Leadership Academy 2017

This year’s 21st Century Leadership Academy, May 21 – 26, 2017, featured some incredible highlights. The eight participating public universities and the 32 women they generously sponsored to attend this important program, were a group of highly motivated, intelligent, and positive women.

The program was supported by two interns, Keyontae Richardson of UM – St. Louis and Brook Reeves of Southeast Missouri State University, both of whom were Leadership Academy alumnae. They helped the Institute staff facilitate each step of the program and were truly integral to making the program a positive experience for each of the Fellows. Missouri Representative, Deb Lavender (District 90), acted as our Faculty-in-Residence (FIR) and generously mentored the Fellows, walking them through a large portion of the Academy curriculum.

This year’s program agenda offered a new panel featuring Leadership Academy alumnae, who provided the Fellows with networking tips and information on how this program has helped them both personally and professionally. The Women and Public Leadership panel was a highlight, headlining Sally Faith, Mayor of the City of St. Charles, Linda Goldstein, former Alderman and Mayor of the City of Clayton, and Rhonda Hamm-Niebruegge, Director of Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. These dynamic women were center stage, offering their personal experiences in their public sector roles and strategies for success.

Another new addition to this year’s curriculum was a Professional Etiquette session that covered a wide-range of professional etiquette topics including first and last impressions, conversation, business dining, networking, technology manners (social media, cell phones, etc.) and other exciting areas of interest. This session featured a meal in conjunction with the business dining portion of the discussion.

The Academy also included a popular interactive session on leadership styles by Wendy Werner of Werner Associates, LLC, a Lobbying and Advocacy panel, and a separate panel encouraging women to run for office. Every year, the Leadership Academy features a highly charismatic and influential group of women leaders who so kindly gave of their time and talent in participating in the Leadership

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One of the week’s highlights was the Monday evening Affinity Dinners. Each of these dinners was hosted by a friend of the Institute at her home or at a restaurant. The Fellows were carefully matched with the host who most closely fit 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 field trip to Jefferson City took place during the middle of the week was an exciting day and featured a mock legislative session where the Fellows debated a selected bill. This year, it was the “Voter Identification” Bill (HB 1041). The Fellows were scheduled to debate this bill in the Senate Chamber with Missouri Senator, Gina Walsh presiding. However, the Governor’s Special Session caused a few challenges. Ultimately, we were able to secure a House Committee Room in the Capitol. State Senator, Jill Schupp, agreed to step-in and preside at the Fellow’s debate on this bill. Her enthusiasm and ability to manage the debate process was invaluable and we are truly grateful for her leadership at a very critical point in the program.

The Governor’s Mansion Luncheon and networking event was a high point of the day in Jefferson City, especially due to the presence of the new First Lady of Missouri, Sheena Greitens. She shared her supportive message of women in leadership. The Fellows also had the opportunity to network with 18 women leaders within State Government. The Institute was fortunate to visit with so many women appointed to important leadership roles in State Government.

The visit concluded with a brief tour of the Supreme Court Building and a visit with two of three women judges of the Court: Judge Laura Denvir Stith and Judge Mary Rhodes Russell. They generously shared their stories of success with the Fellows and responded to a number of questions. The women judges of the Missouri Supreme Court are consistently an inspiration to the Fellows and to the Institute!

We would like to thank all of our participating Fellows, panelists, presenters, invited guests, staff, and other contributors who made this year’s 21st Century Leadership Academy possible. Every year, we strive to improve our program and benefit from the experience and knowledge of a new generation of women in public service.
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 100 special guests, donors, Fellows, friends of the Institute, university advisors, and staff.

The evening was highlighted by inspiring remarks delivered by Lyda Krewson, the first woman elected Mayor of the City of St. Louis. With candor and some self-deprecating humor, she talked about the challenge of breaking through the “glass ceiling” in St. Louis’ City Hall. Mayor Krewson shared the United States’ Federal Glass Ceiling Commission’s definition of that term: “the unseen, yet unbreakable barrier that keeps minorities and women from rising to the upper rungs of the corporate ladder, regardless of their qualifications or achievements.” Mayor Krewson confessed that, in her experience, it can mean “many bumps on the head.”

She was the mother of two young children when she became a widow at 35. Two years later, she decided to run for the Aldermanic seat, representing her district in the City of St. Louis. She was victorious, despite having unsuccessfully run for two other local offices. She held that position as Alderman for the 28th Ward for 19 years, and decided to seek the Mayor’s position when the incumbent retired.

To inspire others to meet challenges that seem like barriers, Mayor Krewson shared the following favorite, inspiring sayings: “Everything always works out… not always the way you planned … but it always works out.” “It’s only money; we’ll make more.” “Get it done PDQ.” In her view, leaders are optimistic, can roll with changes, believe in their mission, and can persuade others to join them.

