

Maricela “Mari” Alvarado

Assoc. Dir., Learning, Skill, & Capacity Building
(Academy for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion)
Washington University

Previously worked at Centene Corporation as a
Curriculum Designer

Resident of Ballwin

I have been in St. Louis and Missouri, since 2013. I've been looking and evaluating which organization(s) and efforts I would like to commit myself to. Due to the ages of my children, I have had to evaluate time and commitment to be able to give 100%. More and more, my attention and passions are geared towards the advancement of women. I am keenly aware of the intersectionality of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, etc. My interest is in advocacy for immigrant women, women in domestic abuse situations, and supporting women in leadership roles.



EDUCATION

Master of Education, Student Personnel in Higher Education, Emphasis: Diversity and Inclusion, University of Florida
Bachelor of Arts, English, Washington State University
Bachelor of Arts, Foreign Languages & Literature (Spanish), Washington State University
Universidad Automa de Heredia, Costa Rica, C.A., International Student Exchange

ACTIVITIES

Many awards, honors, publications, professional affiliations, conference presentations and trainings.
Service and Leadership includes being Vice-President of Parent Teacher Association, American Heart Association Team Leader, Casa De Salud St. Louis (Friends of Casa), more

ACCEPTED AND TUITION PAID FOR CLASS OF 2021 BUT UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE DUE TO COVID

Karli Auble

Radar Core Capability Senior Manager

BOEING



Resident of St. Louis

F/A-18 Engineering Manager

F-15 Program Office – Chief of Staff

F-22 SAFe Agile Product Owner/Systems Engineer

F-15 Saudi Program System Integration

EDUCATION

Missouri University of Science & Technology Rolla, MO

M.S. Systems Engineering December 2017

Graduate Certificate in Systems Engineering May 2017

B.S. Engineering Management (Cum Laude; Emphasis: Industrial Engineering)

ACTIVITIES

2021-Present Boeing Generation 2 Generation (BG2G) – St. Louis Community Outreach Lead, Member

2019-Present Boeing Black Employee Association (BBEA) – Member, Volunteer

2019-2020 Leadership Next (LX) Class of 2020

2017-Present Friends of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri (BBBSEMO) – Co-Champion '21, Member

2017-Present Boeing Women in Leadership (BWIL) – Member

2015-Present Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri – Big Sister

2015-Present Lutheran Elementary School Association (LESA) Fundraising Committee

2015-2019 Boeing REACH – St. Louis Community Leadership Team '18-'19, Member

2014 Epsilon Mu Eta (Honor Society) – Vice President, Member

2010-Present Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Member

2010-2014 Missouri University of Science & Technology Varsity Women's Basketball – Captain '13-'14

Dana Ausburn

Vice President

COMMERCE BANK



Resident of Springfield

I've been fortunate to participate in city and company lead leadership programs. I'm excited to expand my scope of influence and participate in a state wide program.

I love meeting new people and learning how we can all work together to make the places where we live and work a better place.

EDUCATION

University of Missouri-Columbia, College of Business, May 2008
BS in Business Administration (Cum Laude)
Emphasis in Finance and Banking, Real Estate (dual major)

ACTIVITIES

Volunteer – Junior League of Springfield
Board Positions - GYN Cancer Alliance (Past President) and Sculpture Walk Springfield (Past Treasurer)
Graduate of Leadership Springfield Class 34 & Commerce Bank's Leadership Development Programs

Jennifer Bojdak

VP Distribution & Warehousing

BAYER CROP SCIENCE



Resident of O'Fallon

I want to learn more about community topics. It will help me relate my role at Bayer and connect my own personal being to something larger.

I expect to find ways that I will be able to connect back to the community - through networks, deeper understanding of issues and through experiencing the typical spark that being involved with something can pull you towards supporting and helping with greater solutions.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Management, Canisius College

ACTIVITIES

Sharing Shed (O'Fallon, MO crisis center), restore donated furniture for our crisis clients
Volunteer, St. Louis Area Foodbank

Michelle Capp

District Ranger
US Dept of Agriculture, US Forest Service
Mark Twain National Forest
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

Also worked with US Dept of Interior in Grand Junction, CO; Fairbanks, AK; St. George, UT



Resident of Rolla

I value the intent of the organization in seeking to bring a diverse group of women together to learn and grow in a safe environment. I grew up in MO and after a 25 year career in the western US, I chose to move my family back to MO. I am interested in reengaging in MO's social and political environments and be the change in the rural counties that I serve. The topics offered are in line with that pursuit of grounding myself in local and regional issues.

My hope is that these connections will help me in connecting public lands with the public; help me to explore ways to increase our diversity in both our employment opportunities and programs offered; as well as, to broaden my understanding of the social and politic issues facing the local, regional and global landscape.

EDUCATION

University of Montana, Missoula, MT Graduate Certificate Wilderness Studies
Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR Graduate Certificate Watershed Management
Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ Social and Behavioral Sciences, Parks and Recreation Management

ACTIVITIES

Bureau of Land Management Assistant Field Manager
Outdoor Recreation Planner
Competitively selected to write the Wild and Scenic River Suitability Analysis for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge during their Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan

SUPPORT LETTERS Darcy Batura, Forest Partnership Manager, The Nature Conservancy; Jamey Basye, Environmental Coordinator, US Forest Service, Poplar Bluff

Kristy Carter

Executive Director
Least of These Food Pantry, Inc.

Previously worked as Director of Development
increasing donors and donations exponentially

Resident of Rogersville

...will allow me the opportunity to learn from some of the best women leaders in our state. This would be an ultimate achievement to be able to participate in this challenge. Living in Southwest Missouri, there are many challenges that women in urban communities have already faced that have not yet affected our area. Learning from these women will allow me to be better suited and prepared for upcoming challenges and how they will affect our more rural areas.

It is my hope to gain knowledge and expertise from seasoned professional women leaders that I can use within my community that I serve in Southwest Missouri.



