Leadership Academy 2018

This year’s 21st Century Leadership Academy, May 20—25, 2018, featured several updates from previous Academies and some exciting highlights that this year’s Fellows greatly enjoyed. The seven participating public universities and the 28 women they generously sponsored to attend this important program were both incredibly positive and highly motivated.

The Academy also greatly benefited from the support of two interns: Kyra Cooper of Truman State University and Nicole Crespi of UM–Columbia, both Leadership Academy alumnas. This year’s intern selection process was a highly competitive one. Academy interns help the Institute staff facilitate each step of the program and are truly integral to making it a positive experience for each of the Fellows. This year, the interns took their responsibilities to an even higher level. Kyra and Nicole further developed their program management skills by facilitating between panels, coordinating logistics, and independently working with groups of Fellows when needed. We are so grateful for their valuable help and input this year!

This year’s Women and Public Leadership panel featured: Carol Comer, Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, who has been active with the Institute since last year and a supportive friend of the Institute. Associate Circuit Court Judge Mondona Ghasedi of St. Louis County was also a new addition to this panel and offered a unique perspective on her trajectory to success in the legal field.

Another new addition to this year’s curriculum was a subject-matter discussion on Sexual Harassment in the Workplace. Many organizations are now taking a greater stand and educating their workforce about what constitutes sexual harassment in the workplace. The goal was to clearly define a “hostile work environment” and discuss policies currently being implemented in both the private and public workspace to prevent these situations from ever taking place.

Each year, the Academy features a panel encouraging women to run for office. This year, the Why You Should Run for Office panel featured State Representative, Donna Baringer, Ferguson City Councilwoman, Ella Jones, and former State Representative, Margo McNeil. All provided their unique personal and professional perspectives on their successful campaigns and tips for staying

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physically and mentally strong.

One of the week’s highlights was the Monday evening Affinity Dinners. Each of these dinners is hosted by a friend of the Institute at her home or at a restaurant. The Fellows are carefully matched with the host who most closely fits with their professional interests. These dinners are always an enjoyable learning and networking opportunity for the Fellows. The generous hosts create a fun and engaging evening for all.

The day-trip to Jefferson City is exciting and takes place during the middle of the program week. On that day, the Fellows debate a selected bill during a Mock Legislative Session in the Senate Chamber. This year, the bill up for debate was Texting While Driving (SB 755). We were fortunate to have the sponsor of this bill, Missouri Senator, Jill Schupp help prepare the Fellows for the debate of this bill on the Senate floor while former Missouri State Representative, Susan Carlson, presided over the mock legislative session on the day of the debate. The Institute is grateful for the generous contribution of their time and expertise, along with our debate facilitators: Brianna Lennon, Margaret Onken, and Elisabeth Condon.

The Academy’s Networking Luncheon took place at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. The luncheon is an ideal opportunity for Fellows to meet public officials and women community leaders within the State Capitol. The Institute thanks all of the important women officials who participated and reached out to Shear Fellows to inform them of the professional heights they can reach when they apply themselves. Often, Fellows are able to connect to directors of state offices and secure future internships, which was also the case this year. The visit in the State Capitol concluded with a brief tour of the Supreme Court Building and a visit

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The Leadership Academy Keynote Dinner was the climax of the week for Fellows and the community, offering Fellows an opportunity to network with respected professional and donors who offered them valuable advice and connections to further their professional goals. The Crystal Ball Room at the Clayton Plaza Hotel St. Louis served as an ideal backdrop for over 85 special guests, donors, Fellows, friends of the Institute, university advisors, and staff.

The evening was highlighted by inspiring remarks delivered by Betsey Bruce, Television News Pioneer. Betsey is St. Louis’s longest serving television journalist. She covered politics, education, general news, and the business side of sports and began her career as a junior high student journalist in Tonawanda, NY. While attending the University of Missouri School of Journalism, she edited the student paper and anchored a KOMU-TV newscast. Betsey was the first female full-time TV street reporter in St. Louis and the first to be assigned to daily hard-news reporting. Women TV reporters were oddities at that time, but when she began anchoring newscasts at two stations, St. Louis audiences embraced her work. She was “born curious” and has always had a strong commitment to public service which fueled her interest in news reporting.

Betsey has reported on almost every type of story. Her favorite assignments were political stories, including interviews with the mothers of three
Betsey Bruce, Television News Pioneer and 2018 Leadership Academy Keynote Speaker

presidential candidates and reports about the roles and contributions of women in public life. She lived within State Representative Sue Shear’s district for a period of time and Representative Shear was one of the first female office holders she covered.

