



**GOVERNORS STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

**Board of Trustees Meeting**

**December 8, 2023**

**Engbretson Hall**

**Board of Trustees Meeting  
Friday, December 8, 2023**

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# Tab 1

**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING**

**December 8, 2023 – Board Meeting at 10:00 am in Engbretson Hall**

*As of May 11, 2023, there is no longer an emergency option for meeting attendance previously permitted by Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/7. A virtual option for viewing is available.*

**Chair Angela Sebastian**

<b>Time</b>		<b>Item</b>	<b>Tab #'s</b>
10:00 am*	<b>I.</b>	<b>CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL</b>	
10:01 am	<b>II.</b>	<b>PUBLIC COMMENT**</b> Consistent with Public Act 91-0715 and reasonable constraints determined by the Board of Trustees, at each regular or special meeting of the Board or its committees that is open to the public, members of the public may request a brief time on the approved agenda of the meeting to address the Board on relevant matters within its jurisdiction.	
10:03 am	<b>III.</b>	<b>CHAIR'S COMMENTS</b> <i>Chair Angela Sebastian</i>	
10:04 am	<b>IV.</b>	<b>APPROVE PROPOSED AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 8, 2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING</b>  <b>APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 23, 2023 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING FROM OCTOBER 23, 2023</b>	1  2
10:08 am	<b>V.</b>	<b>ACTION ITEMS</b> <i>Presentation and discussion of Action Items for Board of Trustees Consideration</i>  1. Resolution 24-11 - Approve nominations for the Honorary Degree Recipient List, as recommended by the Honorary Degree Recipient Committee pursuant to the Board of Trustees Bylaws.	3



		<i>Presenter: Dr. Beverly Schneller, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs, and Will Davis, Vice President, External Relations</i>	
10:20 am	<b>VI.</b>	<b>CLOSED MEETING [IF APPLICABLE]</b>	
		According to Section 2(c) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120, the Board may meet in closed session to consider certain topics, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees pursuant to Section 2(c)(1)</li> </ul>	
10:45 am	<b>VII.</b>	<b>BACK IN SESSION FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION</b>	
10:48 am	<b>VIII.</b>	<b>OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS</b>	
10:50 am	<b>IX.</b>	<b>ADJOURN</b>	

**Notice to GSU Community and Members of the Public: Committee of the Whole**

- 1) If you require accommodations to participate fully in the meeting, please contact Therese King Nohos (contact info below) to request them.
- 2) If you wish to watch the meeting remotely via Zoom, a link is provided below for your use. The Chair kindly asks anyone who is attending virtually to log on and into the meeting ten (10) minutes prior to the meeting, to minimize disruption once the meeting is in session.
- 3) If you wish to make a public comment, please register in advance by contacting Therese King Nohos by 5 pm on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Please click the General Invitation link below to join the webinar on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85854378879?pwd=MWZtaERUQ0FKd2JncmFOTXo3ZVRnZz09>

**Passcode: 107320**

**Webinar ID: 858 5437 8879**

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kiNsqk9iF>

# Tab 2

**MINUTES OF  
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY  
REGULAR MEETING**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees of Governors State University (the “Board” and “GSU,” respectively), an Illinois body politic and corporate, meeting as a committee of the whole, was held in person and via audio-videoconference at GSU’s University Park Campus in Engbretson Hall on October 23, 2023 beginning at approximately 9:00 am. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct the business described in the Agenda posted for public notice before 9:00 am on October 20, 2023 in accordance with Section 120/2.02 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. 5 ILCS 120/2.02. Before the meeting, each Trustee received books with materials corresponding to action and discussion items, a copy of which is maintained with the Board records.