EDUCATION

University of Nebraska - Omaha, Nebraska 5/94-5/98
Major: Journalism/Advertising/Marketing
Graduated May 9, 1998, with a Bachelor of Science Degree

ACTIVITIES

2013 Springfield Business Journals Most Influential Woman
2020 Nixa Chamber Xcellence Award
2020 Southwest Missouri Nonprofit Excellence Public Awareness Award
Lutheran Women's Missionary League National Marketing Team Member

SUPPORT LETTER Ralph P. Phillips, Presiding Commissioner, Christian County, Missouri

Carrie Crompton, J.D.

Operations and Finance Manager
St. Louis Area Diaper Bank

Former President/CEO Junior League of St. Louis



Resident of St. Louis

As a lifelong learner, I am eager to continue and expand my leadership journey. I work passionately for women's issues locally and regionally and am looking forward to the state-wide level. I believe strongly in women's development in all regards, but specifically in leadership where we are often under-represented.

I hope to continue my learning and growth as a servant leader for St. Louis, my region and the State of Missouri. I hope to continue to learn how to push the envelope and keep fighting for women everywhere.

EDUCATION

Pursuing Masters in Public Policy Administration (Spring 2023)

University of Missouri-St. Louis

California Western School of Law, San Diego, CA

Saint Louis University School of Law Study Abroad Program, Madrid Spain

Bachelor of Science, Business Admin, Saint Mary's College of California, Moraga, CA

ACTIVITIES

Missouri Community Service Commissioner appointed by Gov Parson and confirmed by MO Senate (2021-present)

Forest Park Forever Women's Committee

Yoga Buzz teaching focus on accessibility to yoga for under-resourced neighbors

CORO Women in Leadership Class 69, Fall 2018

SUPPORT LETTER Crystal Allen Dallas, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Director, Junior League of St. Louis

ACCEPTED BUT NO TUITION PAID FOR CLASS OF 2020 -- UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE

Dr. Shannon Cuff

Associate Provost of Adult, Online, & Graduate
Education
Drury University

Previously served as Director, Watson Literacy
Center, Park University, Parkville



Resident of Battlefield

... to meet and learn from women leaders from across the state and to hone my skills as a leader at an institution of higher learning. I seek to learn more about the regions from which our students reside to better serve them. Additionally, with previous education experience in Columbia and Kansas City, my perspective of how the geographic regions are similar and different is a contribution I can offer to other participants. I would appreciate a network of women leaders with various areas of expertise to better learn how other industries operate.

I hope to gain knowledge and lifelong friendships. Every session agenda applies to the work I do at Drury University. I am eager to learn how to be more involved in our state governmental and political processes, especially as they apply to private institutions. Drury University serves both urban and rural students, and I am excited to learn more about both rural development and urban issues. Our College of Graduate Studies recently added a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion certificate to our program offerings, and I am interested to see how we might be able to better develop that curriculum. I serve on the Board of Directors for a community organization comprised of several non-profits, and I would like to learn more about how I can better serve this organization. I look forward to meeting women leaders in various fields to gain insight into their work.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Curriculum and Instruction--Literacy Education, University of Missouri, Columbia
Areas of specialization: theory and pedagogy related to literacy and writing instruction.
M.Ed., August 2004, Drury University, Springfield, Missouri
B.A. with Honors, May 2000, Drury University, Springfield, Missouri. Graduated summa cum laude, received teaching certificate in English, grades 9-12.

ACTIVITIES

Many awards, honors, publications, professional affiliations, conference presentations and trainings.
Black History Summer Academy, June 2018-present
Harmony House
Community Partnership of the Ozarks Board of Directors, January 2018-present

SUPPORT LETTERS Jennifer Ingraham, GMLC Alumna; Beth Harville, PhD; Executive VP and Provost, Drury University

Michele Curry

Treasury Management Officer, Central MO Region
Commerce Payments

Immediate Past Chair of Women's Network
(Division of Columbia Chamber of Commerce)



Resident of Columbia

Because I have made, and continue to make, significant impact in Columbia, MO. I have participated in Leadership Columbia and currently serve as one of the youngest members of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. I want to participate in GMLC because it is time for me to expand the reach of my talent and dedication to the state level by first gaining an understanding of the needs and goals of different industry verticals statewide.

I have a particular dedication to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and I hope to build a network of people around the state who can inspire each other to be better versions of ourselves. To grow and diversify (as a community, as a workplace, as people) we need to interact with people who are different than ourselves. I hope to get chosen for GMLC so I can share my story, but more importantly, to share the stories of people I meet across the GMLC program to affect inclusive change in my community.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Finance and Banking; Bachelor of Science, Real Estate
A.A. Theater; University of Missouri-Columbia

ACTIVITIES

Commerce Elevate: Agile Leadership Training
Leadership Columbia Class of 2017
Clear Vision Exponential Leadership Retreat
Women's Network Mentoring Program
Voluntary Action Committee Board Member
Heart of Missouri United Way Pacesetter Account Executive
Office of Cultural Affairs, Celebration of the Arts Planning Committee
Nclusion+ Founding Member
Loaves and Fishes Volunteer Cook

SUPPORT LETTERS: Sarah Dubbert, GMLC Alumna; Ann Merrifield, GMLC Alumna

Leah Dettmers

Stakeholders Relations & Training Manager

AMEREN



Resident of Glen Carbon, IL

I specialize in communicating across multiple audiences with information about the energy infrastructure, specifically transmission. However, the landscape of our customers, their values and needs are ever-changing with different perspectives. I believe that learning about the different facets of Missouri and residents will help prepare me for future Ameren decisions and strategies based upon what our customers want and value as a corporate citizen and public utility.

I hope to gain a deeper knowledge of the most current issues and public policy concerns across Missouri, specifically those that affect our customers and communities. As Ameren has a vast service territory and the scope of our transmission industry is nationwide, this learning experience could broaden my understanding of connecting with what's important to Missouri and its residents. In addition, there is a strong advantage in meeting a larger network of professional women to connect with in this learning opportunity.

