A Crucial Time For Public Office Hopefuls

The upcoming 2016 election cycle and recent events in nearby Ferguson, Missouri inspired a number of new participants in the Fall 2015 Pipeline to Public Office workshop. Many will be volunteering for campaigns, while others are running in 2016 for school board, city council, local or state offices.

The Institute was fortunate to have Rebecca Gorley offer her expertise in running for public office. Rebecca is a political and communications enthusiast and former Field Director on State Senator, Jill Schupp’s winning campaign in 2014. Rebecca stressed the importance of developing a campaign plan including analyzing the number of votes it takes to win a race, building a voter file, canvassing, and other forms of voter outreach.

Tracy McCreery, State Representative for the 88th district, presented the basics of fundraising including assessing potential donors, creating a budget, the “art of the ask,” and a “fear” proof method for asking potential donors for the funds every candidate needs.

Sally Faith, Mayor of St. Charles, and Ella Jones, Ferguson City Councilwoman, facilitated our campaign simulation this year with a fun and spirited exchange of ideas related to campaign ethics conundrums. The participants also engaged in an enjoyable Q&A session with the Councilwoman and Mayor regarding their campaign experiences.

The program was launched Friday evening with a reception and panel discussion. Renee Reuter, District 2 Representative on the Jefferson County Council, Kimberly Gardner, State Representative, and Betty Van Uum, Former St. Louis County Council member, each shared their career path, challenges and rewards of campaigning and holding office. The participants benefited greatly from their candid and thoughtful comments regarding campaigns and public life.

The Institute is grateful to all who attended, our generous presenters who shared their expertise, and Betty Van Uum who kindly shared her home for the Friday evening reception.

We look forward to seeing these “students” running for office in 2016! 

Above: Kimberly Gardner, State Representative (left), Betty Van Uum, Former St. Louis County Council member (middle), and Renee Reuter, District 2 Representative on the Jefferson County Council (right) shared their campaign experiences during a panel discussion on Friday, Nov. 6.

Above: Sally Faith, Mayor of St. Charles, leads a campaign simulation exercise on Saturday, Nov. 7.

Above: Rebecca Gorley, former Field Director on State Senator, Jill Schupp’s winning campaign, outlines an organized campaign plan at the Institute’s biannual Pipeline to Public Office program.
**NAMEs IN THE NEWS**

**UMSL employee and Sue Shear supporter appointed to the Regional Arts Commission**

**Andrea Purnell** has been appointed to the St. Louis County Regional Arts Commission (RAC) by County Executive Steve Stenger. Andrea works for the Missouri Institute for Mental Health (MIMH) at the University of Missouri – St. Louis. She uses her background in the arts to educate the community on matters related to mental health. Andrea has volunteered at the Girls’ Summit program in 2014 and 2015.

**Margaret E. Holden**, formerly an Administrative Law Judge, has been appointed an Associate Circuit Judge for Green County, making her the first woman to serve on the trial court in Springfield.

**UMSL alumna appointed to the UM System Board of Curators**

**Yvonne S. Sparks** has been appointed by Governor Nixon to the University Of Missouri Board Of Curators, representing Missouri’s First Congressional District. She earned a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice, cum laude, from UMSL and has advanced degrees from Webster University and St. Louis University. She also attended Harvard’s School of Government Program for Senior Executives in Government. She currently is the Assistant Vice President and Community Development Officer for the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. She is one of two women currently serving on the University of Missouri System’s governing board. The curator position previously held by retired Supreme Court Judge Ann Covington is vacant.

*Are you a woman in public life with news to share? E-mail lvoss@umsl.edu.*

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**Girls’ Summit 2015**

1. **LEAD** participants and UMSL Yoga instructor Martha Phillip leads Girls’ Summit in some exercises. 2. **LEAD** participants Kenya Gibson and Maia Johnson. 3. **NAWJ** representative Judge Ellen Siwak presenting to the Girls’ Summit students. 4. **LEAD** participant Ashley Westbrook leading the Girls’ Summit students in an activity.
Healthy relationships were the focus of Ebony Williams presentation given at the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life’s annual Girls Summit. On Nov. 20, more than 80 local middle school students gathered in the Millennium Student Center Century Hall to hear the University of Missouri–St. Louis alumna speak.

