The upcoming 2019 local election cycle inspired a number of new participants in the Fall 2018 Pipeline to Public & Local Office workshop. Many were volunteering for campaigns, while others were running in 2018 for school board, city council, local or state offices.

The participants were fortunate to benefit from the expertise of Karla May who was fresh from her November 6, 2018 win for the Missouri State Senate. Senator May provided details on Reaching Target Voters, her blueprint to win, and planning a cohesive message to target voters. She also focused on building a voter file, canvassing, and other forms of voter outreach. Senator May was formerly Missouri State Representative for the 84th District in the City of St. Louis. She has been employed with AT&T for 14 years, served on the legislative committee, and has lobbied the legislature for years on issues affecting the lives of working men and women.

Linda Rallo, Vice President of Aligned Consulting Group, presented information on a cohesive communication strategy in both partisan, statewide campaigns and local, nonpartisan campaigns. Linda has been an education advocate for more than 20 years and as Vice President at Aligned, she oversees education policy and legislation in Missouri.
Blueprint for Local Office Hopefuls to Win in 2019

Pipeline participants also benefited from the fundraising experience of Meredith Gibbons-Shadwick, Principal at MGS Consulting, LLC. Meredith presented the basics of fundraising including finding your fundraising goal, creating a fundraising plan, assessing potential donors, why people give, and the “art of the ask.” Meredith is a fundraising consultant who helps a variety of candidates reach their fundraising goals. Previously, she was a staff assistant for U.S. Senator, Roy Blunt, PAC/Grassroots Coordinator for Smiths Group, and Finance Director for the winning candidate in the 2016 Missouri Governor’s race.

The Institute plans to hold another Pipeline workshop in November 2019. Once again, we will be inviting both public and local candidates, covering material on higher office and local office aspects of campaign strategy.

The Institute is grateful to all who attended, our presenters and facilitators who shared their expertise. We look forward to seeing our participants running for office in 2019!

Leadership Academy 2019 on Hiatus

For more than 20 years, the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life has served as a statewide asset in the preparation of individuals interested in influencing public policy as officeholders, public sector employees or volunteers on various public governing boards. Today, participants in one or more of the Institute’s programs are having a profound and positive effect on a wide range of public activities, including the judiciary, state and local governments and higher education.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis wants to preserve the legacy and leadership preparation aspects of the Institute as it undergoes personnel changes, such as the reduced presence of its founder and director, Vivian Eveloff. Therefore, UMSL is conducting conversations with our internal and external community to determine the best way forward for the Institute and its various programs – including the 21st Century Leadership Academy, which is being placed on hiatus this spring.

Provost Kristin Sobolik has enlisted UMSL’s Community Innovation and Action Center to plan and oversee these conversations, which will include Institute stakeholders at various levels. The Provost has requested that CIAC staff provide her with way-forward recommendations that can be implemented for 2020.

Stakeholders will receive additional information about this process and ways to be involved in the coming weeks.
In 2018, 1,875 (25.3%) of the 7,383 state legislators in the United States were women. Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quintupled.

Women in the U.S. Senate:
Women hold 24 (24%) of the 100 seats in the U.S. Senate

Women in the U.S. House of Representatives:
Women hold 87 (20%) of the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives
(Source: http://cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/levels_of_office/documents/elective.pdf)

Women on the Supreme Court:
3 (33%) of the 9 justices on the U.S. Supreme Court are women

Women Cabinet Members:
7 of 23 (30%) Cabinet members appointed by the President are women

Women Governors:
Women serve as Governor in 6 (12%) of the 50 United States

Women in State Legislatures:
In 2018, 1,875 (25.3%) of the 7,383 state legislators in the United States were women. Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quintupled.
(Source: Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey)

In Missouri:

25% of U.S. Representatives from MO are women:
Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-Harrisonville, 4th District)
Rep. Ann Wagner (R-St. Louis, 2nd District)

43% of Missouri Supreme Court Judges are women:
Judge Laura Denvir Stith
Judge Mary Rhodes Russell
Judge Patricia Breckenridge

