bizwomen wichita business journal MENTORING MONDAY, February 12, 2018

A speed coaching and networking event powered by bizwomen.

WICHITA Business Journal

1 | Michelle Becker | President/CEO, Profit Builders



Michelle worked in restaurant accounting and budgeting at Pizza Hut Corporate prior to founding the concept of Profit Builders in 1994. With a degree in Accounting and Business Administration from Friends University and an interest in real time job cost reporting for the residential building industry, the unique idea of completing payroll and accounting outside of the business owner's office began. After nearly 24 years in business, Profit Builders is now considered a leader in the outsource accounting and payroll arena, landing on the Inc 5000 2017 list of fastest growing private companies. Michelle has two sons, Aaron and Adam. Aaron leads the IT Software and Systems for the company. Michelle considers grooming employees to be leaders within the Profit Builders family as the most rewarding part of business ownership. Michelle enjoys outdoor activities with family and friends at the lake and traveling during any free moments she gets. Her sons are, without question, her greatest accomplishment.

2 | Christina Bluml | Director of Marketing, Exploration Place

Ø

Christina has more than 24 years of experience in marketing, and has been with Exploration Place since 2001. She oversees the museum's advertising, public relations, digital marketing, publications, promotional signage and website strategies. Before joining Exploration Place, Christina served as marketing specialist for seven years at Commerce Bank, Wichita. In 2013 she received the Wichita American Marketing Association's Non-Profit Marketer of the Year Award. She has served on local boards including Wichita American Marketing Association, PRSA Kansas and currently serves on the Wichita Hispanic Chamber board of directors. Christina earned a bachelor of arts degree in journalism and mass communications from Kansas State University.

3 | Katie Buresh | Project Coordinator, Conco Inc.



As the primary point of contact for Conco's Facility Performance Group clients, Katie Buresh's first priority is an immediate response. Open communication is key, she says, and that can mean followup calls, regular updates and weekly reports. Buresh is responsible for forecasting, budgeting and reporting. She keeps track of a performance client's serviceable equipment, even keeping a service calendar to know when service is due. With Conco for more than a decade, she recognizes the value of working with good people and building solid relationships. Conco, she says, is boundless, because "we're limited in what we can do only by a client's imagination. We offer a complete spectrum of services. One call is all it takes to let our clients get back to work doing what they do best. Our trustworthy team can handle all their maintenance or unsightly repairs with little to no disruption in their daily activities. We just make sense." Personal info: 1 am married, mother of 4: 2 girls, 2 boys, and a member of Christ the King Catholic Church.



4 | Amy Carey | President, Friends University

Dr. Amy Bragg Carey began her role as president of Friends University on July 1, 2015. Dr. Carey comes to the University from Minnesota, where she had served as the Vice President of Institutional Advancement for the University of Northwestern since 2003. At Northwestern she led the in the area of advancement, marketing and communications, alumni and parent relations, admissions, and financial aid. Dr. Carey served on the national standards committee for the ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability) in Washington, D.C. and is past chair of the Chief Institutional Advancement Officers Commission for the CCCU (Coalition for Christian Colleges and Universities). She is past president of the Minnesota Planned Giving Council, and currently serves on the Wichita Chamber of Commerce Board and Salvation Army Advisory Board. Dr. Carey holds an Ed.D from Azusa Pacific University in Higher Education Leadership, a M.A. degree in philanthropy and development from St. Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota and an undergraduate degree in communications from Bethel University in Minnesota. 5 | Kari Clark | Practice Administrator, Wichita Surgical Specialists, PA

I am a Kansas native, born and raised in Augusta, Kansas, but have worked my entire career in Wichita. I graduated from WSU in 1989 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing. My first job out of college was recruiting students to WSU. After working for WSU for 3 years, I started working in health care. After marketing for a Plastic Surgeon I joined Wichita Surgical Specialists in 1993 and have been here ever since. Over the years I have become actively involved with Managers Group Management Association (MGMA) on a national level. I received my board certification from MGMA in 2012 (Certified Medical Practice Executive) and recently completed my Fellowship with MGMA (it is the highest designation of achievement in the ACMPE). I have also been a WBJ Healthcare Hero for Administrative Excellence in 2010 and WBJ Women in Business in 2017.