**I. MEETING DETAILS**

Meeting Chair: Angela M. Sebastian

Minutes Recorded By: Therese King Nohos, General Counsel

**II. ATTENDEES**

Chair Sebastian confirmed a quorum was present given the presence of the following six (6) Trustees<sup>1</sup> in attendance in person at the start of the meeting:

- Kevin Brookins, Trustee and Vice Chair;
- Stacy Crook, Trustee
- Lluvia Hernandez Aguirre, Student Trustee;
- James Kvedaras, Trustee; and
- Angela M. Sebastian, Trustee and Chair.
- Anibal Taboas, Trustee

President Cheryl Green, Ph.D., *ex-officio* Board member and chief executive officer of GSU, was present via teleconference, as were the following members of the President’s Cabinet who appeared in person:

- Joshua R. Allen, MPS, SHRM-SCP, Vice President of Human Resources

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<sup>1</sup> Seven trustees are currently seated; therefore, four trustees constitute a quorum.

- Corey S. Bradford, Sr., PhD, Vice President of Administration and Finance
- Janelle A. Crowley, PhD, Chief of Staff, President's Office
- William A. Davis, MS, Vice President, External Affairs
- Maureen Kelly, Executive Director for Government Affairs
- Paul McGuinness, MA, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management
- Therese King Nohos, JD, Vice President, General Counsel
- Patricia O'Neal, Executive Assistant to the President
- Joi F. Patterson, PhD, Chief Diversity Officer
- Beverly Schneller, PhD, Vice President, Provost and Chief Academic Officer

### **III. ABSENCES**

John Brudnak

### **IV. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sebastian at approximately 9:00 am.

### **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

**VI. CHAIR COMMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Sebastian welcomed all to the meeting and noted that Trustee Stacy Crook was recently appointed. She then explained that several items needed to be removed from the Agenda: (i) the informational item regarding the Business Brigade to Panama; (ii) the informational item regarding the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park; (iii) the action item regarding proposed Resolution 24-11 regarding the approval of honorary degree nominations; and (iv) the action item regarding proposed Resolution 24-13 regarding approval of the Metropolitan Alliance of Police union contract. Chair Sebastian called for a motion to approve the proposed agenda as so amended. Trustee Brookins so moved, and Trustee Hernandez Aguirre seconded. The motion passed upon unanimous vote.

**VII. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Sebastian asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the August 25, 2023 meeting of the committee of the whole. Trustee James Kvedaras so moved, and Trustee Hernandez Aguirre seconded. The motion passed upon unanimous vote.

**VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Certain of the Agenda's informational items were presented as indicated in the Agenda and as follows:

1. Dr. Stephen Wagner, President of the Faculty Senate, gave a report on behalf of the Faculty Senate.
2. Ms. Susie Morries, Vice President of the Civil Service Senate, gave a report on behalf of the Civil Service Senate.
3. Mr. Scott Sowinsky, Executive Director of The Center for Performing Arts, gave an update regarding the upcoming season.
4. Mr. Lew Sanborne with Ruffalo Noel Levitz gave a report regarding the Strategic Enrollment Plan. The slides for his report are attached hereto as Exhibit B. A robust discussion ensued with questions from various Trustees and answers from various Cabinet members.
5. Dr. Corey S. Bradford, Sr. gave a report on the Fiscal Year 2022 Audit and Financial Results.

Chair Sebastian asked if there were questions or comments regarding the written reports included in the Board Books. There were none.

## **IX. PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS**

After hearing the information items, the Chair then called for all action items to be presented for discussion (but not vote) at this meeting. All action items reflected in the Amended Agenda were presented and discussed as follows:

1. Provost Schneller presented Resolution 24-04(B) regarding the recommendation for award of tenure upon new hire for Drs. Lawrence and Potti.
2. Provost Scheller presented Resolution 24-05 regarding the recommendation for award of *emeritus* status for Dr. Chang.
3. Dr. Crowley presented Resolution 24-06 regarding approval of Board of Trustee meeting schedule for 2024 and 2025.
4. Vice President Bradford presented Resolution 24-07 regarding approval of Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget and authorization to submit to the Illinois Board of Higher Education ("IBHE").
5. Vice President Bradford presented Resolution 24-08 regarding approval of Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Appropriations Budget and submission to IBHE.
6. Vice President Bradford presented Resolution 24-09 regarding approval of Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvement Budget and submission to IBHE.
7. Vice President Davis presented Resolution 24-10 regarding approval of a contract in excess of \$250,000 for website design and development.
8. Vice President Allen presented Resolution 24-12 regarding approval of President's Green's assessment for Fiscal Year 2023 and incentive compensation.