In 2008, Betsey was elected to the St. Louis Media Hall of Fame. This year, she was named by the St. Louis Press Club as its Television Media Person of the Year, recognizing Betsey Bruce for breaking barriers in the profession and for her knowledgeable and reliable reporting.

The Sue Shear Institute and Leadership Academy were honored to host Betsey as our Keynote Speaker at our annual Keynote Dinner this year. She is a role model to women who aspire to become leaders in the field of journalism and to all women. She is a woman whose singular focus on the story and reporting the facts has always been self-evident and we applaud her for a lifetime of determination and courage.

The Institute would like to thank all of our Leadership Academy Keynote Dinner sponsors with special thanks to our $1,000 Governors-Level Sponsors!
Tiffany Graham is a 2017 Pipeline to Public & Local Office graduate. She successfully won her race for Alderperson for the City of Greendale and was sworn in on May 15, 2018. She stated: “I was nervous, but excited. when I took the seat behind my name plate.” At the Missouri Municipal League Installation Dinner, she was inspired to see the passion of her constituency and everyone’s excitement in making their community viable and vibrant. Very soon, she will be initiating the budget process which will begin a new phase of service for her. The Institute hopes that Tiffany will continue to enjoy her term as Alderperson for the City of Greendale, living and working with their engaged citizens. We are thrilled that the Pipeline program provided Tiffany with practical advice and networking opportunities enabling her to win her race. Each fall, the Institute offers the Pipeline to Public & Local Office program to facilitate participant’s success by preparing them to enter the political arena at the grassroots level. Congratulations Tiffany!

Betty Vining is a recently retired Founders Professor for UMSL Marketing and was a featured presenter in our 2016 LEAD Program. Her contribution discussing women in international business was a highlight of the LEAD program that year.

She has been part of the International Business Advisory Board, helped to develop workforce training programs, taught in several countries globally, and has been a recipient of numerous awards during her 25 year career at UMSL, including 2006 Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and the 2009 UMSL Faculty Adviser of the year.

Betty is now adding to her list of extensive achievements by running as a Democratic candidate for State Representative District 108 in the November 6, 2018 General Election. One of her signature issues is health care, with the goal of assuring that “all Missouri’s citizens have affordable health insurance.” She is also supportive of rebuilding Missouri’s infrastructure as the backbone of the state’s economic activity and believes that Missouri has failed to keep up with these needs.

As a former instructor in higher education, Betty favors the use of Missouri tax dollars to educate children and investing in Missouri’s citizens so that they have “the skills the jobs of the future will demand.” She will also be focusing on attracting clean energy jobs to the state and a bi-partisan approach to campaign finance reform to achieve true democracy.

We wish Betty well in the upcoming General Election and are proud of her affiliation with both the Institute and the University!
Circuit Court Vacancies in St. Louis County

On August 10, 2018, the Judicial Commission of the 21st Judicial Circuit of Missouri nominated one woman and two men from the 33 attorneys who applied for consideration. They were interviewed over two days.

The commissioners, who make the initial selections, include two attorneys, who are selected by the members of the Bar in the Circuit and two citizens, selected by the Governor. The Commission is chaired by the presiding Judge of the Circuit at the next level above the court where the vacancy occurs. Thus, Chief Judge Lisa P. Page of the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District led the deliberations. Their recommendations are current Associate Circuit Judges in St. Louis County: John N. Bourbons III, Joseph L. Green and Mary Bruntrager Schroeder. Traditionally, the Governor and members of his staff interview the nominees before selecting one to fill the vacancy.

The public is welcome to sit in on initial screening interviews that are open to the public. A notice will be posted on the website of the Circuit where the vacancy occurs. Members of the public do not speak or otherwise participate in the interview process. Information regarding the diversity of the existing members of each Circuit in the Nonpartisan Court Plan is available on the Sue Shear Institute’s website: www.umsl.edu/sueshear. Notice of vacancies and information about the interviews are posted at www.courts.mo.gov.

In addition to updates from Leadership Academy alums, we’re now including news from graduates of the UMSL LEAD program. We are proud to share their accomplishments with you!

*Graduates of respective programs are in parenthesis.

♦ Aaliyah Bailey
UMSL LEAD Program (’17)
Aaliyah is interning with the League of Women Voters this Summer 2018 and plans to graduate from UMSL with a BA in Political Science this December 2018.

