

Contact

www.linkedin.com/in/nikkilia-lu-5362a922 (LinkedIn)

Top Skills

Governmental Affairs

Writing

Strategic Thinking

Languages

French (Full Professional)

Honors-Awards

Who's Next: Politics; 19 People Under 40 Shaping Pittsburgh's Political Scene

30 Under 30 Rising Stars: Politics

In Good Company

Progressive "Jill of All Trades"

Publications

My Family's American Story

Nikkilia Lu

Building power with diverse coalitions | facilitating strategic conversations | organizing people for gender, racial and economic justice

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Summary

Nikkilia Lu, also known as Nikki Lu, is a dynamic leader who has helped shape the progressive political and policy landscape. Over the course of her career she has been instrumental in building worker, women and people of color-centered movement infrastructure across the country and helped elect progressive champions at all levels of government. Nikki is an organizer, facilitator and strategist. In the past, she managed electoral campaigns in the City of Pittsburgh and worked with the Service Employees International Union, Local 32BJ. At 32BJ, Nikkilia worked along side janitors, security guards and food service workers to pass pro-worker policies, including paid sick leave policies city-wide. Nikkilia also worked as the Pennsylvania Director for the State Innovation Exchange (SiX), where she oversaw agenda setting efforts with legislators and movement partners, working to create a statewide bicameral governance plan for House and Senate Democrats in Pennsylvania's General Assembly.

In 2020 she served as Deputy State Director for President Joseph R. Biden's campaign in Pennsylvania -where she managed the campaign's political, communications, coalitions, and trips/surrogates teams for the state.

Nikkilia is a political appointee of President Biden, Vice President Harris and the U.S. Secretary of Labor. She serves at the U.S. Department of Labor as Chief of Staff to the Women's Bureau. She was appointed to this position by President Biden on June 6th, 2021 and serves at the pleasure of the Secretary of Labor.

Most recently, Nikkilia served as a full time detail (taking an approved leave of absence from DOL) in the Office of the Vice President from September 2022 - December 2022, at the request of the White House.

Experience

U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau

Chief Of Staff

June 2021 - Present (2 years 5 months)

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States

Nikkilia was appointed to this position by President Biden on June 6th, 2021 and serves at the pleasure of the U.S. Secretary of Labor.

The Women's Bureau is the only Congressionally mandated federal agency solely dedicated to the betterment of women in the American workforce.

In direct coordination with and often acting on behalf of Director of the Women's Bureau, Nikkilia has the following duties in this position:

- Lead in the development and oversight of strategic planning processes.
- Create and sustain management systems that support the team to achieve results.
- Spearhead agency efforts to advance the priorities of the Biden-Harris Administration.
- Document agency accomplishments, evaluate success, manage challenges, recommend changes.
- Foster a climate that encourages and sustains excellence and optimizes results, by creating inclusive processes that facilitate collaboration among staff across the agency.
- Ensure cogent and transparent information sharing to promote alignment of efforts across the agency, and clear and consistent reporting on efforts and results.
- Model proactive problem-solving and mutual accountability for outcomes between staff and management, career and non-career staff.
- Promote the agency's mission and impact through significant public outreach initiatives.
- Effectively engage WB's significant reach with diverse external stakeholders to maximize Women's Bureau (WB) and Dept. of Labor (DOL) influence and impact and ensure WB/DOL remains accountable to its mission.

Office of the Vice President of the United States

Advance Detailee

September 2022 - December 2022 (4 months)
Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Nikkilia took a three month leave of absence from the U.S. Department of Labor to serve as an Advance Detailee in the Office of the Vice President at the request of The White House.

State Innovation Exchange
Pennsylvania Consultant
December 2020 - April 2021 (5 months)
Pennsylvania, United States

Biden for President
Deputy State Director for Pennsylvania
July 2020 - December 2020 (6 months)
Pennsylvania, United States

State Innovation Exchange
Pennsylvania Director
January 2018 - July 2020 (2 years 7 months)
Pennsylvania

The State Innovation Exchange (SiX) is a national resource and strategy center that supports state legislators in advancing and defending progressive values across the country. With a long-term vision of building progressive power and infrastructure at the state level, SiX has built a network of more than 3,000 elected officials who represent all 50 states.