## **X. VIII. CLOSED SESSION**

There was no closed session.

**XI. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Sebastian called for any old or new business. She advised the Trustees that they are required to take an annual ethics and anti-harassment training by November 12, 2023. She also requested that they sign and return to Attorney Nohos a notice of their duties under the Illinois Ethics Act. There being no other new or old business, Chair Sebastian then asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Kvedaras so moved, and Trustee Hernandez Aguirre seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 am.

Approved this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023

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Angela M. Sebastian, Chair

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James Kvedaras, Secretary

**MINUTES OF  
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY  
REGULAR MEETING**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees of Governors State University (the “Board” and “GSU,” respectively), an Illinois body politic and corporate, meeting as a committee of the whole, was held in person and via audio-videoconference at GSU’s University Park Campus in Engbretson Hall on October 23, 2023 beginning at approximately 2:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct the business described in the Agenda posted for public notice before 9:00 am on October 20, 2023 in accordance with Section 120/2.02 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit A. 5 ILCS 120/2.02. Before the meeting, each Trustee received books with materials corresponding to action and discussion items, a copy of which is maintained with the Board records.

**I. MEETING DETAILS**

Meeting Chair: Angela M. Sebastian

Minutes Recorded By: Therese King Nohos, General Counsel

**II. ATTENDEES**

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- James Kvedaras, Trustee; and
- Angela M. Sebastian, Trustee and Chair.
- Anibal Taboas, Trustee

President Cheryl Green, Ph.D., *ex-officio* Board member and chief executive officer of GSU, was present via teleconference, as were the following members of the President’s Cabinet who appeared in person:

- Joshua R. Allen, MPS, SHRM-SCP, Vice President of Human Resources

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- Janelle A. Crowley, PhD, Chief of Staff, President's Office
- William A. Davis, MS, Vice President, External Affairs
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- Therese King Nohos, JD, Vice President, General Counsel
- Patricia O'Neal, Executive Assistant to the President
- Joi F. Patterson, PhD, Chief Diversity Officer
- Beverly Schneller, PhD, Vice President, Provost and Chief Academic Officer

### **III. ABSENCES**

John Brudnak

### **IV. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sebastian at approximately 9:00 am.

### **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

**VI. CHAIR COMMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Sebastian welcomed all to the meeting and noted that Trustee Stacy Crook was recently appointed. The Chair noted that she and other Trustees participated in the Distinguished Alumni event held on October 21, 2023 and thanked President Green for bringing the event to fruition. She also noted that the groundbreaking for the Social Justice Initiative Building occurred just prior to the start of the meeting.

**VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

In lieu of her typical report, President Green read an announcement, advising the Board and campus community that she would be taking a medical leave of absence and that she had appointed Dr. Corey S. Bradford, Sr. to serve as Acting President in her absence.