EDUCATION

May 2004: Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Master of Arts in Organizational Development/Public Relations
December 2001: Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Bachelor of Science in Organizational Development/Public Relations

ACTIVITIES

2017-Ameren President's Excellence Award- Performance Excellence Teams
2018-Ameren President's Excellence Award- Performance Excellence Individual
2020- Ameren President's Excellence Award- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Organization Names & Positions Held
Edwardsville YMCA Youth Volleyball Coach- 2017-2020
Edwardsville YMCA Youth Soccer Coach- 2020

SUPPORT LETTER Eric Dearmont Director, Regulatory Affairs and Interconnection Policy

Gwendolyn Doss

Program Management Specialist
Defense, Space & Security

BOEING



Resident of Black Jack

Executive Assistant/Chief of Staff for the Vice President and General Manager of the Bombers & Fighters division within Boeing Defense, Space & Security

Gwen is responsible for coordinating business and managing projects across a broad portfolio that includes the F/A-18 and F-15 fighter families, the T-7A training system, the B-1 and B-52 bombers and the office of the president. As the lead chief of staff for the Bombers & Fighters division, she helps manage multiple efforts across the programs and the St. Louis site including one of the most relevant growing plans; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. .

EDUCATION

Gwen holds a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Grambling State University, a master's degree in Computer Resources and Information Management from Webster University and an Executive Masters of Business Administration degree from Washington University Olin Business School in St. Louis, Missouri. She is a Certified ScrumMaster of the Agile Software Methodologies; a certified SAFe (Scaled Agile Framework) Program Consultant and a John Maxwell Certified Professional Coach and Mentor

ACTIVITIES

Active member of the National Society of Black Engineers
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Founder of a non-profit organization *The Marquia Lewis Foundation* an organization that distributes scholarships to college students and graduating high school seniors

Kim Gasper

Director of Fund Development

HARVESTERS



Resident of Kansas City

Fundraising and marketing professional with nearly 20 years of direct and related experience in not-for-profit, fundraising, client management, project management, and leadership

Many of my fantastic women colleagues in leadership here at Harvesters are GMLC alumni. As a person who asks many questions and loves to hear a new point of view, I am excited about the opportunity to discuss and learn more about critical issues in Missouri. The past alumni I know rave about the long-lasting professional connections they made in their GMLC session. After two years of pandemic working and lots of screen time, it would be incredibly refreshing to learn and share experiences with other women in leadership.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science - Communications Comprehensive Degree in Public Relations Missouri State University | Springfield, MO

ACTIVITIES

PTA Fundraising Chair - Prairie Point Elementary
Kettle Run Committee Member - The Salvation Army

Dr. Megan Gillespie

Head of Phenomics, Analytics and Pipeline Design,
Global Breeding, Crop Science Division

BAYER

Resident of Ballwin

Head of Phenomics, with a rapidly progressive career in the crop science industry. Specializes across the plant breeding and biotechnology spectrum to include experimental design, phenotypic characterization, genomics, molecular biology, plant pathology, and genetics. Industry expertise in leading teams and building and executing a strategic vision.



EDUCATION

Ph.D. Molecular Plant Pathology (2013) Purdue University, Dept. Agronomy, USDA
B.S. Landscape Horticulture and Design (2001) Purdue University, Dept. Horticulture
Certified Green Belt, Monsanto

ACTIVITIES

- Interview with Seed World, 2021
- Invited talk with the Korea Rural Development Administration, 2021
- Co-Chair, Women in Science Breakfast, APS, 2016
- Participant, Monsanto sponsored Student Reception Dinner, 2016
- Participant, Soil Diagnostics Startup. Developed partner relationship with Monsanto, 2016.
- 2020 Advanced to Bayer Science Fellow

Lacy Haden-Peaches

Product Manager II

COMMERCE BANK



Resident of Kansas City

Responsible for product development, enhancements, education, roadmapping and visioning for AP Invoice Automation, Vendor Management System, and Vendor Onboarding Commercial Products

- *Developed and managed short and long term strategies for product sets*
 - *Ensured products met or exceeded client expectations. Excelled at gathering feedback and requirements; communicating needed changes to development team; and overseeing seamless, high-quality rollouts of enhancements and product maintenance*

Formerly worked with DST Systems, Inc.

EDUCATION

Park University, Bachelor of Science – Business Management; Summa Cum Laude

ACTIVITIES

DEI Blue Chip Community Pillar, Commerce Bank, 2020-Current: Lead on Mattie Rhodes engagement. Developed Community Engagement Project Plan. Presented on project in multiple Town Halls. ▪ Founder and KC Co-Chair, Commerce Bank PRIDE ERG, 2019-Current: Worked with Human Resources to identify policies and procedures to launch an Employee Resource Group. Developed Mission, Vision and 4 Year Plan. Garnered support from Executive leadership to launch in 5 markets. 440 total members. Secured funds through Company Sponsorship and fundraising to give back to local Kansas City Community. Led Webinars and Lunch and Learns sponsored by PRIDE. ▪ Board Member, Modern Family Alliance, 2020: Supports local families through events, resources, and education to foster a respectful, encouraging, and inclusive community for all families. ▪ Volunteer Engagement Committee representative, DST Systems, 2015-2018: Active voice of the department for the Vice President, Officer, and Department committees. Assisted the Human Resource department in the creation of a volunteer program for the company

Dr. Karen Hall

Associate Professor
St. Louis University

Honoree – 75th Annual Brotherhood Sisterhood
Awards – The National Conference for Community
and Justice

Resident of St. Louis

...an opportunity to learn from exceptional female leaders across the state. The exposure from other successful women will help me grow personally and professionally. I am a life-long learner, and the Greater Missouri Leadership Challenge will give me the skills to continue to grow as a leader in my field.