6 | Tara Clary | Director of Marketing, High Touch Technologies

Tara has been a marketing professional in Wichita for over a decade, currently as Director of Marketing for High Touch Technologies (previously as Marketing Manager for Davis-Moore Auto Group). She has served on the Boards of Young Professionals of Wichita, Rotary Club of Wichita, Laughing Feet Performers, Music Theatre Wichita and the National MS Society Wichita Chapter; and has additionally served on volunteer committees for the Wichita Chamber of Commerce, Senior Services of Wichita and the Wichita Children's Home. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Wichita, a WBJ 40 under 40 (2012), a WBJ Emerging Leader (2017), a YPW Innovations in Business winner (2012), Wichita's AMA Retail Marketer of the year (2014) and a Leadership Wichita participant (2010). This year she was privileged to speak at Wichita's Know Your Worth Women's Leadership Conference on Optimism, Confidence and Community Service. A graduate of Wichita State University in Music Theatre Performance, Tara can occasionally still be found on theatrical stages around town, most recently Mosley Street Melodrama and Roxys.

7 | Ebony Clemons-Ajibolade | Community Relations Manager, Westar Energy



Ebony Clemons-Ajibolade is a Community Relations Manager with Westar Energy. Ebony is responsible for building relationships with community, educational stakeholders and non-profit organizations to enhance Westar's outreach efforts, including recruitment and employee volunteer engagement. Prior to joining the Westar team, Ebony worked for Wells Fargo Dealer Services where she was responsible for the consultative business practices with dealerships in South Central and Western Kansas. Ebony joined the banking industry as a Licensed Financial Specialist with Wachovia Bank. Ebony's passion is community. She strives to promote long term economic prosperity and quality of life for Kansans. In addition, she owns a small piano studio where she teaches 16 young budding pianists. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for The Kansas African American Museum, Real Men Real Heroes, YPW, KETCH, Storytime Village, Wichita Symphony Orchestra, Kansas Area IV Workforce Development and The Urban League of Kansas. She sits on the Wichita State College of Engineering African American Advisory Board and Advance Kansas' Advisory Committee. Ebony is a Wichita native. She attended Wichita Southeast High School and received a dual degree in Political Science and Psychology from Kansas State University and her Masters of Business Law from Friends University.





8 | Tammy Flaming | Director of Marketing, Larksfield Place

Tammy Flaming is the Director of Marketing for Larksfield Place – a full continuum Life Plan community. Ms. Flaming has nearly twenty years of experience in senior housing and health care marketing and sales. At Larksfield, Ms. Flaming was the key leader and an integral architect in devising strategy and tactics that took the community's Independent Living from 78% sold five years ago to 95% plus today with waiting lists. Ms. Flaming has led various marketing strategies that have revamped census and payer mix in the organization's skilled nursing facility and home health care. Five years prior, the organization's post-acute, Medicare payer volume averaged 5 residents. Today, the average is 32 and growing. The overall revenue impact for the community with the change in payer mix is in excess of \$4.6 million. Tammy's gifts are hospitality, customer service, creativity and a unique local connection to the market. Her competitiveness, artful sales tactics and hard work are her tools for surviving steep market declines and raising occupancy levels that exceed the organization's financial projections. And just for fun she finds ways to expose the organization in local and national media highlighting staff and community innovations.

9 | Sarah Hampton | 6 Meridian, Partner/Wealth Advisor



A born strategist, Sarah was hooked on financial advising by age 16. To her, the field is as exciting as they come, presenting the ability to affect real change in people's lives. The study of business economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara instilled in her a love for analytics, but the "people side" of the work kept calling her back. Focusing primarily on wealth advisory and retirement planning solutions, Sarah seeks to identify opportunities for clients then create a plan to accomplish their goals, be they retirement, saving, gifting, leaving a legacy or working through the metrics of a family. She grew up on a farm/ranch in mid-west Kansas and when Sarah isn't working alongside clients, you can find her rescuing and wrangling canines – she's currently the proud master of six – and finding new favorite activities, among them hiking, hunting, fishing and learning to play golf.

