

Ashley Lee *AmeriCorps Alumni of the Year*

Ashley Lee has made a significant impact on the state of Wisconsin and the people of Milwaukee through a lifetime dedicated to improving educational opportunities for children and supporting the development of community resources and future leaders. Throughout her career, Ashley has grown from being an AmeriCorps member to becoming the leader of Public Allies Milwaukee, a prominent AmeriCorps program in the state.



After graduating from college, Ashley served as a Teach For America - Milwaukee AmeriCorps member, bringing her passion of serving students into direct action while teaching at Milwaukee College Prep School. After serving, Ashley joined TFA staff as the Manager of Regional Service. Ashley also led the Milwaukee chapter of The Collective, TFA's alumni of color association, from 2015-2018, guiding its efforts toward the continuous development of alumni of color as transformational leaders accelerating the journey to educational equity.



Following her work with TFA, Ashley served as the Special Assistant to the Superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools. While serving in this position, Ashley continued to collaborate with AmeriCorps by mentoring members and supporting their efforts in leading student focus groups that informed the projects she managed. One of these projects was developing the Black and Latino Male Achievement Department in response to five years of declining or stagnant graduation rates for black and Hispanic males. As part of this work, she encouraged the participation of another former AmeriCorps member, who now designs culturally responsive curriculum for schools.

Since November 2017, Ashley has been serving as the Executive Director of Public Allies Milwaukee, which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary of serving the citizens of the greater Milwaukee area. AmeriCorps members at Public Allies work on service projects that enhance and expand the capacity of nonprofit organizations to deliver critical direct services to Milwaukee residents. This year, Public Allies members are serving with 31 different organizations, striving to improve and grow the ability of their host sites to make a difference in the lives of those in their communities. As part of the mission of Public Allies, Ashley works to recruit young potential leaders whose promise and potential are too frequently overlooked to help create a dynamic pipeline for talented young people to help build their skills and emerge as a network of leaders that can continue to positively impact their communities long into the future.