38% of Statewide Executive Office Holders are women:
Chris Chinn
Missouri Director of Agriculture
Maida Coleman
Missouri Public Service Commission
Carol Comer
Missouri Director of Natural Resources
Nicole Galloway
Missouri State Auditor
Anna Hui
Missouri Director of Labor and Industrial Relations
Chlora Lindley-Myers
Missouri Director of Insurance

In the Missouri Legislature:

♦ Currently, women hold 37 (22.8%) of the 163 seats in the Missouri House of Representatives and 8 (23.5%) of the 34 seats in the Missouri Senate.

♦ In 2018, the Center for American Women in Politics ranked Missouri 32nd among the states in the percentage of women in the state legislature.

In St. Louis-Area Local Government:

♦ In 2018, women held 3 (42.9%) of 7 seats on the St. Louis County Council and 0 of 7 seats on the St. Charles County Council.

♦ In 2018, women held 13 (46%) of the 28 seats on the St. Louis Board of Aldermen. In 2016, the City of St. Louis elected their first female mayor, Lyda Krewson.

♦ In 2018, 36.5% (average) of all St. Louis City board members and mayoral appointments were women.

♦ In 2018, women led 21 (24%) of the 88 municipalities in St. Louis County and 3 (21.4%) of 14 municipalities in St. Charles County.
Governor Mike Parson Appoints New Women in Leadership Roles

Since August 2018, Governor Mike Parson has appointed 21 women to leadership positions on state boards and commissions. Among these prominent women, two have connections to the UM System and Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life:

Colonel Sandra Karsten was named by Governor Parson as Missouri’s Public Safety Director and was the first selection to the Governor’s Cabinet. Karsten was formerly Highway Patrol Superintendent for the former Greiten’s administration and participated in the Institute’s 2017 Leadership Academy. She is a shining example of integrity and how they could incorporate public leadership into their future plans. Karsten is an important example of public service and how women can be a part of something larger than themselves.

Kim Bailey was appointed to the State Board of Education in August 2018. Bailey is former president of the Raymore-Peculiar School District and is a licensed mental health professional and trauma specialist. She holds a Master’s from Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, and is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia. She served as the Dean of Women for Calvary Bible College and Theological Seminary in Kansas City from 2008-2015 and is currently in private practice as a therapist in Raymore.

Governor’s Mansion Networking Luncheon.

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Congratuations Brianna!
Welcome New Administrative Coordinator, Rhonda Echols–Bradford

The Sue Shear Institute is pleased to welcome Rhonda Echols-Bradford, who joined us in January 2019 as the new Administrative Coordinator.

Rhonda holds an Associates Degree in Graphic Design from St. Louis Community College and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration and Master’s in Education: Curriculum and Instruction, from Fontbonne University.

Rhonda has worked in the education field for over 15 years and was previously an adult educator, helping young women to obtain their GED as well as an advocate for them in other challenging situations. Rhonda is familiar with the obstacles many women face and as a new team member of the Sue Shear Institute, will be an incredible asset in supporting the mission of the Institute, helping women utilize their talents and accomplish their goals.

Welcome Rhonda!

Alumnae News

Please see the inspiring professional updates from our Leadership Academy and LEAD Program alumnae. We are proud to share their successes with you! Each alumna’s home University stated and year of graduation from the Leadership Academy or LEAD shown in parenthesis.

Jennifer Connelly-Bowen
University of Missouri– St. Louis (’16)
Jennifer became Executive Director of the Community Builders Network of Metro St. Louis (CBN) in August 2018. She was also selected to participate as a Fellow in the St. Louis Chapter of the New Leaders Council (NLC) Institute for Spring 2019.

Lauren Gepford
University of Missouri– Kansas City (’11)
Lauren recently completed her work as Director of Data & Analytics for a top tier U.S. Senate race in Tennessee and in late January 2019, will serve as the Executive Director of the Missouri Democratic Party. Lauren recently started her own company: The Gepford Group which helps progressive causes and non-profits to utilize their data and make data-driven decisions.