10 | Shelley Hansel |

Manager of Community Initiatives, Kansas Leadership Center



Shelley Hansel graduated from Wellington High School and went on to earn a Journalism Degree from the University of Kansas. She spent more than 20 years in television news and radio broadcasting. Shelley moved back to her hometown to become the Executive Director of the Wellington Area Chamber of Commerce/ CVB, a position she held for more than 12 years until deciding to run for Mayor. In May of 2015, Shelley was sworn into office as the first female to be elected mayor of Wellington. Her term will last until January of 2020. Shelley also serves as the current chairperson for the Regional Economic Area Partnership. (REAP) In 2013, Shelley, along with several other community leaders launched the Sumner County Leadership Initiative community leadership nogram. The program, with the help of the Kansas Leadership Center, continues today and is now under the direction of the Leadership Kansas Class of 2013 and a graduate of the U.S. Chamber's 2014 Institute for Organization Management. She is an active member of the St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Wellington and has three children, Carson, 18, Elise, 15, and Vohn, 8.



11 | Coleen Jennison | Vice President of the Kansas Market, Cox Communications

Coleen Jennison currently serves as the market vice president for Kansas, including Wichita, Topeka, Manhattan, Garden City, Pittsburg and 86 other communities across Cox's Kansas footprint. In this role, she is designated as the local senior executive and is responsible for ensuring alignment between regional and center reporting teams by partnering cross-functionally to keep our business and our people connected. She also champions the Cox customer and the Cox employee experience in Kansas, with a strong focus on employee engagement and growing talent. Since 2001, Coleen has served as the director of government affairs and has helped lead Cox's legislative and municipal efforts in Kansas, Nebraska and lowa. With more than 20 years of experience, she has served in several government roles including chief of staff for the Kansas house majority leader and chief of staff for the Kansas speaker of the house. Coleen is a longtime community advocate and currently serves on the boards of Via Christi, Rainbows United, the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and the Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association She holds a BA in communications/journalism from Benedictine College.

12 | Julie Koch-Olson |

Vice President of Operations and Business Development, Motion Watch, LLC and Director of Marketing, Synatec Neuro, Inc.



Ms. Julie K Koch-Olson serves as VP of Operations and Business Development for Motion Watch, LLC and Director of Marketing for Synatec Neuro, INC. Prior to joining Synatec Neuro, Ms. Olson served as Senior Executive Sales Specialist with Teva Pharmaceuticals. She was part of the Regional Sales Team for Southeast Kansas who worked with Physicians to educate and train medical professionals in the area of Allergy and Asthma. She also served as a National and Regional Sales Trainer for Teva Specialty during her time with TEVA, 2004-2014. She briefly held the position of Director of Franchise Development for Waterwalk Hotel Apartment in 2015. Ms. Olson has been involved with volunteering in the Andover community and the Andover School District. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing and Computer Information from Kansas Newman College and previously attended the University of Arkansas. Julie has two children, one in her second year at college and a freshman in High school. They currently reside in Andover, Kansas.

13 | Megan McCurdy Niedens | COO & Aucitoneer, McCurdy Auction LLC



Megan grew up working at McCurdy Auction, a family-owned business, in Wichita, Kansas that conducts over 500 auctions annually. In 2016 she became the Chief Operating Officer on the McCurdy Auction management team and has an extensive knowledge in booking and conducting auctions of residential, commercial and agricultural property. She also oversees personal property auctions and participates in over 50 charity auctions per year. Megan was crowned the 2010 Kansas Auctioneer Champion and 2013 International Auctioneer Champion – Women's Division. Megan has completed coursework to earn the Certified Auctioneers Institute and Benefit Auction Specialist designations from the National Auctioneers Association. Megan is an active member in our local Realtor association and is serving as 2017 President-Elect for the South Central Kansas MLS Board. She is Past President of the Kansas Auctioneers Association and is serves the National Auctioneers Association in several capacities. Since 2007 she has received the Master's Circle Award from the Realtors of South Central Kansas with over \$5 million in real estate sales annually.





I own Xclusive Events with my Brother Cody. We have been in Business now for almost 10 years. My Company Specializes in mobile bartending, staffing and event planning. We also own the Booze truck, Drink Local Truck and the Tin Shaker. Beer and cocktail trucks that we take to concerts, events, private parties, etc. We also started Bloktoberfest and just had our 2nd annual event in October. I grew up in Wichita, went to South High and then graduated with a Degree in Marketing from Friends University. I have been married for 4 years to Dan McDonald. He owns Nitro-Joes, a nitrogen infused coffee company. I have a 17 year old Step-son, a 2 1/2 year old Niece and a brand new Nephew!