♦ Stephanie Bell-Martin
University of Missouri– Kansas City (’03)
Stephanie was appointed Public Heath Administrator for the Randolph County (IL) Health Department in December 2017.

♦ Amy Brost
University of Missouri– Kansas City (’16)
Amy recently graduated with a Master in Public Administration from UMKC, specializing in nonprofit leadership. She continues her role as Communications Coordinator at Digital Sandbox/KC, a public program that provides proof-of-concept funding and resources for early stage companies in Kansas City.

♦ Abagail Campbell
MO University of Science & Technology (’14)
Abagail graduated from MO University of Science & Technology in May 2017. She also completed a certificate program in Medical Laboratory Science at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in July 2018 and is now employed in their Core Laboratory.

♦ Melony Crayton
University of Missouri– St. Louis (’16)
Melony is in the second year of her Masters at UMSL’s Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program. She will begin her practicum in Fall 2018 and will be graduating in Spring 2019. She is also training to become a doula, focusing on building a holistic wellness brand, catering to underserved neighborhoods.

♦ Brandy Geers
Missouri State University (’02)
Brandy was recently promoted to Senior Vice President at Fleishman-Hillard in St. Louis. She celebrates her 14th anniversary there and works within the Public Affairs & Engagement Group.

♦ Katelyn Hanners
UMSL LEAD Program (’17)
This year, Katelyn is Director of the St. Louis Area Undergraduate Research Symposium. The Symposium is research-oriented and scheduled to be held in April 2019. It is managed by a new student-led committee each year and accommodates seven universities in the St. Louis area.

♦ Christine Hoober
University of Missouri– Kansas City (’16)
Christine is currently Government Relations Assistant for the Federation of the State Message Therapy Boards. The Board tracks legislation through all fifty states on behalf of their member boards.

♦ Bailey Hughes
University of Missouri– Kansas City (’17)
Bailey graduated from UMKC in May with a BA in Political Science and is interning for Congressman William Lacy Clay this Summer in Washington, D.C. She received the Truman Bootstrap Award which is enabling her to complete her internship there.

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Jennifer is completing a summer internship with Jason Kander’s Let America Vote organization in Iowa. This field organization is the largest in the state of Iowa. Jennifer plans to return to the University of Missouri–Columbia to finish her Master’s in Public Affairs in Fall 2018.

Mackenzie Martin-Fisk
University of Central Missouri (’13)
Mackenzie was recently promoted to Head Legislative Aide for Nebraska State Senator John Kuehn (District 38).

Mackenzie Morris
Missouri State University (’18)
Mackenzie is a recent graduate of the Leadership Academy. Last May, she made a contact in Jefferson City and recently began an internship with the Department of Economic Development within the Missouri Division of Energy. Her project involves aligning Missouri’s data collection techniques with those of neighboring states. Congratulations Mackenzie!

Olayemi Ponnle
Missouri State University (’16)
Olayemi recently completed an internship with Isabel’s House, a local crisis nursery in Springfield, MO and is currently working as a Child Advocate Intern with the Springfield Child Advocacy Center. She will graduate with a BS in Public Relations from Missouri State University in December 2018.

Derecka Purnell
University of Missouri–Kansas City (’11)
Derecka graduated from Harvard Law School last year and passed the DC Bar. She received a Skadden Fellowship and is currently a Skadden Fellow Staff Attorney at the Advancement Project National Office. Her work includes cases on police violence, prison, divestment, and decriminalization. She also received a Fellowship at the Tshimani Center for Activist Education in Cape Town, South Africa.

Ashlee Reece
University of Missouri–Columbia (’12)
Ashlee graduated from the Saint Louis University School of Law in May 2017 and was sworn into the Missouri Bar in Fall 2017. She is currently working at Saint Louis University conducting internal Title VII violations for the Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity. She will be taking the California Bar this Summer. Good luck Ashlee!

Ericka Thomas
University of Missouri–St. Louis (’13)
Ericka is now Operations Lead with the ArchCity Defenders office in April 2018. She was also selected and participated in the FOCUS St. Louis Emerging Leaders Spring cohort.

Michelle Wade
Missouri State University (’03)
Michelle received tenure at West Chester University (PA) in Spring 2018. She recently published an article in the Journal of Politics, Groups, & Identities titled: “Let’s Not Get Sexist: Women & Identity in Community Organizations.” The article is an analysis of gender and neighborhood associations in St. Louis, based upon her dissertation fieldwork in the region.

