

MEET YOUR MENTOR

Bizwomen Mentoring Monday Event

Monday, April 3, 2017

bizwomen

ST. LOUIS BUSINESS JOURNAL

MENTORING
MONDAY

ST. LOUIS
BUSINESS JOURNAL

Agenda

- 7:00 a.m. Networking and Buffet Breakfast
- 7:30 a.m. Welcome
- 7:35 a.m. Mentoring Monday Coaching & More Networking
- 8:55 a.m. Closing
- 9:00 a.m. Event Concludes

Bizwomen

Cynthia Ackins, MA, MBA
Director of Philanthropy, Nurses for Newborns
Seat # 1

Maggie Barton
Chief Development Officer, Butler's Pantry
Seat # 2

Cheree Berry
Founder, Cheree Berry Paper
Seat # 3

Amy Boschert
Director of Business Development, Pinnacle Contracting
Seat # 4

Samira Boudiab
VP and Chief of Staff to the President of Operations and Technology and CIO, MasterCard
Seat # 5

Laura Burkemper
Director, Brand Strategy, Express Scripts
Seat # 6

Dr. Leilani Carver
Director of Strategic Communication and Leadership, Maryville University
Seat # 7

Jessica Ciccone
Director of Communications, Saint Louis University, School of Law
Seat # 8

Alexandra Corey
Anchor/Reporter, KSDK
Seat # 9

Maggie Crane
Communications Director, Deputy Director of Operations, Office of the Mayor, City of St. Louis
Seat # 10

Nikki Crawford
Wealth Management Advisor, Northwestern Mutual
Seat # 11

Nancy Cripe
President & Auctioneer, GRS Auction & Appraisal Services
Seat # 12

Danette Davis
Partner, Dentons
Seat # 13

Lori Eaton
President, NextGen Information Services, Inc.
Seat # 14

Cindy Erickson
CEO, American Red Cross of Eastern Missouri
Seat # 15

Jill Farmer
Author, Life Coach
Seat # 16

Rachel Ganousis
Manager of Analytics, ROI (Resource Optimization & Innovation)
Seat # 17

Susan Gerard
Principal, Gerard Marketing Group
Seat # 18

Amanda Gioia
Vice President, Senior Business Leader, MasterCard
Seat # 19

Jan Hess
Vice President, St. Luke's Hospital
Seat # 20

Stephanie Hosler
Partner, Bryan Cave, LLP
Seat # 21

Veta Jeffery
Manager, Community Economic Partnerships, State of Missouri, Dept. of Economic Development; Heartland-St. Louis Black Chamber of Commerce
Seat # 22

Shanise Johnson
Executive Director, St. Louis Internship Program
Seat # 23

Missy Kelley
President & CEO, Downtown STL, Inc.
Seat # 24

Abigail Kepple
President, Tax Credit Services, Enterprise Bank & Trust
Seat # 25

Karen Kirk
CEO & Executive Director, Lydia's House, Inc.
Seat # 26

Dr. Paula Knight
Associate Superintendent, St. Louis Public Schools
Seat # 27

Melissa Lenz
Financial Advisor, Edward Jones
Seat # 28

JoAnne Levy
Vice President, System Operations, Mercy
Seat # 29

Dawn Manske
Founder/CEO, Made for Freedom
Seat # 30

Deborah Marshall
SVP, Director of Client and Community Relations, Office of the Regional President, The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.
Seat # 31

Kimberly McKinney
CEO, Habitat for Humanity St. Louis
Seat # 32

Lisa Melandri
Executive Director, Contemporary Art Museum
Seat # 33

Felicia Pulliam, J.D.
Co-Founder, STL Renew
Founder, FOCUS Impact Fellows Program
Seat # 34

Stephanie Regagnon
President/CEO, FieldWatch, Inc.;
Founder, Ava's Grace
Seat # 35

Nicole Roach
Associate Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, Sr. Dir. for Community Engagement, Webster University
Seat # 36

Jeri Schultz
Principal, Jeri Schultz & Associates LLC
Seat # 37

Cherie Summa, P.E.
CEO, St. Louis Radon Test & Mitigation
Seat # 38

Stacy Taubman
Founder/CEO, RISE Collaborative | Girls Dreaming Big
Seat # 39

Erin Valentine
Director, McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.
Seat # 40

Galen Vassar
Senior Associate, Lawrence Group
Seat # 41

Beth-Anne Yakubu
Exec. Director, Emerson Leadership Institute, Saint Louis University, Cook School of Business
Seat # 42