There are two main goals I want to accomplish from the Leadership Challenge. First, I want to gain a deeper understanding of the critical issues facing Missouri. I want to utilize the learning and apply it to my work at Saint Louis University, School of Education. Second, the opportunity to build relationships with women from diverse backgrounds is invaluable. The Leadership Challenge creates a safe space to explore Missouri policies with the state's business, cultural, educational, and political leaders. I am confident I will grow as a leader by participating in such a rich learning experience.



EDUCATION

Doctor of Education – Transformative Learning in the Global Community – Webster University – Webster Groves, MO
Education Specialist Degree – Lindenwood University – St. Charles, MO
Master of Education Administration – St. Louis University – St. Louis, MO
Bachelor of Science – Education – Fontbonne University – Clayton, MO
Career Continuous Administration Certificate – Lindenwood University – St. Charles, MO; Principal | Transition Administration Certification – St. Louis University – St. Louis, MO; Learning Disabled K-12 | Behavior Disordered K-12 | Elementary Education 1-8 – Fontbonne University – Clayton, MO

ACTIVITIES

Salute to Excellence in Education – The St. Louis American
Inspiring St. Louisan – St. Louis County NAACP
Missouri Thespians Honor
Focus St. Louis - Board Director; Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Change

SUPPORT LETTER Kristy Jackson, GMLC Alumna 2020

Dr. Lisa C. Hall

Associate Professor and Gerontology Program
Coordinator

Missouri State University, Department of Psychology

Resident of Springfield

I know this is a well respected program and I am ready for an inspirational experience on a state level. I have participated in leadership and conflict resolution seminars at Missouri State University and have served my local community. I look forward to expanding my efforts, collaboration, and contributions at a broader and higher level. I am most enthusiastic about meeting like-minded individuals who embrace opportunities to work together for the betterment of our communities and state.



EDUCATION

2006 Ph.D. Sociology, Honors; University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
Doctoral Dissertation: *The Significance of Age in Breast Cancer Experience*

1997 M.A. Sociology; University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
Master's Thesis: *Illness, Identity, and Survivorship: Modern and Postmodern Breast Cancer Narratives*

1993 B.A. Sociology and Philosophy, Magna Cum Laude; Drury University, Springfield, MO

ACTIVITIES

Awarded Faculty Award for Public Affairs at Missouri State University for research with the community that includes students and also makes an impact in the community.

League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri, former VP and Board Member

Phyllis Hardwick

Executive Director

COMMUNITY CAPITAL FUND



Resident of Kansas City

Responsible for the overall strategy direction of Community Capital Fund as well as the management of fund and partner development, marketing, program delivery, and organizational culture.

SEPT 2020 – NOVEMBER 2020 DEPUTY DIRECTOR – VOTER PROTECTIONS, SHOW ME CHANGE Responsible for coordinating voter protection efforts in western Missouri. Organized over 560 volunteers in more than thirty counties in the state. By comparison, the 2016 voter protection effort had approximately 400 volunteers primarily in the St Louis and Kansas City Metro area.

AUGUST 2015 – MARCH 2020 ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ACQUISITIONS, EPR PROPERTIES Responsibilities included originating, underwriting and structuring transactions in over twenty states. Represented EPR's business interest during closing, construction, and asset management. Impacted over \$1.1b in transactions.

AUGUST 2015 – MAY 2012 DIRECTOR OF PARTNERSHIPS, TEACH FOR AMERICA

EDUCATION

MAY 2018, MASTER'S DEGREE, EDUCATIONAL STUDIES, ROCKHURST UNIVERSITY Coursework was a 50/50 split between business and education. Relevant coursework included corporate finance, corporate accounting, governmental accounting, and business management. MAY 2009, BACHELOR'S DEGREE, HISTORY & SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI Received degrees in history, sociology, and business. Graduated with honors and was admitted to three senior honorary societies. Named "Top 10 Most Influential Student" and Top 39 Senior.

ACTIVITIES

United Inner-City Services, Board Member • Crossroads Charter School, Board Member • Pendleton Heights Neighborhood Association, Treasurer • Win 4 KC, Advisory Board Member

Cecily Hicks

Deputy Title IX Coordinator and Equity Officer

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI



Resident of Columbia

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney,
Boone County Prosecuting Attorney's
Office; January 2007 to November 2019

Instructor/Editor, Law
Enforcement Training Institute;
September 2014 to November 2019

Assistant Attorney General,
Missouri Attorney General's Office,
Criminal Appeals Division; July
2005 to December 2006

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor, University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law; Graduated May 2005

Legal Research and Writing Grades: 91, 90

- Journal of Dispute Resolution Member
- South Africa study abroad student, Summer 2004
- Board of Advocates Candidate and Member

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, University of Missouri – Columbia; Graduated 2002
Magna Cum Laude, with Honors in Political Science; Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society

PROFESSIONAL LICENSE

Missouri Bar, Admitted September 2005, Missouri Bar No. 57751

Rachael Holloway

Director of Operations
United WE

Works with many GMLC alumnae on mutual
projects



Resident of Lloch Lloyd

I hope to gain insight into the challenges affecting Missourians across the state. I am passionate about utilizing my career to develop sustainable solutions that have a positive generational impact on Missouri families. As I've had the opportunity to tour the state in my role with United WE, I've witnessed the perceived divide between rural and urban when the barriers are many times shared. I would enjoy the opportunity to learn alongside a powerful network of women. My hope would be that my participation in the 2022 class would enable me to be a part of developing rural-urban collaborations addressing shared problems and advancing Missouri's workforce to pursue resilience, recovery, and better economic opportunity for our families.

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree, English, Westminster College
English Language and Literature, University of Winchester, South East England, Hampshire, UK

ACTIVITIES

Program Assistant with Cultivate KC
KC Food Policy Coalition
Social Media Specialist, CARDV
Manage farmers market serving families/seniors living in need

SUPPORT LETTERS Wendy Doyle, President and CEO, United WE; Kathy Wunderlich, Hawthorn Foundation

Brenda Horstman

Agency Budget Senior Analyst
Missouri Department of Commerce & Insurance

Previously worked at MO Dept of Economic
Development



Resident of Mokane

This is an opportunity to network with women from all over the state--to see what common and unique challenges we face, to learn from each other, to brainstorm, and to problem solve. In addition, I am excited to learn more about different communities, both small and large. The sessions identified for the 2022 class are timely and impact a number of areas in state government, which makes this an ideal learning opportunity.

