

**Colleen Butler**  
**2012 Reverend James C. Wright Award Recipient**



Colleen Butler has been selected as the winner of the 2012 Reverend James C. Wright Award. Ms. Butler has shown a long term dedication to social justice and the promotion of civil and human rights through her volunteer and community work, along with making civil and human rights a priority in her education and professional work.

Shortly after completing her undergraduate degree, Ms. Butler moved to Madison in 1998. Prior to living here, she was involved and committed to advancing women's rights, the rights of Native Americans, and human rights. She has served on the Dane County Equal Opportunity Commission and the Dane County Task Force on Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System as well as the Implementation Team for that Task Force.

Every year, Ms. Butler attends top-notch conferences to advance her own knowledge and understanding of the pursuit of social and racial justice. Additionally, Ms. Butler completed her Master's degree in Intercultural Relations from the University of the Pacific in 2010 with the submission of her thesis on "Intercultural Conflict Styles in the Criminal Justice System and the Implications for Intercultural Interventions."

In her twelve years of work at the YWCA, Ms. Butler has actively upheld and pursued the agency's human rights-oriented mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. Three major initiatives of the Racial Justice Program have flourished under Ms. Butler's leadership, vision, and dedication. 1,248 people have attended the Racial Justice Summit since 2007. Ms. Butler has led development of a new series of Racial Justice Workshops. In 2010 the Restorative Justice Initiative was launched at LaFollette High School. The first year of the program was so successful that it is now in a total of six schools, with even more schools expressing interest for next year.