

Jonathan "Jon" Deras

Immigrant - U.S. Marine Corps Veteran - Educator - Nonprofit Leader

Jonathan "Jon" Deras is an immigrant, U.S. Marine Corps veteran, educator, and nonprofit leader whose life and work are dedicated to breaking cycles of violence, displacement, and silence - and helping communities build lasting legacies of strength, dignity, and belonging.

Less than one percent of people in the United States can say they are both immigrants and military veterans, and even fewer go on to earn a graduate degree. Jon is part of that rare group. He immigrated to the United States as a child and later enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, serving two deployments - first to Iraq, and then aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard as part of a Marine Expeditionary Unit that traveled throughout Africa, Malaysia, Thailand, and the Asia-Pacific region.

After leaving the military, Jon pursued higher education and community leadership. He earned an Associate's degree in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in Social and Behavioral Sciences from the College of Marin, a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from San Francisco State University, and a Master's degree in Migration Studies from the University of San Francisco. He later completed executive-level leadership training through Harvard Business School Online and additional nonprofit management programs.

Jon's academic and professional work focuses on the intersections of masculinity, immigration, trauma, and civic responsibility. His graduate research examined the deportation of U.S. military veterans and the unintended consequences of "good moral character" standards in U.S. immigration law.

In addition to his nonprofit and education work, Jon has served on the board of Marin Latino Leaders, authored a children's book (Christian ABCs), and appeared in national and regional media including the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline campaign, PG&E; community media, and Telemundo.

With more than a decade of experience in healthy masculinity, domestic violence prevention, youth leadership, suicide awareness, immigrant rights, and veteran advocacy, Jon has designed and facilitated programs that help young men and families build safer, healthier relationships.

Jon lives in Marin County with his wife and daughter, who inspire much of his work on fatherhood, character-building, and raising the next generation of leaders.