Michelle Yates, APR, CPSM
Director of Marketing, Lawrence Group
Seat # 43

Jackie Yoon
Market President, Bank of America
St. Louis
Seat # 44

Meet the Mentors



Cynthia D. Ackins, MA, MBA
Director of Philanthropy
Nurses for Newborns

Cynthia Ackins possesses more than 25 years experience in the corporate and nonprofit sectors and has a track record of building successful partnerships and strategic alliances, locally and nationally. In her role, she's responsible for corporate and individual giving, planned giving and the NFN Endowment. Ackins serves on the advisory boards for Manasseh Ministry and Grace Hill Women's Business Center. She's an instructor for the Workshop in Business Opportunities program, hosted by Grace Hill WBC, dedicated to providing micro-business development for aspiring entrepreneurs in the community.



Maggie Barton
Chief Development Officer
Butler's Pantry

A St. Louis native and graduate of both Ursuline Academy and Truman State University, Maggie Barton has hit her professional stride at Butler's Pantry for the last eight years. Starting in sales, she grew to pioneer and ultimately lead the marketing department, as well as oversee the company's creative processes through the Butler's Pantry Design Studio. Most recently, Barton was promoted to chief development officer, overseeing the company's growth, and ensuring its unique culture is preserved, from recruitment to event execution. During her tenure, Butler's Pantry has grown from \$4.5 million to nearly \$13.5 million.



Cheree Berry
Founder
Cheree Berry Paper

Prior to starting Cheree Berry Paper in January 2006, Cheree Berry was an associate art director at Kate Spade where she was the lead designer on the company's stationery line. Prior to that, Berry worked at the design firm Pentagram after graduating from Washington University with a bachelor of fine arts degree. Berry's achievements include recognition as a stationery expert by New York Magazine and Martha Stewart Weddings. In 2006, she designed and wrote "Hoorah for the Bra," a humorous pop-up book on the history of the brassiere. The book has been listed as a must-read by Redbook, Self and Woman's Wear Daily.



Amy Boschert
Director of Business Development
Pinnacle Contracting Inc.

Amy Boschert cultivates new opportunities in the commercial design build market while establishing new relationships through networking. Her professionalism and communication skills are keys to her success in the industry. Trained in sales, she has a unique 10-year background in construction, professional leadership, client relationships, community outreach, and business development, which provides her clients with excellent customer service. Boschert currently serves the Missouri and Texas construction markets.



Samira Boudiab
Vice President/Chief of Staff to the president and CIO, Operations & Technology
MasterCard

Samira Boudiab is the primary liaison for Operations & Technology across the company on strategic projects, business planning and reporting; leads the development of department strategy and objectives and serves as the global lead for Mastercard's Women in Technology efforts. Boudiab earned a bachelor of science degree in management information systems from Notre Dame University in Lebanon. She founded the Women's Leadership Network chapter for Mastercard in the company's Turkey office to support and encourage women in technology fields to start and grow their careers with Mastercard.



Laura Burkemper
Director of Brand Strategy
Express Scripts

Laura Burkemper provides strategic business and brand guidance, innovative solutions and thought-leadership to St. Louis' largest "startup turned Forbes' most innovative company." Burkemper rose through positions of increasing responsibility at McDonald's and Coca-Cola, elevating organization, people and product performance. She earned her MBA from Saint Louis University where she's also a senior adjunct professor. She serves as a lead mentor/investor in the global sports innovation accelerator Stadia Ventures. Burkemper is a lead mentor, adviser, and investor of multiple startups dedicated to the growth of individuals, businesses and the entrepreneurial spirit.

Meet the Mentors



Leilani Carver, Ph.D.
Director of Strategic Communication and Leadership
Maryville University

Before entering academia, Leilani Carver worked as a training manager, project manager and performance improvement consultant for organizations such as Jack Henry & Associates, Sprint and the American Public Works Association. She spent a year abroad in Jilin City, China, teaching and creating the curriculum for the New Horizon International Institute. After returning to the U.S., Carver earned her Ph.D. at the University of Kansas where she taught courses for five years and served as assistant basic course director for the communication studies department. Subsequently, she received the prestigious Buehler Teaching Fellowship award. Her areas of expertise include career communication, cross-cultural communication competencies and social media.