15 | Laura Monahan | Chief Legal Officer, Cancer Center of Kansas

Born and raised in Wichita, Laura graduated with honors from the University of Kansas, receiving her B.S. in journalism along with minors in French and leadership studies in 2004. She then stayed in Lawrence to attend the University Of Kansas School Of Law. After receiving her doctorate degree in law (JD) and joining Hinkle Law Firm in 2007, Laura earned her masters of business administration (MBA) degree from Washburn University. Laura returned to Wichita to practice law full-time as a part of Hinkle Law Firm's business law & healthcare departments. She joined left her practice to join the CCK team as the Chief Legal Officer in the beginning of 2014. Laura was honored as a part of the Wichita Business Journal's "40 under 40" Class of 2013 and the Women in Business Class of 2017. She was also recognized in a special "Women in the Law" edition of the University of Kansas School of Law magazine in 2014. Specifically, she was featured in the up-and-coming section, which highlighted 4 young graduates achieving success early in their career. She was also responsible for the launch of the Wichita Cancer Foundation, for which she remains a member of the Board.

16 | Sylvia Penner | Attorney at Law, Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson & Kitch, LLC



Sylvia Penner is a lifelong resident of Kansas. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology in 1999 from Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kansas, and her Juris Doctor from the University of Kansas in 2004. After law school, Ms. Penner worked for four years as an Assistant District Attorney for the Eighteenth Judicial District in Sedgwick County. Ms. Penner joined Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson & Kitch in 2008 and practices in the areas of Workers' Compensation, Civil Litigation, and Criminal Defense, including White Collar Criminal Defense. She has a diverse practice that involves representing individuals and businesses in Municipal, State, and Federal courts. She genuinely enjoys her work and especially the people that she meets and serves. Ms. Penner is active in a variety of community organizations and activities. She is a board member of Kansas Appleseed, The Salvation Army, and Child Start. She provides pro bono legal advice at Wichita's Union Rescue Mission, Hilltop Urban Church, and World Impact Ministries. When she is not working, Ms. Penner enjoys participating in a number of organized sports, running, listening to live music, and spending time with her family.







17 | Mary Shannon |

President and Chief Development Officer, Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters



Mary serves as the Chief Development Officer for Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters. She has served in the nonprofit sector for over 20 years, in higher education, health, and now at BBBS. Her most recent post before joining BBBS in June 2013 was serving as President of Envision Foundation. In her current role, Mary oversees fundraising, marketing and volunteer recruitment throughout Kansas.

18 | Denise Sherman | Director Organizational Partnerships, Southwestern College



Denise Curry Sherman serves as Director Organizational Partnerships and Center for Corporate Learning for Southwestern College. This is a culmination of her three interests, leadership, lifelong learning and entrepreneurship. Prior to joining Southwestern College, Denise served in higher education in a capacity centered around workforce talent development and training. Her previous entrepreneurial experience includes owning three companies; a small aviation parts manufacturing company, corporate security and radio station group. Denise is a staunch promoter of higher education and has taught at the college level for over a decade. Over the years, she has invested in her own education and as a result, holds a Masters in Management, Masters in Business Administration and Masters in Organizational Development. In addition, Denise has remained engaged in the community by serving on many nonprofit boards, civic initiatives and special community projects. Her favorites are Wichita Festivals Inc. Rotary Club of Wichita. Know Your Worth Women's Leadership Conference, Leadership Kansas, Leadership Wichita, and programs with the Kansas Leadership Center. It is her belief that you should assist others in developing themselves in order to reach their highest potential!

19 | Diane Sorensen | Attorney/Shareholder, Morris, Laing, Evans, Brock & Kennedy, Chtd.



I grew up in Ness City, Kansas, and graduated from Kansas State University with a dual major in math and English, before going to KU Law School where I graduated in 1984. After law school, I clerked for the Kansas Supreme Court, and then for Judge Patrick F. Kelly of the United States District Court for the District of Kansas I joined Morris Laing in 1988, where I have been practicing law ever since. I practice primarily in the area of employment law, representing both employees and employers. More recently, I have become a mediator and very much enjoy mediating disputes between litigants. I am also an arbitrator for the American Arbitrations Association.