At SiX, Nikkilia served as a senior strategist, guiding the organization's work in the state of Pennsylvania. To that end, Nikkilia worked to broaden and deepen the SiX legislative network in Pennsylvania and worked collaboratively with legislators, staff, and partners to pursue a unified legislative vision for the state. Nikkilia also provided political, legislative and strategic support to legislators and worked to align partner and legislator engagement to promote progressive change in the state. Nikkilia oversaw polling research to inform policy, framing, and strategic decisions. Nikkilia designed, coordinated, and facilitated policy and communications trainings, strategic conversations, and other leadership development opportunities for state assembly members across the Commonwealth.

32BJ SEIU
Western Pennsylvania Political Director
January 2014 - January 2018 (4 years 1 month)

Pittsburgh

- Create comprehensive government affairs strategies
- Identify and monitor key public policy shifts
- Coalition-building with key legislators and community partners
- Lobby elected officials for the development of legislation and public policy related to the SEIU 32BJ
- Coordinate electoral campaign involvement with endorsed political candidates, including, endorsement screening and recommendations, the release of P.A.C. funds, coordination of field efforts and public political efforts
- Facilitate membership education on political issues, push membership engagement in political programs

NLu@SEIU32BJ.org

Coro Center for Civic Leadership

Women in Leadership XVII

January 2014 - December 2014 (1 year)

Pittsburgh

Women in Leadership is a year-long leadership enhancement and civic engagement program that seeks to support the next generation of women leaders to become connected and collaborative with people of every sector, age, gender, race, location and status so that southwestern Pennsylvania can become a more innovative and inclusive community.

Nikkilia was nominated for this program and accepted an offer to participate.

Deb Gross Pittsburgh City Council District 7 Special Election

Campaign

Campaign Manager

August 2013 - November 2013 (4 months)

Pittsburgh

- Management and oversight of all political and field affairs
- Management of daily campaign operations and campaign staff
- Oversight and implementation of strategic goals
- Press contact and Media Manager, including website

nikki@votedebgross.com

Dan Gilman Pittsburgh City Council District 8 Primary Election Campaign

Field Director

February 2013 - May 2013 (4 months)

Pittsburgh

- Creation, organization, and implementation of all grassroots efforts
- Recruitment and management of all volunteers for implementation of aggressive grassroots program (250+)
- Management of Election Day operations
- Creation and implementation of GET OUT THE VOTE campaign
- Management and organization of all campaign voter identification and persuasion efforts
- Management and organization of all grassroots data via sophisticated campaign software tools

*Nikkilia was also completing her full-time Master's degree program at this time

Duane Morris Government Strategies

Federal Governmental & International Affairs Policy Analyst

September 2012 - December 2012 (4 months)

Pittsburgh, PA

Federal Governmental Affairs Practices/Duties:

- Comprehensive government affairs strategies
- Grant identification and writing
- Coalition-building with key legislators and industry partners
- Federal appropriations funding
- Government agency funding
- Identification and monitoring of key policy shifts
- Government procurement and marketing

*Nikkilia was also completing her full-time Master's degree program at this time

City of Pittsburgh

Policy Analyst Intern

July 2012 - September 2012 (3 months)

Office of Council Member William Peduto

Policy analysis and evaluation.

*Nikkilia was completing her Master's degree full time during this internship opportunity.

Pennsylvania Center for Women and Politics
Graduate Level Research Assistant
January 2012 - July 2012 (7 months)

- Data Collection
- Data Coding
- Data Analysis
- Political Background Research
- Preparation of Campaign Strategy Materials, i.e. "Ready to RUN"

*Nikkilia was also completing her full-time Master's degree program at this time

Education

University of Pittsburgh

Master of Public and International Affairs, Political Economy and Public
Administration · (2011 - 2013)

Washington and Jefferson College

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science · (2007 - 2011)

Université Paris Dauphine

International Affairs and Cross Cultural Boundries · (2008 - 2009)

Wooster High School