Jessica Ciccone
Director of Communications
Saint Louis University School of Law

A former journalist living among lawyers, Jessica Ciccone serves as the director of communications for Saint Louis University School of Law. She earned a bachelor of journalism from the Missouri School of Journalism. Having spent her early years in broadcast news, Ciccone transitioned to public relations after four years in the field. She led communications for various nonprofits before cutting her teeth in public relations at The Castle Group in Boston. There she represented numerous professional service clients, including law firms, banks, insurance agencies, medical tech companies and universities. She joined SLU in 2012 after moving back to her hometown of St. Louis.



Alexandra Corey
Anchor/Reporter
KSDK Newschannel 5

In August 2016, Alexandra Corey joined KSDK, where she co-anchors Today In St. Louis. Before joining Newschannel 5, Corey worked in Providence, Rhode Island, as evening anchor. While there, she covered the horrific Boston Marathon Bombings, the lengthy trial and the resilience of the survivors. Corey also worked as a reporter in Gainesville, Florida. She's a native of Florida and graduate of Florida State University.



Maggie Crane
Communications Director, Deputy Director of Operations
Office of the Mayor, City of St. Louis

After spending nearly a decade as an award-winning broadcast news journalist, Maggie Crane became the director of communications for city of St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay. She is a strategic communicator with more than 12 years of proven success developing communications for broadcast, print and social media, as well as internal and external business and branding. Innovative troubleshooting skills also earned her the role of deputy director of operations for the city of St. Louis. Crane graduated summa cum laude with her bachelor's degree in communications from Saint Louis University.



Nikki Crawford
Wealth Management Adviser
Northwestern Mutual

Nikki Crawford has been affiliated with Northwestern Mutual since 2005. Her practice focuses on helping individuals, families and business owners achieve their financial goals through comprehensive financial planning. As a chartered life underwriter and holder of the certified financial planner designation, Crawford advises clients on retirement planning, investment allocation, risk management strategies and employee benefits. Crawford has served as a co-chair of United Way's Young Leadership Society for three years. In 2012, Crawford was named one of the *St. Louis Business Journal's* 30 Under 30. Currently, she is serving as co-chair for the 2016 and 2017 Kids in the Middle Gala.