Nikki Gomez
MO University of Science & Technology (’13)
Nikki graduated from MO University of Science & Technology in December 2018 with an M.S. in Applied and Environmental Biology. She is now an Adjunct Professor at Missouri S&T, teaching General Biology and at Ozark Technical Community College (OTC), teaching Microbiology.

Demetria Green
Missouri State University (’15)
Demetria is currently a teaching assistant at Missouri State University, instructs both Public Speaking and Communication Theory courses, and serves as the President of Communication Graduate Students Organization. She also works part-time with the USCIS and FOIA branches. Demetria will be graduating in May 2019 with an M.A. in Communication.

Precious Hardy
Lincoln University (’14)
Precious is a second-year doctoral student at UM– Columbia, working on her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology. She is also a Campus Ambassador for the American Psychological Association, a Fellow at the Center for Advancing Opportunity, and a scholar for the Southern Regional Board of Education.

(continued on page 6)
University of Missouri – Kansas City ('16)
Christine is the Program Manager for Legislative and Regulatory Affairs at the American Massage Therapy Association in Evanston, Illinois.

Emily Kelchen
Truman State University ('06)
Emily recently opened her own legal marketing firm while still lobbying on the side. She also designs a line of legal-themed t-shirts for Amazon. One best selling t-shirt proudly proclaims: “A woman’s place is in the courthouse.”

Elise Kittrell
MO University of Science & Technology ('12)
Elise is currently the Technical Manager for Green Empowerment: an international non-profit. She oversees all water, sanitation, and renewable energy projects in Latin America and Southeast Asia along with the management of partners and projects in Peru and Bolivia.

Brianna Lennon
Truman State University ('06)
Brianna was elected Boone County Clerk in November 2018 and begins her tenure January 1, 2019. She and her husband also welcomed the birth of their daughter, Isabel, on December 20, 2018. Congratulations Brianna!

Nabihah Maqbool
University of Missouri– Columbia ('08)
Nabihah graduated from the University of Chicago Law School in Spring 2018. In Fall 2018, she began a Racial Justice Fellowship in Washington D.C. with Muslim Advocates: a national legal and educational organization. Her work focuses on government surveillance practices and countering violent extremism programs in the context of civil rights and civil liberties.

Emily Meyer
MO University of Science & Technology ('17)
Emily graduated from MO University of Science & Technology in December 2018 with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and is currently looking for a professional position in Minnesota.

Deirdre Oliver
UMSL LEAD Program ('17)
Deirdre is currently an 8th Grade English Language Arts Teacher at Gateway Middle School in St. Louis. She is also a Graduate student in the Middle School Education (MAT) Program at Lindenwood University with an anticipated graduation date in May 2020.

Lauren Palmer
University of Missouri – Columbia ('99)
In September 2018, Lauren became Director of Local Government Services for the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC). MARC is the regional council of governments and metropolitan planning organization for the greater Kansas City area. They serve 9 counties and 119 cities on both sides of the state line. Her area of oversight is shared services, government training, and cooperative purchasing.

Kaylee Peile
University of Missouri– Kansas City ('17)
In July 2018, Kaylee began a four-year term as Commissioner for the Kansas City Historic Preservation Commission. In August 2018, she was hired as Portfolio Catalyst for the Kansas City Social Innovation Center and Mayor Sly James’ Youth Employment Program-Hire KC. In this role, Kaylee facilitates paid internship experiences for youth. She was also appointed as AHEAD Scholar of Central Exchange: Kansas City’s leading organization in advancing women in professional and leadership roles.

Judith Rowland
Missouri State University ('09)
Judith is currently working as a Managing Supervisor in the Public Affairs group at FleishmanHillard in St. Louis. She also recently accepted a nomination to become Co-President of the Board of Directors of the United Ministries in Higher Education.