**VIII. CONSENT AGENDA**

In keeping with the committee of the whole meeting wherein the Agenda was amended to remove certain action items, Chair Sebastian requested that two action items be removed from the Consent Agenda: (i) proposed Resolution 24-11 regarding the approval of honorary degree nominations; and (ii) proposed Resolution 24-13 regarding approval of the Metropolitan Alliance of Police union contract. She then asked for a vote on the Consent Agenda as amended, which passed unanimously, thereby approving the following action items:

1. Resolution 24-04(B) regarding the recommendation for award of tenure upon new hire for Drs. Lawrence and Potti.
2. Resolution 24-05 regarding the recommendation for award of *emeritus* status for Dr. Chang.
3. Resolution 24-06 regarding approval of Board of Trustee meeting schedule for 2024 and 2025.
4. Resolution 24-07 regarding approval of Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget and authorization to submit to the Illinois Board of Higher Education ("IBHE").
5. Resolution 24-08 regarding approval of Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Appropriations Budget and submission to IBHE.
6. Resolution 24-09 regarding approval of Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvement Budget and submission to IBHE.
7. Resolution 24-10 regarding approval of a contract in excess of \$250,000 for website

design and development.

8. Resolution 24-12 regarding approval of President's Green's assessment for Fiscal Year 2023 and incentive compensation.

#### **IX. VIII. CLOSED SESSION**

There was no closed session.

#### **X. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

There being no other new or old business, Chair Sebastian then asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Kvedaras so moved, and Trustee Taboas seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:15 pm.

Approved this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023

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Angela M. Sebastian, Chair

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James Kvedaras, Secretary

# Tab 3

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Resolution 24-11

**ACTION ITEM:** Approval of the recommended candidates to be added to the list of possible recipients of the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

A committee consisting of the Faculty Senate President, members of the Faculty Senate Commencement Committee, the Provost, and the Vice President of External Affairs receives nominations from the Governors State University community at large, including but not limited to, alumni, faculty, staff, students, donors, and community members, for recipients of the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.

An honorary degree may be awarded to persons who have achieved an exemplary and distinctive record at the university, state, or national level in such areas as scholarly or professional work, public service, or economic development. The honoree will exemplify the ideals of Governors State University's mission with a focus on excellence, research, and service.

#### **Candidate Criteria**

Honorary degrees may be awarded to persons who have achieved a record of major distinction at the state or national level in such areas as the arts, education, public service, research, humanities, business, or the professions.

In exceptional circumstances, an honorary degree may be awarded to a person who, though they have not achieved national or statewide recognition, have made an especially outstanding and significant contribution.

#### **Process**

Honorary degrees may be awarded only by approval of the Board upon the recommendation of the President. The Faculty Senate Commencement Committee, Provost, and Vice President of External Affairs make up the committee that recommends to the President proposed honorary degree recipients from the nominations.

Before requesting Board approval, the President will submit to the Board written information concerning the candidate's achievements. Unless an exception is approved by the Board, Board approval of candidates must be obtained at least four months prior to the award of the degree and no more than six honorary degrees may be awarded by the university each year.

#### **Limitations**

Elected or appointed public officials in state or local government, members and employees of the Board, and members and employees of the Board of Higher Education are ineligible for award of an honorary degree during their term of office or employment.

**Resolution:** Please see resolution submitted herewith.

**Resource/Contact:** Mr. Will Davis, Vice President of External Affairs & CEO, GSU Foundation; wdavis3@govst.edu; 708.235.7494

**Resolution No. 24-11*****Approval of Honorary Degree Candidates' Eligibility for Selection***

**WHEREAS,** The Board of Trustees of Governors State University (the “Board” and “University,” respectively) was created on January 1, 1996, by Public Act 89-4 to operate, manage, control, and maintain Governors State University in accordance with the rights, powers, and duties vested by law in the Board;

**WHEREAS,** The Board is empowered to operate, manage, control, and maintain the University and prescribe the courses of study to be followed pursuant to Sections 15-10 and 15-45 of the Illinois Governors State University Law, 110 ILCS 670/15-1 *et seq.*;

**WHEREAS,** Pursuant to Board Regulation III(B)(2), honorary degrees may be awarded only by approval of the Board upon the recommendation of the President;

**WHEREAS,** Pursuant to Board Regulation III(B)(2), before a candidate may be recommended by the President, the President must (i) establish a representative committee composed of faculty, academic staff, and administrative staff (the “Committee”) to evaluate nominees and (ii) submit to the Board written information concerning each candidate’s achievements and any significant contributions to the University, higher education, or the State of Illinois at least four months before the conferral of an honorary degree;