I hope to gain some lifelong friends and contacts that are go-to people for advice and knowledge. I am excited to learn more about different communities and organizations and the hurdles they face. I plan to take back the lessons learned to apply to my work. As the Department faces its own challenges and looks at different policies, my hope is to bring in the perspectives that I learn about in the trainings to help guide those policies for the people and communities in the State.

EDUCATION

Masters of Public Administration, University of Missouri-Columbia (15 hours completed)
Bachelor of Arts, Business Administration, Westminster College, Fulton

ACTIVITIES

Missouri Economic Development Council's Governmental Member of the Year
Economic Development Finance Professional Certification
Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Certification
Hans Prarie Christian Church Sunday School Teacher

SUPPORT LETTERS Sallie Hemenway, Economic Development Finance Advisor, Nexus Group; Grady Martin, Director of Administration, MO Dept of Commerce & Insurance

Caitlin Johnson-Malone

Senior Strategist , Digital Strategy

AMEREN



Resident of St. Louis

I think it's a great opportunity to meet and engage with other women leaders in our community. I also think it's a chance to challenge my way of thinking, and to broaden my scope of influence within our community.

I hope to gain some experiences that help me grow as a leader (both within my work life and my community). I also hope to make a good network of colleagues within the St. Louis area.

EDUCATION

Master of Business Administration, Washington University; Olin Business School
BA Mathematics, Washington University

ACTIVITIES

Ameren President's Excellence Award Winner (2020)

Caitlin plays a significant leadership role across all of Ameren through her work leading a team of strategists developing business outcome driven technology strategies. She is passionate about her role in supporting the development of her team, her own self, and the broader Digital and Ameren leadership team.

**SUPPORT LETTER: Juli Shaw, Senior Manager, Digital Strategy
Ameren Services, GMLC Alumna 2018, GMLC St. Louis Session Planning Lead**

Bonnie Leong

F-15 Mission Systems Senior Manager, Analysis,
Test, and Integration

BOEING



Resident of St. Louis

Execution focused leader with 28 years of Boeing experience in engineering and management including integration and

test, avionics system development, avionics project engineering, technical lead engineering, and program management

covering all phases of avionics and aircraft development lifecycle. Demonstrated capability in developing domestic and

international customer and supplier relationships. Extensive experience leading diverse multi-disciplined teams focused

on quality, inspiring and motivating to a common goal, conflict management, balancing goals and priorities, delegating

effectively, and written and verbal communication.

EDUCATION

Boeing Leadership Training Program Management Workshop, Technical Lead Engineering Workshop, Transition to Management, Engineering Leadership Development Program (ELDP)

Washington University in St. Louis Master of Business Administration
Master of Science, Electrical Engineering
Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering

ACTIVITIES

Boeing Mentor
Boeing Technical Fellowship Committee

Amby Lewis

Founder/Executive Director

A GIRL LIKE ME NETWORK



Resident of Springfield

I am needing professional development to assist me moving forward with "A Girl Like Me Network" due to the fact I am the founder and President. This incredible experience will assist me with development board and staff.

I am looking forward to being able to connect with local and state professionals, and the ability to network across rigorous borders.

EDUCATION

Glendale High School

ACTIVITIES

Springfield Chamber of Commerce Ambassador

Kimberly Martin

Acting Executive Director
Finance Programs Manager
MO Development Finance Board

Previously



Resident of California

I have dedicated my career to serving the State of Missouri and love learning more about it. My position allows me to serve the state in the areas economic and community development and it is important to spend time educating myself of the changes happening within the state, the strengths and success stories, as well as the challenges and needs. I have also learned over the years how important it is to build relationships with others throughout the state, as most successful endeavors are done through partnerships. I work for a Board that is made up mostly of men, they are incredible leaders and I learn from them every day, but I am so inspired by some of the women throughout our state and would like the opportunity to learn from the type of strong women that I see participating in this program. I think this opportunity would help me to build the confidence I need to continue to advance in my career.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Business Administration, Culver Stockton College, Canton, MO

ACTIVITIES

Leadership Missouri Graduate – Missouri Chamber of Commerce
Certified Economic Development Professional (EDFP) – National Development Council
Basically CDBG – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Financial Management Training – U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Many community volunteer activities with family including serving community meals, volunteering at the County Fair, school events and local festivals. Provides leadership to the local 4H club and served as a judge for fair entries. Taught Sunday School classes for several years, attended church camp as a chaperone, organized youth events and helped with fundraisers for missions.

SUPPORT LETTERS Subash Alias, CEO, Missouri Partnership; Marie Carmichael, Missouri Development Finance Board

Stephanie McGrew

Asst Director for the Department of Diversity &
Inclusion
A.T. Still University

Previously worked at Centene Corporation as a
Curriculum Designer

Resident of Kirksville

I have had the pleasure to dive into learning about my local and surrounding community. I feel that in order for me to grow as a professional (and small business owner) it would be beneficial for me to have the opportunity to get to know more about the various regions of the state of Missouri. I also know that the cohort that I potentially have the pleasure to be with will provide an insightful experience. It will also provide the opportunity for me to meet and network with women from around the state. I am eager to learn and grow more in tune with my surrounding community and what the state of Missouri has to offer.

I hope to deepen my knowledge of how the state of Missouri is operated and run. I am aware that the needs of my small rural community are entirely different than the needs of bigger more populated areas. I am also eager to network and get connected with women from around the state of Missouri! I feel that as a professional, it is vital to have a network of like minded and supportive women to encourage and uplift you. I feel that being a part of this program will allow me to start the foundation of that network. I also feel that what I learn can be helpful for my community. I plan to stay and grow in my community. I hope I can utilize some of the things that I learn with this program to help enhance and uplift my own community.