Williams told the young ladies, “An abusive boyfriend will try to isolate you from your friends and family. He might say, ‘We’re Bonnie and Clyde! We’re Beyoncé and Jay-Z! It’s me and you against the world!’” But that doesn’t matter. You should not have to give up friends and family for a relationship. You should not lose yourself.”

Years of experience working as a family advocate with the Lydia’s House transitional residency program have taught Williams how to spot the early warning signs of a potentially abusive partner. Williams is confident in her knowledge base today, but she wasn’t immediately sure of her help to women and children in need when she took her position at Lydia’s House shortly after earning a UMSL degree in social work.

“When I started at Lydia’s House, I was fresh out of college, and I didn’t think I really had what it took to help these families coming from abuse and hardships,” she said. “But I discovered some of the most resilient people that I have ever met in my life. They didn’t let domestic violence change their destinies. Their fight and drive pushed me to recognize the privilege I have so that I can pour my energy into the work at hand.”

And there is plenty to be done at Lydia’s House.

Williams provides clients with crisis intervention, transportation assistance, parenting education and information on a variety of educational, financial and legal resources. She will even clean transitional apartments and offer childcare services as needed, and she still finds time to manage the community garden.

“I don’t mind a long day, or a long night for that matter,” she said. “It simply makes me smile to hear a person say, ‘Thank you,’ or, ‘If you weren’t here, I don’t know what I would’ve done.’ It makes me feel the impact I’ve had in someone’s life, and I know I’ve had times where I was in need of resources, attention or someone to listen.”

The Sue Shear Institute’s LEAD program aided Ebony in developing the insight and tact to guide her clients with empathy. The semester-long program is offered in the fall of each year and focuses on civic engagement, networking and leadership.

“I learned things at the institute that you cannot get in any college class,” she said. “The program coordinators emphasized professionalism, team building, community activism and how to take the lead. All of these skills I gained while I was a part of the LEAD program.”

Toward the end of her Girls Summit presentation, Williams encouraged the young women in attendance to be self-assured, set a good example for others and find their voices.

“Too often we as women allow ourselves to be hidden,” she said. “We don’t take enough credit for what we have done, who we have helped and served. But in this day and age we are witnessing women come from behind and stand out. We can’t be afraid to let people know we have opinions, we are educated, we are qualified, we are proud.”

Girls’ Summit Past & Present

The Girls’ Summit was first offered in 2013 at the initiative of the National Association of Women Judges to advance their goal: to help middle school girls make wise choices as they face the challenges of adolescence. Participants included students and advisors from school districts around the UMSL campus and the City of St. Louis.

This year, the new Hawthorne Leadership School for Girls joined the group. One of the highlights of the day was “Speed Career Options” where young women with interesting jobs rotate among the students’ tables shared details of their work and career path. The Summit workshop was the culminating project of the UMSL LEAD students’ semester-long program.

The Institute is grateful to the co-creator of the Summit, the National Association of Women Judges for its financial support and partnership. We would like to extend a special thanks to Judge Ellen Siwak, whose leadership and support made the Summit possible. Thank you!
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/

The following lists include women who have been appointed to boards and commissions since August 2015.

State of Missouri

Amanda M. Armitage  
Christian County, County Coroner
Karen L. Benson  
Missouri Medal of Valor Review Board
Nancy J. Brody  
State Committee of Dietitians
Dr. Mary A. Brown  
State Committee of Dietitians
Kelly R. Cook  
Missouri Assistive Technology Advisory Council
Jeanenne M. Dallas  
Missouri Board of Occupational Therapy
Ashton N. Frank  
Advisory Commission for Dental Hygienists
Judith A. Gillam  
Washington County, Public Administrator
Gabriel E. Gore  
Missouri State University Board of Governors
Jennifer S. Griffin  
Board of Therapeutic Massage
Dr. Rochelle L. Harris  
Missouri State Committee of Interpreters
Marsha E. Henderson  
Advisory Commission for Dental Hygienists
Ann Heyen  
Missouri State Board of Nursing
Margaret Ellis Holden  
31st Judicial Circuit, Associate Circuit Judge
Judith B. Huntsman  
Missouri Real Estate Commission
Shelly L. Jones  
Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
France L. Klahr  
State Committee for Social Workers
Heather A. Koch  
Missouri Board of Occupational Therapy
Rhachell M. LaRose  
State Committee for Social Workers
Karen Leader  
Nodaway County, County Clerk
Susan Long  
16th Judicial Circuit, Associate Circuit Judge