**WHEREAS,** The President has convened the Committee and said Committee has reviewed and recommended the following candidates (the “Candidates”) for consideration by the Board for receipt of an honorary degree for the reasons set forth in each candidate’s packet:

Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch

Stephen Fabiyi

Perri Irmer

Cheryl Johnson  
Lennor Johnson  
John Kahler  
Phil Kambic  
John Kirksey  
Bernice A. King  
Andrea Lytle Peet  
Javon McCain Nicholas  
John Rogers, Jr.  
Jesse White  
Anjanette L. Young

**WHEREAS**, The President, upon advice of the Committee and an independent review of the Candidates, does hereby submit written information to the Board regarding each Candidate's qualifications for receipt of an honorary degree;

**WHEREAS**, The Board has reviewed the President's recommendations and is fully advised in the premises of the Resolution;

Now, therefore, it is:

*Resolved* that the Board approves the following Candidates for consideration for receipt of an honorary degree:

Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch  
Stephen Fabiyi  
Perri Irmer  
Cheryl Johnson  
Lennor Johnson  
John Kahler



Phil Kambic

John Kirksey

Bernice A. King

Andrea Lytle Peet

Javon McCain Nicholas

John Rogers, Jr.

Jesse White

Anjanette L. Young.

*Approved December 8, 2023*

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Angela M. Sebastian, Chair

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James Kvedaras, Secretary

**Honorary Degree Candidate Information****Honorary Degree Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_**Do you have a relationship or direct contact with this individual?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If Yes, please explain: (Attach a separate page if needed)

**Profession/Position/Title:** \_\_\_\_\_**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ext.** \_\_\_\_\_**Does the candidate have any affiliation with Governors State University?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If Yes, please explain: (Attach a separate page if needed)

**Personal Statement of Support** (Please be detailed in your response)**Nomination Summary**

Please also include:

- Curriculum Vitae, Résumé and/or Career Summary
- Letters of Support (if applicable)
- Any Additional Information (as appropriate)

**Nominated by:** \_\_\_\_\_**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ext.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_**Please forward this form and the required supporting documentation by September 15, 2023 to:**

**Veronica Blair**  
**Administrative Assistant to the Honorary Degree Committee**  
**vblair@govst.edu**

**Beverly Schneller**  
Provost & Vice President  
For Academic Affairs

**William A. Davis**  
Vice President for External Affairs and  
CEO GSU Foundation

BOT020

## Blair, Veronica

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**From:** Juan Andrade <ushli1@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 1:28 PM  
**To:** Blair, Veronica  
**Subject:** Dr. Juan Andrade

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello my friend. Hope you're doing well.

Just want to let you know that I'm submitting a nomination for an Honorary Doctorate recipient. She's retired Lt. Col. Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch, the most dynamic and powerful voice we've had on the rescue mission field over the last 25-30 years. ("Rescue" in the sense of keeping kids in school & getting them to pursue postsecondary education or training.)

Take care. Let's stay in touch.

**Dr. Juan Andrade, Jr.**

**President**

**United States Hispanic Leadership Institute, Inc.**

431 S. Dearborn St., Suite 1203, Chicago, IL 60605

**P:** 312-427-8683 | **F:** 312-427-5183

[docandrade@ushli.org](mailto:docandrade@ushli.org) | [ushli.org](http://ushli.org)



# Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch (LTC, Ret.)

## Biography Statement



EDUCATIONAL  
Achievement Services, Inc.

## Biography

Born and raised in a small, borderside barrio of Laredo, Texas, Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch conquered the challenges of poverty, discrimination and illiteracy. Raised without material wealth, Consuelo learned from her immigrant parents that their wealth was in culture, tradition, values, and faith.