EDUCATION

Master of Education, Student Personnel in Higher Education, Emphasis: Diversity and Inclusion, University of Florida

Bachelor of Arts, English, Washington State University

Bachelor of Arts, Foreign Languages & Literature (Spanish), Washington State University

Universidad Automa de Heredia, Costa Rica, C.A., International Student Exchange

ACTIVITIES

2021 Kirksville United Way Campaign Co-Chair

2021 Inspiring Programs in STEM Award: Dreamline Pathways

2021 SBDC Small Business Owner Panelist

Treasurer, Kirksville City-wide MLK Celebration from 2018-present

President, 2315 Elm (Kirksville)

SUPPORT LETTERS Dr. Carolyn Chrisman, GMLC Alumna; Katie Steele Danner, GMLC Alumna

Anne Morgan

Sr Director of Advancement,
Gift Planning

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI



Resident of Columbia

Started working with MU in February 2021.

- Solicit planned and major gifts; current production confirmed gifts: \$2,700,000.*
- Assist gift officers with planned and major giving.*
- Train gift officers in planned giving mechanisms and processes.*
- Assist Executive Director with planned giving marketing.*
- Review contracts and gift agreements as needed.*
- Work with Office of General Counsel on complex gifts.*

EDUCATION

LL.M. Taxation, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, May 2000

J.D., Valparaiso University, Indiana, May 1995

President, Treasurer, Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity, 1994-1995 / 1993-1994

Member, Equal Justice Alliance Cambridge University, Cambridge, England; Valparaiso University Summer Study Abroad Program, 1994

B.A. Communications, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, May 1992

ACTIVITIES

Vice President, Chicago Council on Planned Giving, June 2021 - Present

Co-Chair, Chicago Council on Planned Giving Annual Symposium, May 2020-May 2021

Board Member, Chicago Council on Planned Giving, term June 2018-2024

Law License: Missouri and Indiana

Adjunct Instructor, Nonprofit Law, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, 2007 Dale

Carnegie Leadership Training Course, 2007 Board Member, Grace Place, Winona, MN

2007-2008 Volunteer, PEAK – Partnership to Educate and Advance Kids, Chicago, IL

August 2019 – May 2021 Volunteer, Ministry to the Incarcerated, San Francisco de Asis

Parish / Coconino County Jail, 2010-2015

Connie Morley

Managing Litigation Attorney
Shelter Insurance

Attended 2019 WOY Luncheon in KCMO

Resident of Kansas City, MO

I am very interested in learning and being the best leader I can be. The Greater Missouri Leadership Challenge interests me because I believe it will help me grow and become a better leader and citizen.

Additional opportunities to give back to the community and a larger network of likeminded women.



EDUCATION

Juris Doctor, University of Missouri School of Law, 2003

Bachelor of Science, History, Business minor, Missouri Western State University, 1998

ACTIVITIES

I am driven and have a passion for learning, reading, and thinking about new ideas. My goal is to harness that enthusiasm for learning to find new ways to engage and encourage others, while also becoming a better citizen.

SUPPORT LETTERS Shawn Ricks, GMLC Alumna; Mark E. Jones, Director of Litigation and Special Investigations Unit, Shelter Insurance Companies

Ashley Pyle

Vice President, Business Development
GadellNet Consulting Services

Previously worked at Travelzoo based in Greater
Chicago Area



Resident of St. Louis

I want to participate in the Leadership Challenge to impact both the organization I work with today, and in my future. I am passionate about DEI efforts in the IT industry - attracting, hiring and retaining the best talent we can bring to the St. Louis market. I am a proud city resident and want to see the city thrive for generations to come. I also recognize I need to make a bigger impact outside of my current organization and feel like the Challenge can help guide me to making that impact. I'm at a point both personally and professionally that I feel like I need to do just that.

I hope to gain a better understanding of the critical issues that Missouri faces outside of what I know now. I am energized by thought leadership and learning and growing in my own personal development. I hope to give and gain as much as I can about the program in the sessions. I also love being surrounded and empowered (and inspired!) by women and this seems like just that group. I work in a male-dominated field and that can be tough!

EDUCATION

University of Kansas, Bachelor of Science, Strategic Communications, 2007

ACTIVITIES

Operation Food Search volunteer

The Transformer Award (2016) recognized for being the most transformative employee in the organization.

GadellNet Engagement Committee

SUPPORT LETTERS Nick Smarrelli, CEO, GadellNet Consulting Services; Tracy E. Hart, President and CEO, Tarlton Corporation; Megan Ridgeway, President, Arcturis, GMLC Alumna Class of 2012

Stacy Regnier

Senior Vice President of Retail Strategic Programs
and Business Transformation

COMMERCE BANK



Resident of St. Louis

Since joining Commerce in 2014, she has leveraged her passion for strategic planning and change management to drive growth for Commerce's Retail business. From oversight of the physical investments to employee engagement to experiential and physical design, her ability to develop, lead, and implement change has proven successful to adapt the way our teams engage with changing consumer preferences. Working with cross-functional partners, she directed the evolution of Commerce's physical network strategy, honed the vision and execution plan to transition the Retail workforce, coordinated process improvement and technology upgrades and crafted communication strategies to ensure all stakeholders stay informed and engaged. In addition to the continued focus on frontline transformation, Stacy is leading strategic engagement programs, including the introduction of an innovative experience connecting customers with their bankers through a smartphone app and the delivery of relationship management for top consumer relationships within Retail.

Her ability to foster creative thinking has given her numerous opportunities to lead diverse teams and cross-company initiatives. And being a highly dedicated and self-motivated professional has enabled her to make meaningful contributions to the overall success of the organization and industry. In 2018, she was selected as an Emerging Leader by BAI.