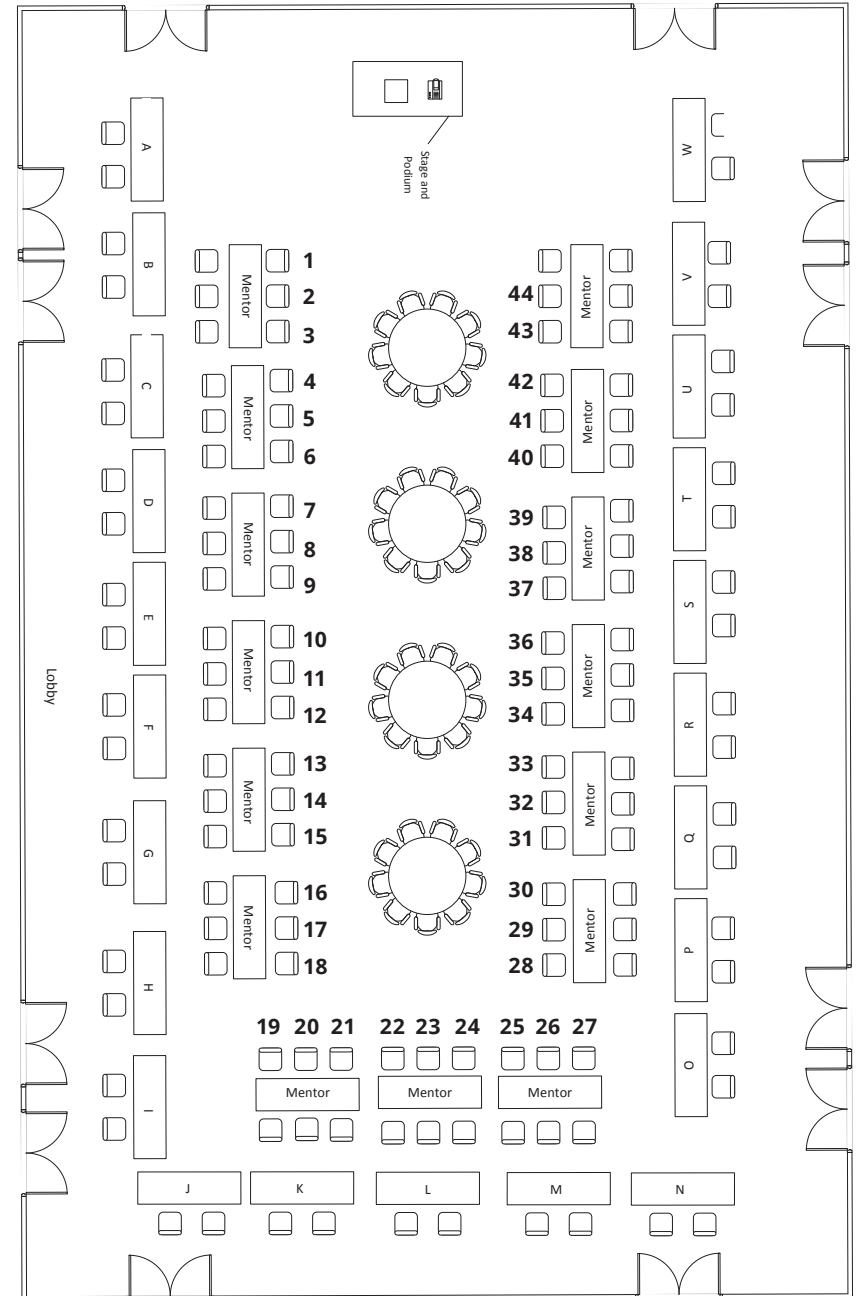


Nancy Cripe
President & Auctioneer
GRS Auction & Appraisal Services

Nancy Cripe leads one of the few women-owned commercial auction firms in the country. Cripe sees her strength as a servant leader using her natural curiosity and interest in learning to understand her clients. Her experience includes serving as vice president of sales for a commercial office furniture dealership, and director of business development for Rosemann & Associated Architects. Cripe believes in setting both personal and professional goals to achieve results. As an auctioneer, she has developed a sense of value of corporate assets and uses that knowledge to effectively value and strategically market for GRS clients.

Directions

The mentors will sit around the tables and the mentees will move seats every 7 minutes when the bell rings to end the coaching sessions. The mentees may stand in line to wait for a specific mentor. This will give mentees/guests a chance to talk among themselves and network while waiting. It's fast, fun and fulfilling as everyone gets a chance to meet new people and gain new insights.



Meet the Mentors



Danette Davis
Partner
Dentons

As a member of the Dentons' real estate practice, Danette Davis has a multifaceted practice focusing on complex commercial real estate issues. Davis works with owners, developers, lenders, landlords and tenants to document, perform due diligence and close financings, acquisitions, sales and leases. She has represented domestic and foreign lenders on a variety of secured transactions. Her experience includes preparing and negotiating contracts for the construction, design and engineering of complex public and private projects throughout the U.S. and abroad.



Lori Eaton
President
NextGen Information Services Inc.

In her role at NextGen Information Services, a national talent engagement firm, Lori Eaton provides Fortune 500 companies, small businesses and emerging tech organizations with a diverse talent community. With more than 20 years of experience, Eaton has helped take the business beyond expectation to become the \$60 million company it is today. She's responsible for developing international strategic initiatives and expanding the firm's global interests with the expansion of the company's services, programs and capabilities. Eaton has been featured by the Diversity Journal as a Woman Worth Watching, by Small Business Monthly as an A-Player and by St. Louis Women's Journal article, Inspiring Women. She has been named to the prestigious list by the *St. Louis Business Journal* as one of St. Louis' Most Influential Business Women and one of only six women in Missouri for the MAC Women of Distinction and one of 100 St. Louisans to Know to Succeed In Business.



Cindy Erickson
Chief Executive Officer
American Red Cross of Eastern Missouri

Cindy Erickson is responsible for Red Cross services in the city of St. Louis and 62 surrounding Missouri and Illinois counties. Now serving more than 4 million people, eastern Missouri is one of the country's top performing Red Cross regions. Under her direction, the Red Cross in eastern Missouri orchestrated the regional response to the tragic 2016 holiday floods that displaced 2,400 families. During that effort, the Red Cross opened 15 shelters; provided more than 55,000 meals and snacks and nearly 27,000 relief and clean-up supplies to affected communities. Erickson is spearheading regional resiliency programs, including a campaign to install 9,000 smoke alarms in at-risk, fire-prone neighborhoods by 2017.