Sarah M. Martin-Anderson  
State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts
Nancy S. Maus  
Missouri Dental Board
Beverly Miller  
Missouri State University Board of Governors
Jennifer T. Morgan  
Board of Therapeutic Massage
Brandy M. Mouser  
Board of Therapeutic Massage
Krista (Kris) Neal  
Texas County, County Clerk
Erika L. O’Malley  
Advisory Commission for Dental Hygienists
Ellen (Nellie) Ribaudo  
21st Judicial Circuit, Circuit Judge
Susan J. Rockett  
Missouri Medal of Valor Review Board
Deborah J. Smith  
Missouri Western State University Board of Governors
Yvonne S. Sparks  
University of Missouri Board of Curators
Michala Tergin  
Organ Donation Advisory Committee
Shelly M. Summers  
Missouri Assistive Technology Advisory Council
Cindy S. Wininger-Watson  
Missouri Assistive Technology Advisory Council

City of St. Louis

Jane Abbott-Morris  
Civilian Oversight Board
Jennifer Allen  
Planning Commission
Tawnya Brown  
St. Louis Regional HIV Health Services Planning Council
Adona Buford  
Tower Grove Concerned Citizens Special Business District
Dr. Melody Goodman  
Board of Health
Shelley Hagen  
Airport Arts Advisory Committee
Heather Highland  
Civilian Oversight Board
Naretha Hopson  
Missouri Botanical Gardens
Jeriane Jaegers  
Workforce Development Board
Tina Markovich  
St. Louis Regional HIV Health Services Planning Council
Theresa Mayberry, Ph.D.  
Board of Health
Mona Parsley  
Board of Adjustment
Mary Ellen Ponder  
St. Louis Economic Development Partnership
Mary Sue Rosenthal  
St. Louis Regional HIV Health Services Planning Council
Kristine Shannon  
Workforce Development
Ciera Simril  
Civilian Oversight Board

Pipeline to Local Office
A workshop to encourage candidates and their supporters

January 26 & 28, 2016
Wood Hall, Room 101
University of Missouri-St. Louis
6:00–9:00 p.m. Cost: $70.00 ($85 after Jan. 16)

For more information or to register, call (314) 516-4727
or visit us online at www.umsl.edu/SueShear
Creating representative Government in Ferguson

Earlier this year, a group of civic engagement advocates convened by the Ferguson Municipal Library to discuss what could be done to encourage more diverse participation in all levels of public life. Many meetings later, the group offered two workshops for interested parties. One highlighted the roles of various levels of government from state legislature to local government.

The presentation was well-received by an interested and diverse audience. A week later, the Library hosted the second workshop, which covered the election process, including voter registration, filing for office and organizing a campaign. Ferguson requires the submission of 50 registered voter signatures within a list of no more than 75 names. This is a unique aspect of running for office in Ferguson.

A dozen people who had participated in Ferguson protests attended the Institute’s November Pipeline to Public Office program. This advanced civic engagement among Ferguson residents. For the first time, the program included a discussion of the implications of an arrest record on seeking office. These activists especially appreciated having another approach for creating change in local government operations.

In January 2014, a group of Ferguson community leaders attended the Institute’s annual Pipeline to Local Office workshop in preparation for running for the Ferguson-Florissant School Board in the April election. Three seats were up for election in April 2014 on a school board that was not generally representative of its community. This group of challengers consisted of Ferguson-Florissant residents. This election occurred prior to the protests and reactions surrounding the Michael Brown shooting. When the ballots were counted, Pipeline graduate Donna Paulette-Thurman Ph.D., won one of the three seats in this highly contested election. She was joined by Pipeline graduate, Courtney Graves Ph.D. in the 2015 local election. This racially diverse school district is governed by a board that is now 29% African American.