Bailey Saldana
University of Central Missouri ('17)
Bailey completed her B.S. in Criminal Justice at the University of Central Missouri in 2018 and plans to begin her M.A. in Criminal Justice at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in August 2019.

Julia Spoerry
University of Missouri – St. Louis ('17)
Julia is currently an MPPA student at UM– St. Louis. She recently completed the Coro Women in Leadership Fellowship through FOCUS St. Louis as well as the Sue Shear Institute’s Pipeline to Public & Local Office. Additionally, she received a promotion to full-time Community Development Specialist for the City of Florissant. Congratulations Julia!

Tricia Swartz
University of Missouri – Columbia ('17)
Tricia plans to graduate from UM– Columbia in May 2019 with a B.A. in Political Science. In 2018, she worked as Political Director for U.S. Representative Vicky Hartzler’s 2018 reelection campaign. Representative Hartzler won her reelection for Missouri’s 4th District.

Ericka Thomas
University of Missouri – St. Louis ('13)
In April 2018, Ericka became Operations Lead at the ArchCity Defenders in St. Louis. She is also co-chairing the NPML Alumni Network for the NPML program at UMSL.

Michelle Wade
Missouri State University ('03)
In May 2018, Michelle was awarded tenure at West Chester University (PA). She also received an award from the university’s Graduate Student Association for outstanding service: improving the graduate student experienced at WCU. She also volunteers for the United Way and the Chester County Fund for Women & Girls.

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

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

State of Missouri

State Board of Education
Kim Bailey

Committee for Professional Counselors
Dr. Cindy Herrmann Blake

Kansas City Board of Election Commissioners
Sharon Turner Buie

Missouri Western State University Board of Governors
Jennifer Dixon

Stoddard County Public Administrator
Cindy Duckworth

Missouri Board of Examiners for Hearing Instrument Specialists
Lisa Elmore

Missouri State Board of Nursing
Dr. Anne Heyen

Director of Public Safety
Colonel Sandra Karsten

Wayne County Associate Circuit Judge
Christina Kime

Christian County Associate Circuit Judge
Jessica Kruse

Kansas City Board of Election Commissioners
Alyssa Mayer

Missouri State Board of Nursing
Dr. Julie Miller

Missouri State Board of Nursing
Dr. Sheila Barrett Ray

Schuyler County Circuit Clerk
Cindy Robinson-Steen

Missouri Western State University Board of Governors
Kayla Sue Schoonover

Missouri Veterinary Medical Board
Dr. Linda Scorse

Clean Water Commission
Pat Thomas

Clark County Public Administrator
Melissa Vigen

Missouri Ethics Commission
Cheryl D.S. Walker

Committee for Professional Counselors
Dr. Linda Sue Hermann Wimpfheimer

Colonial Marketplace CID Board
Jill Duchinsky
Melissa Setser

St. Louis County

Colonial Marketplace CID Board
Jill Duchinsky
Melissa Setser

St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District
Kathrina M. Donegan
Julie Griffith

City of St. Louis

Art Museum Subdistrict
Judith Levy

Downtown St. Louis Inc.
Yemi Akande-Bartsch
Latonia Collins-Smith
Karin Hagaman
Missy Kelley
Ruth Kim
Karen Leverenz
Margaret McDonald
Traci O'Bryan
Laurie Phillips
Deborah Rush
Elizabeth Russell
Amy Schwetz
Ellen Theroff
Michelle Tucker

Developmental Disabilities Resources Commission (DDR)
Dionne Flowers
Cynthia Mueller
Nina North Murphy

HIV Health Services Planning Council of Metro St. Louis
Wendy Bradley
Tawnya Brown
Paris Collins
Samantha Donovan
Tazia Hampton
Dawn Sherrod

Police Retirement System Board of Trustees
Kelly Camilleri

St. Louis Economic Development Partnership Board
Linda Martinez

Zoological Park Subdistrict Commission
Chonda Nwamu
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.

Important Dates:

Charter City/County Elections
March 5, 2019

General Municipal Election
April 2, 2019

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