Kristin Sobolik joined the University of Missouri-St. Louis as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs on June 1. Sobolik was previously dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.

At Wright State, she oversaw a college with 11 departments, one school, two institutes, one center, and eight interdisciplinary programs. Sobolik was a dean and professor of anthropology there since 2013.

Her new duties at UMSL include leading academic operations, research, and student affairs and reporting directly to the chancellor. Sobolik replaced Glen Cope, who retired in June 2016. Sobolik received her bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Iowa and master’s and doctoral degrees from Texas A&M University in anthropology. Sobolik contributed to the fields of archaeobiology and paleo nutrition with over 100 publications, books, and presentations.

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Prior to her time at Wright State, Sobolik was at the University of Maine as an assistant professor and later full professor and chair of the Department of Anthropology in 2006. She then became the
Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 2011. While there, she was also the Associate Director of the world-renowned Climate Change Institute. While at Wright State, Sobolik helped bring to fruition the modernization and expansion of the Creative Arts Center, including the Robert and Elaine Stein Art Galleries, the Tom Hanks Center for Motion Pictures, and the New Media Incubator. She guided the development of an area of excellence in Policy with the re-envisioned Applied Policy Research Institute (APRI) and formation of the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA), as well as the Center for Liberal Arts Student Success (CLASS), that focuses on student retention and workforce development.

Sobolik said, “The University of Missouri-St. Louis has some of the nation’s leading scholars who are truly committed to education, research, and serving a diverse, vibrant community. I am excited by the opportunity to engage with faculty, staff, and students to help harness and focus campus resources to ensure our continued growth trajectory and excellence in these vitally important areas.”

The Current was able to interview Sobolik about her first month at UMSL:

The Current (TC): Why did you choose UMSL?

Kristin Sobolik (KS): I was very excited to learn about UMSL’s mission to meet students where they are in their life journey and help them get to the next level. I am passionate about student engagement and success as the focal point for each person’s own development but also as a means to improving the success of our region and nation.

TC: After being here for a couple months, what do you like best about your position?

KS: I have been so impressed with the people I meet each and every day! Everyone here is so dedicated to what they do and to student success that it truly makes me happy to come to work. I have been exploring different areas and units on campus to meet people and learn more about UMSL, and I have been amazed at the hard work and dedication of everyone to our mission. It really feels as if we are working collectively toward a common goal.

TC: Do you get to use any of your anthropology experience in your position?

KS: [Laughs here!] Yes — each and every day! Anthropology is the analysis of culture and I have been a part of the culture of higher education for my entire career. But each institution has its own culture within that of higher education, and it is always fascinating to analyze, and adapt to, that different culture. It keeps me on my toes!

TC: Is there anything that you look forward to later in the summer or in the fall?

KS: I am looking forward to the time when I know most of the people on campus. I am not sure if that will happen this summer or fall — or even later — but there is such satisfaction in being able to identify all of your colleagues, and to know what important part of the UMSL puzzle each person plays.

TC: Is there any advice you would like to share to those looking at UMSL or those new to UMSL?

KS: UMSL’s beauty and attraction are immediately visible, both as a part of the physical campus as well as the engagement of the faculty and staff. My advice would be to look even further beyond that — to dig a little deeper — and I think you will find the heart of UMSL which is focused not on itself, but on our students, on their ultimate success and development. That focus is who UMSL really is, and I am so proud to be a part of that. ❖

*By Kat Riddler, Reprinted from The Current, UMSL Daily
The fiscal outlook for Missouri continues to be a challenge that impacts service providers who are largely dependent on public funding. This is certainly true for public higher education, especially smaller entities such as the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life. Since the student-focused UMSL “LEAD” program was initiated seven years ago, the sessions have been held on campus in the fall semester on selected Fridays. This has avoided conflict with classes and had the additional appeal of offering our student participants a complimentary lunch.

In 2015, on-campus catering costs substantially increased which adversely affected the Institute’s program budget. The belief that “There is no such thing as a free lunch” was challenged by an Institute supporter who stepped-up to the plate when off-site visits included lunch for hosts as well as participants.

As the Institute and the LEAD program face the growing 2017 financial shortfall, the “free lunches” will disappear unless other generous donors step forward. LEAD program speakers are women leaders from the public sector who share their experiences about the path they have taken to become “Mayor, Judge, Senator” or other leadership positions. The 100 plus graduates of the LEAD program have applied their leadership skills and commitment to public service by becoming campaign managers, working on state and local campaigns, while others continue within their academic careers and respective disciplines by seeking their Master’s, Doctorate, and JD degrees.

Although funding for this innovative program has been further reduced at the university level, it can still be preserved by the increased donor support of friends of the Institute. We welcome your support in these difficult financial times.