Since the 2015 election, the six-member Ferguson City Council is more reflective of its racially diverse community. This year, two graduates of the Sue Shear Institute’s Pipeline to Local Office programs were elected to the Ferguson City Council: Ella Jones and Wesley Bell.

2016 Election Promises New Candidates

Don’t get campaign fatigue yet! While Presidential politics and debates seem to be endless, Missouri voters will have contested elections to decide in 2016. For the first time in decades, no statewide constitutional office has an incumbent running for re-election. However, the Auditor’s office will not be on the ballot until 2018. It is currently held by Nicole Galloway who was appointed in 2015 to fill the vacant position.

The good news is that women candidates have created campaign committees for all of these offices. Former Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives, Catherine Hanaway, is running for the Missouri Governor’s office. First time candidate, Beverly Randles, is running in the Lt. Governor’s race. Randles is a lawyer from Kansas City who has been active in the civil rights movement and the Club for Growth. Robin Smith is a former newscaster in St. Louis and has declared her interest in the Secretary of State’s office. Former State Representative and previous candidate for Congress, Judy Baker, is seeking the Treasurer’s office. Teresa Hensley, former Cass County Prosecutor, is a candidate for Missouri Attorney General.

The 2016 election season offers significant opportunities to learn or practice valuable campaign skills which includes fund raising, public speaking, and general salesmanship. In addition to the statewide constitutional office openings, there are many opportunities within the state legislature in 2016. The Institute’s next campaign school, Pipeline to Local Office, will be held from 6-9 p.m. on January 26 and 28, 2016.
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! (Note: The number in parenthesis represents year of participation in the Leadership Academy.)

♦ Rebecca Bax
Lincoln University ('08)
Rebecca works as an Education and Family Support Program Coordinator for the Missouri Development Disabilities Council.

♦ Loretta Dunn Hunter
Missouri University of Science and Technology ('06)
Loretta was promoted to Compliance Director at Anitox Corporation. She oversees the company’s quality assurance, intellectual property and regulatory affairs globally.

♦ Renessa Foronda
Truman State University ('04)
Renessa relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina. She works in the field of IT recruiting for a tech marketing company, Red Ventures.

♦ Lauren Gepford
University of Missouri – Kansas City ('11)
Lauren is the Executive Director of the Jackson County (MO) Democratic Committee. In November 2015, she was awarded the Greater Kansas City Women’s Political Caucus Torch Award. The Torch Award is awarded to a young woman of promise who is very involved with the Caucus, committed to its mission and plans to continue her career in public service.

♦ Julie Klein
UMSL LEAD Program ('12); UMSL LEAD Apprentice ('13)
Julie is pursuing her doctorate in Industrial-Organizational Psychology at Saint Louis University. She plans on graduating with her Masters in May 2017 and continue her dissertation research afterwards.

♦ Lindsey Laird
University of Missouri – St. Louis ('14); UMSL LEAD Program ('14)
Lindsey graduated Manda Cum Laude with a degree in Anthropology in May 2015 from UMSL. She started ‘Aya Grows’, a nonprofit dedicated to transforming vacant lots into Multi-Purpose Urban Green Spaces. Lindsey is also working as a journalist for 'I am East St. Louis' - the Magazine and as a Gaia Ambassador for Studio Gaia Edwardsville.

♦ Meghan Lowery, Ph.D.
Missouri State University ('06)
Meghan is the Consultant for Global Assessment and Workforce Research at Eli Lilly & Co. in Indianapolis, IN, which has been recognized as one of the top workplaces for women. Part of her work involves conducting research on the global employee population, including tracking engagement through the employee lifecycle, and studying differences and similarities between men and women at work to improve working conditions for all.

