of Change, a junior board member at the Chicago Public Library Foundation, and is a mentor for New Sector Alliance Inc. She attended Whitworth University as a recipient of the Act Six Full-Ride Leadership Scholarship and earned a B.A. in Biology. Michelle is a native of Washington State and now resides on the South Side of Chicago in Hyde Park, where she practices yoga and does personal shopping with a handful of clients.