Jill Farmer
Author, Life Coach

Jill Farmer is the author of "There's Not Enough Time ... and Other Lies We Tell Ourselves," which debuted as a bestseller in the Time Management category on Amazon. In 2015, The Washington Post named Farmer to its 21-Day Time Hacker team as one of the top time experts in the country. Farmer travels the U.S. delivering keynotes and teaching her acclaimed program for some of the top corporations and organizations in the world. For more than a decade, she was an Emmy Award-winning consumer reporter and television anchor in St. Louis.



Rachel Ganousis
Manager of Analytics
ROi (Resource Optimization & Innovation)

As the manager of analytics at ROi, Rachel Ganousis is responsible for developing and overseeing utilization and compliance analytics to deliver cost savings opportunities. Her team supports the senior sales team by providing customized cost studies for prospective commercial members being recruited by ROi. Ganousis also chairs ROi's Mission Outreach committee that supports co-workers in crisis and the St. Louis community through various external outreach opportunities.



Susan Gerard
Principal
Gerard Marketing Group

Susan Gerard built Gerard Marketing Group in 2013 after 20 years of experience working at big-name advertising agencies like TBWA Chiat/Day and DMB&B, as well as managing marketing for small businesses and startups. She holds a B.A. in journalism and a minor in graphic arts from the University of Missouri - Columbia. Gerard runs her company from her home office and purposefully has built a 100 percent virtual team who all do the same.

Meet the Mentors



Amanda Gioia
Vice President, Senior Business Leader for the Communications Team
MasterCard

Amanda Gioia is responsible for managing and implementing internal/external communications, leadership communications and philanthropy efforts for Mastercard's technology organization. She was recognized by the *St. Louis Business Journal* as one of the Most Influential Women in Business in 2012, and honored as an Outstanding Alumna of the Year by Webster University's School of Communications. She is on the student impact committee for Junior Achievement of Greater St. Louis and the School of Communications Advisory Board for Webster University. Gioia has a master's degree in media communications from Webster University and a bachelor's degree in English from Truman State University.



Jan Hess
Vice President
St. Luke's Hospital

Jan Hess is vice president and a member of the senior administrative staff at St. Luke's Hospital. Hess joined St. Luke's Hospital in 1976 and has served on the leadership team for nearly 40 years. Hess is also the executive sponsor of St. Luke's Spirit of Women initiative, helping improve the quality of life in the community by providing leading health services and community outreach to women and their families.



Stephanie Hosler
Partner
Bryan Cave LLP

Stephanie Hosler concentrates her practice in the areas of business and transactional counseling. Her practice includes mergers and acquisitions, general commercial counseling, joint ventures and strategic alliances, private offerings of securities, stock-for-stock acquisitions, and acquisitions of minority interests. Hosler has experience representing public companies, closely held businesses, venture capital firms, investment partnerships, portfolio companies of venture capital and buyout firms, and financial institutions. She has experience with companies in a number of different industries, including telecommunications, banking, consumer goods, life sciences and private equity.



Veta Jeffery
Manager, Community Economic Partnerships
State of Missouri, Department of Economic Development
Also leading the effort to found the Heartland-St. Louis Black Chamber of Commerce

Veta Jeffery has spent her life fighting for the rights of others. After graduating from the University of Missouri - St. Louis, Jeffery began her professional career advocating for the rights of individuals with disabilities. Her conflict resolution abilities allowed her to serve families by helping them to successfully navigate through school, employment and housing issues. She went on to spend 18 years working in the financial services industry as a licensed professional and the manager of financial services, where she ran agencies gaining national recognition. She currently serves as the manager of community economic partnerships for the State of Missouri in the department of economic development. In her current position, Jeffery engages the community on various projects from helping to develop the Missouri Governor's Collegiate Fellows Program to helping establish the Heartland-St. Louis Black Chamber of Commerce.



Shanise Johnson
Executive Director
St. Louis Internship Program

Shanise Johnson is the executive director of the St. Louis Internship Program and has directed programming at SLIP since November 2002. Johnson is a proud product of the St. Louis Internship Program, which provides hope and opportunity for high school students in financial need through paid summer internships, intensive employability training and year-round college and career planning. She is responsible for overall management and fiscal oversight, managing community partnerships, designing student programming, and directing evaluation and reporting. Johnson holds a B.S. in business administration from Saint Louis University, an MBA from Webster University, an M.A. in teaching from Lindenwood University, and Business/Career Education Professional Certification for teaching at the secondary level.



Missy Kelley
President & CEO
Downtown STL Inc.