20 | Coleen Tabor | Human Resources Director, Spirit AeroSystems



Coleen Tabor joined Spirit AeroSystems, Inc. Human Resources leadership team in 2006. From 2011 to 2014 she held the role of Director of Investor Relations. With 15,000 employees globally, the Wichita location serves as corporate headquarters. Coleen's roles at Spirit have included leading HR consulting. Benefits Manager, HR Service Center/Payroll/HRIS. She is also the executive sponsor for Spirit's employee resource group – "Search". Today, Coleen is leading the Global Talent and Diversity team which includes talent acquisition, compensation, benefits, learning & development, diversity & inclusion, payroll, and services. With her team of 50, they provide strategy, programming, and services for the global enterprise. Coleen holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Masters in Business and began her career as a business Consultant at Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, LC. She is a long-time member of SHRM and past Wichita Chapter President. She is past-President of the Board for CASA of Sedgwick County, current Pando and Rise Up for Youth board member, 40 Under 40 honoree, Leadership Wichita 2012 class member, and past Junior League board member. Coleen resides in Andover, KS where she enjoys spending time with her husband, daughter Ailie, and son Chad.

21 | Belinda Venters | Associate Director of Public Affairs, University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita



Belinda Venters, Associate Director of Public Affairs, KU School of Medicine-Wichita Venters started this position in October 2016, after leaving her role as Director of Communications for the WSU Foundation, where she worked for 11 years. Prior to her time at the foundation, she worked at numerous non-profit organizations, including Heartspring, the Wichita Symphony and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sedgwick County. During her 28-year career, Venters has worked on the communications for three large capital campaigns, enabling Heartspring and BBBS to move into its current locations. She keeps a watchful eye on the progress of the WSU Foundation campaign for new buildings, and student, faculty and program support. Currently, Venters is tasked with enhancing the presence and perception of the KU School of Medicine-Wichita while supporting and promoting its individual departments. She graduated from Wichita State University with a BA in journalism with a focus on advertising and public relations, serving three years as an officer.

22 | Fe Vorderlandwehr | Executive Director, Alzheimer's Association Central & Western Kansas



I'm currently the Executive Director for the local Alzheimer's Association Chapter. Prior to this position I was the Director for the local American Diabetes Association office. I spent 13 years as a civil servant working at McConnell Air Force Base in the Marketing Dept and then the Community Center. I'm a member of the Downtown Rotary as well as a Junior League Member. In 2012 I was names the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Woman of the Year ... raising over \$58K in 10 weeks. I'm a graduate of Wichita State University. My background is fundraising and event planning. I firmly believe that being involved with local charities and programs can help not only build your network but can also help build your leadership skills.

23 | Stacie Williamson | Director of Development, Heartspring



Stacie Williamson began her role at Heartspring as the director of development in August of 2015 after working for the Wichita State University (WSU) Foundation for five years in the special events and development fields and prior to that serving as the special events coordinator for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sedgwick County. Stacie finds great joy in helping connect supporters to their passion and because of that, her work has always been mission driven. Stacie also enjoys creating processes and implementing strategic plans for success. Stacie has an enthusiasm and a positive outlook for her job. As a member of the Heartspring Leadership Team, she brings that supportive energy to the development and fundraising efforts. In her time with Heartspring, she has been instrumental in redefining the roles within her team to better meet the organization's fundraising needs as well as managing the fundraising efforts for the Expanding Possibilities Campus Expansion Capital Campaign. Stacie is a proud WSU alumna, graduating in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in business administration in marketing. Stacie's husband, Jeremiah, is a fire fighter and service member of the Army National Guard, and they have three children - Reed, Liam and Annie.

24 | April Winn | President, Winning Investment Solutions, Inc.



April started WINNING Investment Solutions, Inc. to provide commercial real estate solutions for her clients. She is passionate about the industry and helping businesses grow. A woman of Christian values, she operates with honesty and integrity. April focuses on identifying and securing new investment opportunities. As a retail specialist, April advises her clients on how to identify and negotiate leases and lease renewals. As a Minnesota School of Business graduate, April's 18 years' of commercial real estate leasing, development, and syndication experience includes prominent leasing and development involvement. These developments comprise of NewMarket Square, Shops at Tallgrass, and Tallgrass Centre. April is actively involved in the community through civic and industry associations. As a CCIM Designee, she is a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers, NAR and currently serves as the President of the Kansas CCIM Chapter. She is co-founder of the Women in Commercial Real Estate, an organization dedicated to providing education, mentoring and networking opportunities for women in the commercial real estate industry, and has held several board positions. April co-directed the Kingman Kong Runathon and Charity to benefit Main Place Youth. April, a dedicated mother of two to Piper and Lincoln, resides in Wichita, Kansas.



National Partners





Local Sponsors