♦ Mackenzie Martin
University of Central Missouri ('13)
Mackenzie was promoted to operations manager at The Hope Venture Project. The Hope Venture is a nonprofit organization that works with compassion projects. They assist the United States, Africa, and India with resources to help families, women, and children escape poverty, gain education, develop a better quality of life, and begin living in a sustainable environment.

♦ Roan Peters
University of Missouri – Columbia ('06)
Roan finished her first year as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer at the Susannah Wesley Community Center. She designed and piloted the SWCC Mentoring Program which serves to match volunteer mentors with at-risk youth in the Kalili-Palama community. Roan extended her AmeriCorps VISTA and now serves at the University of Hawaii’s Office of Civic and Community Engagement working with their Financial Literacy Program providing outreach services for the low-income undergraduate students.

♦ Sarah Welch
Missouri University of Science and Technology ('00)
Sarah works in project management. She brings to the market a new suite of products focused on analyzing the efficacy of employers, insurers, and health care providers in getting peoples back to work after illness or disability.

For more fellows’ updates, visit: http://www.umsl.edu/sueshear

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

Are you a 21st Century Leadership Academy alumna?

Do you want to help the next class of Sue Shear Fellows?

The Fellows’ Legacy Circle is a society of Shear Fellows who are investing in future leaders by contributing financially to support the participation of Shear Fellows at the Academy each year.

For more information, please visit: http://www.umsl.edu/sueshear
2015 LEAD

“The LEAD program taught me the steps to be successful in my career and helped me develop the leadership skills to become a future woman leader.” Bri Ehsan

After a whirlwind of a semester, the 2015 LEAD program graduates wrapped up their semester with a lovely luncheon at UMSL’s Gallery Visio. UMSL Provost Glen Cope, Ph.D. spoke to the students about leadership and their careers, but most of all, celebrating. Cope wanted the LEAD participants to take time to celebrate their accomplishments. And the LEAD students certainly deserved it!

Beginning in September 2015 through December 2015, LEAD participants attended weekly program meetings. These meetings varied from practicing salary negotiation to learning about their leadership style while simultaneously preparing for the Fall 2015 Girls' Summit program. Throughout the semester, the LEAD students learn about leadership and work on career building skills. But the program is so much more. 2015 LEAD program student Mahogany Wilson felt that her experience was much greater than developing skills for her career:

“This program was awesome. I’m glad I had the opportunity to be a part of such a great program. This program takes me out of my comfort zone [and] in turn, I get to meet some amazing women of different races, ages, and who had very different goals on why they join….All I felt like I made so new friendships that will be beneficial to me in my near future.”

The LEAD students are also able to apply their leadership skills at the Girls’ Summit program. The Girls’ Summit partners with the National Association for Women Judges where 50+ middle schooler girls come to the UMSL campus for one day. The Girls’ Summit encourages educational success, promotes healthy relationships with peers, and builds self-esteem. LEAD students help facilitate activities and develop bonds with the middle schoolers throughout the day. While the middle school students learn about health decisions and lifestyle choices, the LEAD students help the middle schoolers develop confidence and become empowered young women.

The LEAD students experience similar benefits. They too develop confidence and become empowered women leaders on UMSL campus. The 2015 LEAD Apprentice, Melony Crayton, witnessed that change in the LEAD students as well. Melony found that “[t]his group of remarkable women… showed me what leadership really looks like, and I learned a lot from them.” Melony is the “leader of leaders” for this group of capable young women who constituted the LEAD program this year. ❖

Are you a LEAD program alumna?

Do you need to update your contact information?

Please visit: www.umsl.edu/sueshear

LEAD Program Participants at their community service project at Lydia’s House, a transitional housing provider for abused women and children

Sue Shear staff members, Lynn Voss and Vivian Eveloff with the 2015 LEAD Program Participants at their graduation luncheon at UMSL Gallery Visio
Yes, I want to support the Institute’s mission of helping women participate fully in public policy decision making arenas.

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Contributions are tax-deductible. Thank You.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates:

Pipeline to Local Office
January 26 & 28, 2016
UMSL Alumni Room,
Woods Hall 101

General Municipal Election
April 5, 2016

21st Century Leadership Academy Dinner
May 26, 2016

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