Antionette Carroll, Sue Shear Institute Amethyst Awardee (’13) and Leadership Academy alumna (’07), was named as one of Essence Magazine’s Spring 2017 “Woke 100 Women.” This award recognizes women who are blazing trails for equal rights. Antoinette is a Ferguson, Missouri native and is Founder and CEO of Creative Reaction Lab, developing a new generation of civic leaders and galvanizing Black and Latino populations in major cities to develop solutions that address racial injustices and inequities.

Lindsey Butler, a Sue Shear Institute Pipeline to Local Office 2016 graduate, won her contested race for Alderman for Town & Country, Ward 2 and is busy fulfilling her campaign promises. Lindsey expressed her appreciation of the Institute and the Pipeline program for providing her with important campaign knowledge/materials and encouraging her to pursue her political goals.

Congratulations Lindsey!

Emily Rapko McEneny
UMSL Career Services

Angela Pearson
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri

Linda Rallo
Pick Strategies

Pam Ross
Veteran Feminists of America

Hon. Mary Rhodes Russell
Missouri Supreme Court

Senator Jill Schupp
Missouri State Senate

Hon. Joanne Soudah
School District of University City

Hon. Judge Laura Denvir Stith
Missouri Supreme Court

Joan Suarez
Bread & Roses Missouri

Elizabeth Vining
UMSL Marketing Department

Wendy Werner
Werner Associates

Hope Whitehead
Whitehead & Associate, LLC

Woman Watch is a publication of the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life

UMSL Budget Cuts: The Belt gets Tighter

Above: Fall 2016 LEAD Participants eating donated lunches at their Community Service Project: Saint Louis Crisis Nursery, (St. Charles County)
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.

♦ Caitlyn Adams
University of Central Missouri (’07)
Caitlyn was named Executive Director of Missouri Jobs with Justice.

♦ Amanda Atkinson
UMSL LEAD Program (’16)
Amanda is currently volunteering at the National Suicide Hotline and is an intern with the Missouri Eastern Correctional Facility in Pacific, MO. She also began working as an Asset Protection & Security Officer for Mattel, Inc. in May 2017.

♦ Rebecca Bax
Lincoln University (’08)
Rebecca currently serves as Program Coordinator for Public Policy with the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council and has recently accepted the position of Executive Director for the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council.

♦ Christy Burger
UMSL LEAD Program (’13)
Christy received her Master’s Degree in Gerontology in 2015 and is currently an Admissions Coordinator for the skilled nursing division at Cardinal Ritter Senior Services.

♦ Stephanie Clark
Lincoln University (’06)
Stephanie is currently a math instructor at Lincoln University and has recently been elected Chair of the Faculty Senate.

♦ Melony Crayton
University of Missouri– St. Louis (’16)
Melony is in the process of finishing her year of service with College Bound STL and plans to graduate in December 2018 with her Master’s in Mental Health Counseling at UMSL.

♦ Shatera Davis
UMSL LEAD Program (’13)
Shatera graduated UMSL with a Bachelor’s Degree in Communications and then served for two years with the Missouri College Advising Corps as a College Advisor for Roosevelt High School. She plans to begin her Master’s Degree in Higher Education Administration at the University of Kansas this Fall 2017. While there, she will work as an Assistant Complex Director for University Housing.

♦ Brandy Geers
Missouri State University (’02)
After eight years with the U.S. Department of Justice, Jessica recently accepted a faculty position with the University of Idaho’s College of Law. Brandy has been Vice President of Public Affairs & Engagement at Fleishman-Hillard in St. Louis for 13 years where she is leading state public affairs campaigns for a national trade association as well as working to expand health coverage and access across the state as part of the Missouri Foundation for Health’s “Cover Missouri Coalition.”

♦ Nikki Gomez
MO University of Science & Technology (’13)
Nikki has returned to Missouri S&T for her Master of Science in Applied and Environmental Biology. She has served as the VP of the Council of Graduate Students, helped to establish the College of Arts, Sciences, and Business Graduate Student Leadership Council, and created a “Research on Tap” program to help graduate students and faculty showcase their research.

♦ Jessica Gunder
University of Missouri– Columbia (’03)
After eight years with the U.S. Department of Justice, Jessica, recently accepted a faculty position with the University of Idaho’s College of Law.

♦ Precious Hardy
Lincoln University (’14)
Precious returned from China in June 2016 where she was teaching English to middle and high school students and assisting on academic research on the alleviation of student stress related to college entrance exams. Upon returning to the U.S., she assisted on research projects at Northwestern University and the Saint Louis Science Center. Currently she serves as a Math Fellow in East Saint Louis, IL for the Blueprint Schools Network. In August 2017, she will begin her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology at the University of Missouri– Columbia.