Missy Kelley is the president and CEO for Downtown STL Inc. and the Downtown St. Louis Community Improvement District. In addition to leading efforts to make downtown a thriving business district, neighborhood and entertainment destination, Kelley has become the communications lead for downtown St. Louis, regularly tapped by the media to comment on current events, issues and initiatives that impact downtown. Prior to joining Downtown STL Inc., Kelley spent over 20 years in marketing and business strategy roles at Fortune 500 companies such as The Coca-Cola Co., Energizer Battery Co. and Express Scripts.

Meet the Mentors



Abigail Kepple
President, Tax Credit Services
Enterprise Bank & Trust

Abby Kepple is the president of tax credit services for Enterprise Bank & Trust and executive director for Enterprise Financial CDE, an affiliate of the bank with a dedicated low-income community focus. She leads the bank's strategy to create and manage opportunities related to tax credit programs at both the state and federal levels, including Historic Tax Credits, Low Income Housing Tax Credits and New Markets Tax Credits. Under Kepple's leadership, Enterprise Bank has received four New Markets Tax Credit awards totaling \$183 million.



Karen T. Kirk
CEO & Executive Director, Lydia's House Inc.
CEO, Lydia's Ladle LLC

Karen Kirk takes a vision and makes it reality through sound strategy development. She intuitively sees the threads of opportunity that wind through an organization, brings them together and helps others extend their thinking, and drives the organization to its fullest potential. Currently, as CEO and executive director of Lydia's House Inc., a domestic violence agency, Kirk oversees the operations and assets of a \$5 million organization that provides transitional housing for up to two years for abused women and their children who are victims of domestic violence. As the CEO of a social enterprise, she also led the successful startup and business development of Lydia's Ladle LLC, providing employment opportunities and the ability to develop job skills for the women at Lydia's House, and launched new growth of the 22-year-old organization over the last 5 years.



Dr. Paula Knight
Associate Superintendent
St. Louis Public Schools

Dr. Paula Knight was appointed in July 2009 to serve as the associate superintendent for early childhood education and the elementary superintendent zone schools for the St. Louis Public School District. Her responsibilities include overseeing the early childhood, kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade teachers/classrooms in 45 elementary schools. Knight began her career with the district in 1994 as a classroom teacher at Hamilton Elementary School. She has served as an instructional coach and principal at Waring Academy of Basic Instruction and Washington & Euclid Montessori School and the executive director of curriculum and instruction K-12. Knight has a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education from Saint Louis University, master of arts degree in education administration and a doctorate in teaching and learning/educational leadership from the University of Missouri - St. Louis.



Melissa Lenz
Financial Adviser
Edward Jones

Melissa Lenz is a financial adviser with Edward Jones. She began her career with Edward Jones in 1997 and was named a limited partner in 1999, a regional leader in 2010 and became a principal of the firm in 2014. Lenz holds her accredited asset management specialist designation from the College For Financial Planning. Lenz and her team work with individual investors to assist them in identifying and achieving their long-term financial goals. With an established planning process, Lenz and her team build personalized strategies to achieve these goals, and together she and her clients partner to achieve this success. Lenz has served as a co-chair for the United Way branch campaign, co-chair for the Arts and Education Council branch campaign, past president of the Crestwood/Sunset Hills Kiwanis Club and is currently president of the Claymont Elementary Parent Teacher Organization.



JoAnne Levy
Vice President- Mercy Research
Mercy Health System

JoAnne Levy is vice president of Mercy Research for Mercy Health System. In that role, she is the senior leader of Mercy Research, a nonprofit that manages and supports all clinical trial research and product development activities in Mercy's acute and non-acute facilities across its four-state region. Prior to serving in her current role, Levy spent five years at Resource Optimization & Innovation, one of the nation's leading health care supply chain companies, partly owned by Mercy. She received her undergraduate law, and master of business administration degrees, all with honors, from Washington University. In 2016, she was named a 25 Most Influential Business Woman by the *St. Louis Business Journal*.

Meet the Mentors



Dawn Manske
Founder and CEO
Made for Freedom

Dawn Manske came face to face with the effects of human trafficking while living in China. After seeing the breadth of this atrocity, being introduced to the concept of social enterprise, and numerous compliments on her favorite pants from Thailand, Made for Freedom was born. This St. Louis-based social enterprise offers fashion and lifestyle products created by survivors of human trafficking and those at-risk. An Arch Grants award-winning organization, Made for Freedom has provided more than 9,000 hours of dignified employment for at-risk women worldwide since 2014.