Prior to joining Commerce Bank, Stacy worked for Boeing's Defense & Security division headquartered in St. Louis, MO. Over her 9 years at the company, she held various Finance, Business Development, and Supplier Diversity roles. Her management of the Global Services & Support Strategy team provided numerous opportunities to define her as a leader in strategic planning and change management.

EDUCATION

Stacy received a Master of Business Administration from Webster University and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Rockhurst University.

ACTIVITIES

Stacy is committed to making a difference in the lives of the community around her. She is the Regional Executive Sponsor for Commerce Bank's young professional organization, EMERGE, and a mentor for Commerce Bank's women's employee resource group, RISE. Outside of Commerce, she is an active supporter of several nonprofit organizations, including the World Pediatric Project, Magic House, Friends of Kids with Cancer and Junior Achievement.

She resides in St. Louis with her husband and two children. Stacy enjoys playing volleyball, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

Brittney Smith

Vice President of Benefits
Connell Insurance, Inc.

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Veteran from the U.S. Navy



Resident of Ozark

I believe in being a lifelong student and that you can never stop learning. I think this will not only challenge me to be a better leader and version of myself but will also teach me along the way to be a better leader. I also want to be surrounded by other leaders and build possible mentorship relationships.

I hope to gain knowledge and friendships with other high achievers that will help mentor me along my journey as it is just beginning in the leadership direction.

EDUCATION

Master of Business Administration, LSU Shreveport

Bachelor of Science in Health Services Administration, Missouri State University, 2015

ACTIVITIES

Hard Charger Award – US Navy

Nominated to Sales Circle of Excellence at Anthem

NAHU – Professional Development Chair

Springfield Chamber Ambassador

Associate Board Member, Isabel's House

SUPPORT LETTERS Jeff Seifried, President/CEO Connell Insurance, Inc.; Lynette Weatherford, President HR Advantage, Springfield

Martha Smith

Head of Industry Affairs

BAYER



Resident of St. Louis, MO

I have an insatiable desire to learn, to broaden my perspective and to grow my network. I think the Greater Missouri Leadership Challenge would help me with all three of those items while also better positioning me to give back to Missouri. I truly enjoy leadership programs, but it's been a while since I participated in one and I now find myself at a different stage of my career where I need to embrace new approaches to leadership to efficiently deliver on expectations. With all the changes and challenges we've all faced in the past year, now feels like an ideal time to push my boundaries and dig deeper on focusing on becoming a better leader for this "new normal" that we all face. I've also recently made the decision to stay in my current position for the next several years which gives me the opportunity to really focus in on the team I lead and to focus in on how I can make a larger impact in the company and industry.

That decision also allows me to have the time to truly focus on maximizing my participation in a leadership program. It would be an honor to be associated with this respected, time-honed and honored program.

I'd welcome the opportunity to further develop a network of women leaders in Missouri that are committed to women making a positive difference in the business world and our society. I've also found that one can never learn enough about leadership. There are always things to work on with ones leadership style and leadership programs provide that dedicated time to pause, reflect and hone one's craft. I hope that this program will help me to further develop my leadership skills and to learn new approaches/tactics. I also look forward to the opportunity to learn more about some of the other businesses that make up the Missouri business community and to identify opportunities for all of us to work together closer to advance the Missouri business community.

EDUCATION

BS, Agricultural Business and International Agriculture, with a Spanish minor, Iowa State University, Ames, IA, 2004

ACTIVITIES

2019 -2023 Iowa State University Alumni Association Board of Directors

2021 US Soybean Export Council Governance Board Member

2020-2021 American Feed Industry Association Board of Directors

2020-2022 US Farmers & Ranchers in Action Board of Directors

SUPPORT LETTER Jessica Simmons, Head of Global Customer Data and Digital Marketing COE, GMLC ALUMNA

Gina Stone

Human Resource Business Partner

BAYER



Resident of Saint Louis

Gina has spent twenty plus years as a human resource leader partnering with business leaders to align people strategies with functional strategic business objectives. Throughout her career, she's held a variety of roles in human resources and worked for multiple companies throughout the St. Louis region. She's currently an HR Business Partner for Bayer's US - CFO organization, where she oversees talent management, leadership development, organizational development and the development and execution of the people strategies. Gina has been with Bayer for 7 years working in various human resources leadership positions across R&D, IT, Engineering, and the Health & Safety organization. Prior to working for Bayer, she worked in human resources for Mallinckrodt/Covidien, Sigma-Aldrich, and the May Company.

EDUCATION

Gina has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst and a Master of Science in Human Resource Development from Villanova University.

ACTIVITIES

Gina and her husband, Jason, reside in St. Louis, MO. They have two daughters, Francesca (9) and Luciana (8). Her current hobbies include spinning classes, attending her girl's extracurricular activities, and trying new restaurants in the St. Louis area.

Kate Sweeten

Build KCI/Senior Communications Associate
Clarkson Construction Company

Previously worked as Executive Director for
Downtown Overland Park Partnership

Resident of Kansas City, MO

I am excited for the opportunity to align with outstanding women leaders from across Missouri in the effort to learn more about how I can continue to grow as a leader within my organization and local community. As a woman in a typically male-dominated industry, I think it's extremely important to align with other woman leaders across professions for guidance, support, and experience.

I was fortunate to be selected for the Leadership Overland Park program and was quite impressed with the level of knowledge I gained about various facets of the City of Overland Park and the surrounding area. As someone who lives and works in the state of Missouri, I very much look forward to the chance to take part in a program that will provide the same insight but on a statewide level.

I'm passionate about supporting and improving my community and would be grateful to participate in meaningful discussion and development about state policy issues while learning from Missouri's business, cultural, educational, and political leaders. I hope to learn more about how I can be a more effective leader on my professional team, in volunteer situations, and in my community. The opportunity to travel, observe, and learn more about my state while building relationships with other women leaders sounds like a fantastic way to spend my time in 2022.



EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, History, Kansas State University
Professional Certificate, Paralegal Studies, Rockhurst University

ACTIVITIES

On-site communications lead for the Clark | Weitz | Clarkson joint venture, the design-build team responsible for the \$1.5 billion Kansas City International Airport (KCI) New Terminal Project.
Provides marketing, communications, and program support to the Terminal Workforce Enhancement Programs
Big Sister, Big Brothers Big Sister of Greater KC
Social Media Manager, Bra Couture KC

SUPPORT LETTERS Katie Steele Danner, GMLC Alumna; Tim Cowden, President, CEO, KC Area Development Council; Jon Stephens, President & CEO Port KC; Pete Fullerton, KC Aviation Department

Sherri Tichenor

Head of NA Accounting & Global Seeds
CropScience Business

BAYER



Resident of Chesterfield

I am interested in hearing about the different issues facing the state of Missouri in the key geographies of the state including the government/political process, education, urban issues including both racial and economic, the issues facing rural Missouri including Agriculture. (grew up in central Missouri and now own a 200 acre farm near Columbia, Mo.), and non-profits role in the community (close to my heart since I sit on the board of COCA in St. Louis). I am also looking forward to meeting other women in leadership of different industries, cultures, and race from both the private and public sector.

I am looking forward to the networking and mentoring opportunity to meet other women leaders across the state of Missouri while gaining a better understanding of the different issues facing the State of Missouri. I also hope to learn more about how other companies develop women leaders and be introduced to other women leaders with significant public and governmental roles and understand their career journey and perspective.

EDUCATION

Certified Management Accountant

Certified Public Accountant

Bachelor of Science in Accounting, Truman State University, Kirksville, MO

ACTIVITIES

YWCA Leaders in the Workplace Award - 2011

Nominated by Monsanto due to significant leadership and contributions to our business and community.

United Way co-lead for Bayer St. Louis campaign, 2020-2021

Member of the Missouri Society of CPAs – 2014 to Present

Center of Creative Arts (COCA) Board Member, Finance Committee Member – 2014 to Present

Jackie Turek

Training & Development Manager

VETERANS UNITED INSURANCE



Resident of Columbia

I accepted the invite to GMLC for exposure on what is going on in the community and to be able to help voice ideas that might help in the effort to find solutions. I also am really interested in the opportunity to be cued into other perspectives, share my own, and find some commonality and differences in view points that will help expand my view point on topics that we plan to discuss.

Another area I am really excited for is to meet other women in the community. I love people and having the opportunity to network and connect over meaningful topics is really important to me.

ACTIVITIES

2019 - I started a brand new training program for Veterans United Insurance. We have since trained over 150 people in that time while also helping folks develop into new roles created as we grew. I am also apart of our Women in Leadership group which unites women across the company to network, build each other up, and be intentional with our efforts on inspiring more women leaders to reach for their goals. I am also involved with mentoring folks within the company. I absolutely LOVE this opportunity when it comes up!

2020- I was invited to join our Leadership Development Program within VU that encompasses senior leaders around the company that give me the opportunity to meet other senior leaders and help the company talk through important topics that continue to make our company stronger.

2021 - I had the opportunity to speak at Home with Heart initiative for Veterans United Home Loans that focuses on our Veterans "why" and how we can create a unique and meaningful home buying experience for those that we serve. In 5 days time we cycled 2500 people through the experience!

Jamie Watring

Senior Manager, MO Strategy & Customer
Affordability

AMEREN



Resident of St. Louis

I have been really driven to grow and develop within my professional career, but I'd like to take that to next level and continue to grow and develop as a civic contributor. I am curious to learn more from other women leaders and build connections outside of my organization. I want to develop a deeper connection and appreciation for our broader community.

I hope to leave the program more informed about challenges and opportunities within our community. I would like to strengthen my ties to the community by making connections with individuals or organizations that I am passionate about supporting. Ultimately, I hope to make deep connections with other women leaders and have long last relationships to support each other in the future.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, University of Missouri – Columbia
Emphasis: Marketing; Magna Cum Laude
Institute of Supply Management (ISM) Certified Supply Management Professional,
October 2018

ACTIVITIES

FOCUS St. Louis, Coro Women in Leadership - Cohort 72, Fall 2020
Marion Middle School, Mentor

SUPPORT LETTER: Julie Tiemann Director, MO Strategic Initiatives, GMLC Class of 2021

Kanikca (Nikki) Williams

Client Relationship Consultant

US BANK



Resident of Charleston

Enthusiastic professional with 18 years of customer service and banking experience without any lags of unemployment. Career track includes various promotions with increased responsibility that was accomplished through hard work, determination, and a high desire to achieve success. Additional attributes include company loyalty, dedication and highly dependable. Also possess strong communication skills both oral and verbal, and a high level of professionalism paired with an outgoing and friendly personality.

EDUCATION

Charleston High School

ACTIVITIES

Nikki completed a program with US Bank called **Converge** to gain a more depthful insight to the company to help make it a better place to work. She also participated in the US Bank “Rising Star” program that helped learn more knowledge about all aspects of the financial services industry and specific consumer and business loans.

Secretary of the Charleston Community Takeover

Larissa Wollard

Director of Human Resources

VETERANS UNITED HOME LOANS



Resident of Columbia

Skills Recruiting • Employee Benefits • Leadership Development • College Recruiting • Coaching • Resume Writing • Talent Acquisition • Employee Relations • Employee Training

Several of my colleagues and woman I admire have gone through the Leadership Challenge- Emily Clapp, Loreli Wilson, Amanda Andrade, and Kelley Frink. All have characteristics I hope that I can some day emulate such as humility, care, work-ethic, strength, and passion. They have told me that this program challenged them, encouraged them to be better leaders, and created a platform to make lifelong connections. I want to be part of something great where I can meet other professionals that challenge me to become a leader, mentor, friend, wife, and mom.

EDUCATION

William Jewell College - Business Administration

ACTIVITIES

Ronald McDonald Board Member since 2019