♦ Jenny Joost
Southeast Missouri State University (’15)
Jenny graduated from SEMO as an Honor’s Scholar with a BS in Psychology. Currently, she interning in “metrics” at State Farm Corporate Headquarters through August 2017. At that time, she will begin her Master’s in Human Resources and Industrial Relations at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana.

♦ Emily Kelchen
Truman State University (’06)
Emily was recently named “New Leader of the Bar” by the New Jersey Law Journal and received a special award from the New Jersey State Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division. This year, she is serving as the Co-Chair of the New Jersey State Bar Association’s In-House Counsel Special Committee, Editor of the New Jersey Young Lawyer Division’s newsletter, and on the board of the Nonresident Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

♦ Julie Klein
UMSL LEAD Program (’12)
Julie received her Master’s Degree in Industrial Organizational Psychology at Saint Louis University in May 2017 and is pursuing her Doctorate within the same program over the next two years. She is currently a Leadership & Organizational Effectiveness intern at Ameren focusing on Talent Selection and Team Leader Effectiveness.

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Alumni News

♦ Young –Im Lee  
*University of Missouri– St. Louis* (’15)  
Young-Im completed her 1-year Visiting Assistant Professor position at *St. Norbert College* in May 2017 and is joining the Government Faculty at *California State University– Sacramento* as an Assistant Professor (tenure) in August 2017.

♦ Danielle Siembieda-Gribben  
*University of Missouri– Columbia* (’99)  
Danielle is the Director of *Leonardo: The International Society for the Arts, Sciences, & Technology (ISAST)* in Oakland, CA (San Francisco area) and is an Alter Eco Artist focusing on the intersection of art, technology and the environment.

♦ Jazmyn Manning  
*UMSL LEAD Program* (’15)  
This Fall 2017, Jazmyn will begin her Master’s Degree in Social Work at *Washington University in St. Louis*. Her emphasis will be in Domestic Social & Economic Development with a focus on System Dynamics.

♦ Amanda Marchegiani  
*Southeast Missouri State University* (’08)  
In June 2017, Amanda was selected as a participant in the Labyrinth Leadership Experience (Washington D.C.) by the Sigma Sigma Sigma National Sorority. She was also selected as a participant in the 2017/18 Leadership Lackawanna Core Program beginning in September 2017.

♦ Brittany Stegeman  
*Lincoln University* (’10)  
In 2014, Brittany received her Master’s in Counseling with an emphasis in Student Affairs (Higher Ed) at the *University of Nebraska at Omaha*. She is currently working at *Young Harris College* (Young Harris, GA) where she is a Residential Life Coordinator. Brittany has a passion for accessibility rights for persons with disabilities and is an advocate for diversity and inclusion among the LGBTQIA community.

♦ Ericka Thomas  
*University of Missouri– St. Louis* (’13)  
Ericka just accepted the positions of: Data Specialist at the *Father’s Support Center* and Program Administrator at *PayBack, Inc.* in St. Louis, MO.

♦ Donna Vickers  
*UMSL LEAD Program* (’16)  
Donna has been accepted into the Master’s Program in Political Science at *UMSL* this Fall 2017. She is specializing in Public Policy & Administration.

♦ Michelle Wade  
*Missouri State University* (’03)  
In 2013, Michelle accepted an Assistant Professor position in the Department of Public Policy and Administration at *West Chester University* (West Chester, PA) where she teaches MPA and DPA courses.

♦ Aleathea Williams  
*University of Missouri– St. Louis* (’17)  
Aleathea was recently inducted into the National Society of Leadership & Success. She is also a Senator within the UMSL Student Government Association and VP of Associated Black Collegians.

Need to update your contact information, please email: lvoss@umsl.edu

Appointments

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/](http://governor.mo.gov/boards/)

The following lists include women who have been appointed to boards and commissions since January 2017.

State of Missouri

Theresa Counts Burke  
22nd Judicial Circuit, Circuit Judge

Chris Chinn  
Missouri Department of Agriculture, Director

Carol Comer  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Director

Carol Silvey  
Missouri State University Board of Governors

Sarah Steelman  
Office of Administration, Commissioner

LaTeacha Tigue  
Governor’s Committee to End Homelessness

Nicole Hudson  
Deputy Mayor for Racial Equity and Priority Initiatives

Linda Martinez  
Deputy Mayor for Development

Anna Marie Wingron, MBA  
Special Assistant to the Mayor Boards and Commissions

City of St. Louis

No new appointments as of 07/2017
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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Contributions are tax-deductible. Thank You.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates:

Pipeline to Public Office
November 3 & 4, 2017
UMSL Alumni Room, Woods Hall 101

General Municipal Election
April 3, 2018

Pipeline to Local Office
January 22 & 24, 2018
UMSL Alumni Room, Woods Hall 101

Visit our website for more details:
www.umsl.edu/sueshear

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