Debbie Marshall
Senior Vice President, Director of Client and Community Relations
PNC Financial Services Group

Debbie Marshall is senior vice president and director of client and community relations for St. Louis and Southern Illinois at PNC Financial Services Group. In this role, she oversees business strategy and implementation for the market, managing the PNC brand, directing the philanthropic aspect of the company business and working with 12 business lines and 44 retail branches to grow the company presence in the St. Louis area. A native of St. Louis, she received her B.S. in marketing from Missouri State University and her MBA from Saint Louis University.



Kimberly McKinney
Chief Executive Officer
Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis

As CEO of Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis for over a decade, Kimberly McKinney is responsible for the overall operation of the St. Louis affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. Locally, Habitat for Humanity Saint Louis has built almost 400 houses. McKinney's primary duties include board recruitment and development, strategic planning, community relations and advocacy. McKinney initially began as development director with Habitat for Humanity in 1997 after relocating to St. Louis from Tennessee where she held management positions in both the public and private sector. In 2012, she was selected as one of the 25 Most Influential Business Women by *St. Louis Business Journal*.



Lisa Melandri
Executive Director
Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

At CAM, Lisa Melandri is charged with the leadership, administration and management of the region's premier contemporary, non-collecting institution. Since joining CAM in 2012, Melandri has reshaped the exhibition program and launched such initiatives as: Street Views, a monumental exterior façade exhibition series; Audible Interruptions, a guest-curated sound art series that activates the interstitial spaces of the museum; and a landscape design project for CAM's internal courtyard, on view in the summer months.



Felicia Pulliam, J.D.
Co-Founder, STL Renew
Founder, FOCUS Impact Fellows Program

Felicia Pulliam designed and directed the FOCUS Impact Fellows program, the most advanced leadership training in the FOCUS St. Louis portfolio. The fellowship used the Ferguson Commission's report, "Forward Through Ferguson," as its foundation and applied leadership competencies and innovative thinking to create three tangible tools to advance racial equity. The projects are The Catalyst Circle Toolkit, which uses a book club model to teach race policy and social justice; The Racial Equity Opportunity, an initiative to increase diversity in construction professions with the potential to generate \$400 million in new revenue for the St. Louis metropolitan region; and LEAD: Breaking the School to Prison Pipeline, a campaign to eliminate disparities between black and white students for out of school suspensions and end suspensions for pre-K to third grade.

Meet the Mentors



Stephanie Regagnon
President/CEO, FieldWatch Inc.
Founder, Ava's Grace

Stephanie Regagnon is the CEO of FieldWatch Inc. a nonprofit company promoting communications and stewardship in agriculture. She has devoted the bulk of her career to the agriculture and renewable energy industries in Washington, D.C., and St. Louis – most recently with Monsanto. She has been recognized for her work in community outreach by the *St. Louis Business Journal* as 40 Under 40 honoree in 2012 and by Ameren Corp as a “Community Light” in 2014. As part of Missouri’s Ag Leaders of Tomorrow, president of the St. Louis AgriBusiness Club and a graduate of FOCUS Leadership St. Louis and FOCUS Impact Fellows, Regagnon has developed key leadership skills and critical relationships.



Nicole Roach
Associate Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, Senior Director for Community Engagement
Webster University

Nicole Roach currently serves as the inaugural associate vice president for diversity and inclusion and senior director for community engagement at Webster University. She also contributes as an adjunct faculty member teaching women in management, leadership and change leadership — diversity and inclusion. Roach is the founder of covenant exCHANGE. The organization’s mission is “equip people to lead.” Through structured programming — face-to-face and virtual — individuals and groups are educated on strategies to lead in purpose, on purpose.



Jeri Schultz
President and Owner
Jeri Schultz & Associates LLC

Jeri Schultz is a leadership and professional development executive with an expertise in organizational leadership and corporate relations. Schultz serves as a business consultant to numerous St. Louis businesses, Fortune 500 companies and nonprofit organizations and is known for building leadership programs for women. Schultz has presented across the nation on topics such as change leadership, mentoring, confidence, generational differences and more. She currently serves as an adjunct full professor for Webster University and has taught women and leadership courses at Webster for more than three decades. Schultz has been on faculty and leadership teams with Webster, Maryville, Lindenwood and Fontbonne universities throughout her 30-plus year career in higher education. She is also a founding member of RISE Collaborative Workspace.