Aleathea Williams
University of Missouri–St. Louis (’17)
Aleathea is currently serving as a Summer Congressional Intern for the Congressional Black Caucus in Congressman William Lacy Clay’s office (Washington, D.C.). She will be serving as VP of UMSL’s Student Government Association in 2018/2019.

If you need to update your contact information, please email: lvoss@umsl.edu
Serving on a public board or commission is an excellent way to put your talents to use in public service without running for office. For a list of boards and commissions in Missouri, visit the Governor’s website at http://governor.mo.gov/boards/.

The following lists include women who have been appointed to boards and commissions since January 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City of St. Louis</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jane Abbott-Morris</td>
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<td>Sherrone Beatty</td>
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<td>Amy Beckmann</td>
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<td>Angela Busch</td>
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<td>Sharon Coleman</td>
<td>Board of Equalization</td>
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<td>Janessa Corpuz</td>
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<td>Cynthia Crim</td>
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<td>Simone Cummings</td>
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<td>Clarissa Douglass</td>
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<td>Jill Duchinsky</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Fickas</td>
<td>Workforce Development Board</td>
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Appointments

City of St. Louis

Regina Fowler
Commissioners of the Housing Authority of St. Louis

Karly Frazier
212 S. Grand Community Improvement District

Sandra Gardner
705 Olive Community Improvement District

Alana Green
St. Louis Economic Development Tax Board

Erica Griffin
St. Louis Convention Center Hotel 3 Community Improvement District

Virginia Guyse
Board of Equalization

Kathryn Heitzenroeder
Tower Grove South Concerned Citizens Special Business District

Ashlee Henderson
Residence Inn Downtown Community Improvement District

Ashley Henderson
212 S. Grand Community Improvement District

Heather Highland
Civilian Oversight Board

Tracey Johnson
St. Louis Economic Development Tax Board

Rosanal Johnson
Regional Cultural and Performing Arts Development Commission

Laura Lashley
Residence Inn Downtown Community Improvement District

Stephanie Limmer
Dutchtown Community Improvement District

Mattie Moore
Ballpark Village Community Improvement District

Mona Parsley
Board of Adjustment

Dasha Pork
Crowne Plaza Community Improvement District

Andrea Purnell
Loop East Community Improvement District

Laura Rebbe
705 Olive Community Improvement District

Cindy Riordan
REJIS Commission

Kathryn Ruth
DeBaliviere Place Special Business District

Melissa Setser
Loughborough Commons Community Improvement District

Felicia Shaw
Loop East Community Improvement District

Heather Stanley
Railway Exchange Community Improvement District

Dasia Vence
Cherokee Street Community Improvement District

Cheryl Walker
Loop East Community Improvement District

Mary Walsh
Regional Cultural and Performing Arts Development Commission

Carolyn Welton
Cathedral Square Special Business District

Sherry Wibbenmeyer
Developmental Disabilities Resources Commission (DDR)

Kaylen Wissinger
Cherokee-Lemp Special Business District

Nicole Young
Planning Commission

St. Louis County

No new appointments as of 01/2018

*** Developing a Winning Campaign Plan & Budget ***
*** Targeting Likely Voters ***
*** Fundraising: Overcoming Anxiety and Mastering the Ask ***
*** Turnout! Getting Voters to the Polls ***
*** Public Speaking: How to be Super on the Stump ***

Pipeline to Public & Local Office
A workshop to equip candidates and their supporters for success
November 13 & 15, 2018
Woods Hall, Room 101
University of Missouri–St. Louis
6:00–9:00 p.m. Cost: $100.00 (5/$25 after Oct 26)
Registration Deadline: Nov. 8th, 2018

For more information or to register, call (314) 516-8727
or visit us online at www.umsl.edu/sueShear
Yes, I want to support the Institute’s mission of helping women participate fully in public policy decision making arenas:

Donor Designations

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Please make checks payable to the

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St. Louis, MO 63121-4400

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Contributions may also be made online via:
http://www.umsl.edu/sueshear/Become-a-Friend-of-The-Institute/donors.html

All donations are tax-deductible. Thank You.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates:

General Election
November 6, 2018
Pipeline to Public & Local Office
November 13 & 15, 2018
UMSL Alumni Room,
Woods Hall 101
Visit our website for more details:
www.umsl.edu/sueshear