Cherie Summa, P.E.
CEO
St. Louis Radon Test & Mitigation

As a graduate of the Missouri University of Science & Technology with a degree in geological engineering, a certified general contractor and a licensed professional engineer in four states, Cherie Summa brings credentials and skills rarely seen in the radon testing and mitigation industry. She has covered everything from project and construction management of large residential developments to quality control and management of heavy construction projects like interstate highways. Now she brings that experience to St. Louis Radon Test & Mitigation. Summa is a member of the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technicians and currently serves as the vice president of the heartland chapter of AARST.



Stacy Taubman
Founder and CEO
RISE Collaborative Workspace

Stacy Taubman is a thought leader in female empowerment and entrepreneurship. Before becoming an entrepreneur, Taubman worked for 12 years in the academic world and holds a master’s in administration and counseling. In 2013, she founded Girls Dreaming Big, a tutoring and coaching company for teenage girls. In 2015, she launched her second company, RISE Collaborative Workspace. RISE is a 6,500-square-foot co-working space devoted to women entrepreneurs in Clayton. The space features private offices, flexible areas and conference rooms. Taubman has won awards and recognition for her work in the small business industry and is a frequent public speaker.



Erin Valentine
Director
McCarthy Building Cos. Inc.

Erin Valentine’s career in the construction industry has spanned a wide range of projects, from complex commercial, education and health care facilities, to federal, state and local government. In her role with McCarthy Building Cos. Inc., she collaborates with clients and project teams to develop and implement construction solutions, with a focus delivering an exceptional experience for clients. Since joining McCarthy in 2001, she has actively contributed to expanding the company’s specialized expertise, helping to drive the firm’s overall success both locally in St. Louis and across America, and solidifying it as one of the nation’s premier commercial builders.

Meet the Mentors



Galen Vassar
Senior Associate
Lawrence Group

Galen Vassar started out as a visual merchandiser for Gap and Restoration Hardware then transferred her eye for design into an interior design career. Now, professionally-certified with 12 years of interior design experience, Vassar is a senior associate with Lawrence Group and her work can be seen throughout the community. She has played an integral role in preserving several historic St. Louis landmarks, presenting creative design solutions for projects such as Peabody Opera House, The Marquette Building, Park Pacific and the award-winning Sun Theater. She has also completed education renovations such as John Burroughs School, Saint Margaret of Scotland and Forsyth School.



Beth-Anne Yakubu
Executive Director of the Emerson Leadership Institute
Saint Louis University, John Cook School of Business

Beth-Anne Yakubu oversees the development and execution of the Emerson Leadership Institute’s business model, strategic objectives and daily operations. Additionally, she builds partnerships and raises awareness for the institute within the St. Louis region and the global business community. Under her direction, the Emerson Leadership Institute serves as a hub for education and training, research and community engagement on ethical and responsible leadership in business. Yakubu has a background in creating programs, developing community partnerships and fundraising at Saint Louis University. In 2013, she led SLU’s office of corporate and foundation relations. As its director, she was responsible for raising funds for all schools, colleges and centers campus-wide. Yakubu started her career in higher education in 2010 when she assisted in launching the Center for Sustainability as the first assistant director.



Michelle Yates, APR, CPSM
Director of Marketing
Lawrence Group

Michelle Yates is director of marketing for Lawrence Group, a national design and project delivery firm headquartered in St. Louis. Leading a four-person marketing team, she oversees firm wide marketing strategies and plays a key role in winning work. She is a certified professional services marketer and leader in the A/E/C marketing industry through her involvement in the Society for Marketing Professional Services. She has spoken locally, regionally and nationally and has written articles on a variety of marketing topics. Yates is also accredited in public relations and serves on the executive board of Commercial Real Estate Women St. Louis.



Jackie Yoon
St. Louis Market President
Bank of America, US Trust

As market president, Jackie Yoon serves as Bank of America’s local enterprise leader across St. Louis. With a goal of delivering one company to clients and customers, she works across the region to connect Bank of America’s business lines to deliver integrated financial services to individuals, families and businesses. She also leads Bank of America’s corporate social responsibility work in the region, which leverages the unmatched capabilities of the company to help partners, people, communities and a broad client and customer base more effectively address a wide range of issues. In addition to being St. Louis’ market president, Yoon is head of US Trust and works with the firm’s most distinguished, high net-worth families, businesses and nonprofit institutions.

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