The values Consuelo learned as a child were reinforced throughout her career in the United States military. After graduating from Hardin Simmons University, Consuelo entered the U.S. Army as an officer and served for two decades. During that time, she broke barriers and set records when she became the highest-ranking Mexican-American woman in the Combat Support Field of the U.S. Army.

When selected to assume a command post, Consuelo disrupted her advancement by deciding to retire. She chose instead to honor her mother's dying wish – for her to return to her roots and become a community leader. In 1996, Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch founded the human development company, Educational Achievement Services, Inc. (EAS, Inc.), to fulfill her mission of preparing tomorrow's leaders through grassroots leadership development.

Consuelo Kickbusch affirms that her greatest achievement stems from motherhood. She loves spending time with her husband, five daughters and six grandchildren.

## Awards & Honors

Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch's dedication to today's young leaders has garnered her numerous awards and citations from educational institutions, government agencies, professional organizations, and national media.

Consuelo most recently received an honorary Doctorate from the Iberoamerican Institute of Higher Studies for her career of contributions and dedication to education and community. Consuelo Kickbusch has received multiple distinguished awards including the 2012 CHCI Medallion of Excellence for Leadership and Community Service; the 2017 National Dropout Prevention Center (NDPC) Crystal Star Award of Excellence in Dropout Recovery, Intervention, and Prevention; the 2021 Outstanding Friend of Public Education award from the Horace Mann League; and the 2022 Dr. Héctor P. García Legacy Award awarded by the National Diversity Council. She has been profiled on HBO's *the Latino List*, CNN's *Latino in America*, Univision's *Don Francisco Presenta, the Lifetime Network*, *National Public Radio*, the syndicated television program *Hispanics Today*, and American Latino Television's *Latination* program. Consuelo has also been featured in *Hispanic Business* magazine's 100 Most Influential Hispanics in America, *O Magazine*, *LatinaStyle*, *Vanidades*, and *Glamour* magazine.

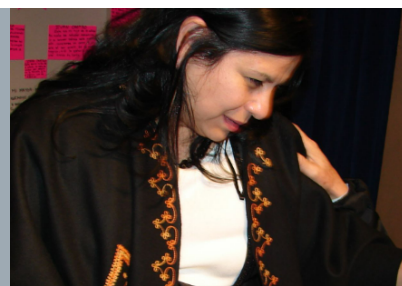
## Want to learn more?

*For questions and contracting,  
please contact our office:*

[www.easleadership.com](http://www.easleadership.com)

Email [info@easleadership.com](mailto:info@easleadership.com)

Phone  
(888)354-4747



## **Personal Statement of Support**

I first met Consuelo in 1995, the year she retired after having served 20 years in the U.S. Army. She had recently addressed a convention of a sister Latino organization and was recommended to me as someone we should invite to address the national conference the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute. We did, and that would be the first of several times we would invite her to address our national conference as well as at other events we held in many states throughout the country.

She is a force of nature, driven by an unrelenting passion for service to the nation and helping others find and fulfill their mission, their purpose in life, much the way she found and fulfilled the first of her two missions in life.

Her first mission was, of course, to serve the nation by enlisting in the U.S. Army like her older brothers had before her. She served with distinction, rising to the rank of Lt. Colonel and became the highest-ranking Mexican American woman in the Combat Support Field of the U.S. Army.

She declined a promotion to answer her second calling; to lend her powerful voice and leadership skills to a mission committed to making a quality education a reality in the lives of America's Latino youth, training educators and parents, and advising policy makers.

It is in the pursuit of fulfilling her second mission that I have known, observed, and shared in the life and times of Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch. I have heard her life-changing and life-saving messages to students and parents everywhere. Once, in Arkansas, four teenage girls thanked her because they had had a pact to commit suicide that day but chose not to after hearing her message of hope, courage, and determination. That's how real and transformative her power is.

I have seen her words touch thousands of lives over the years. I can only imagine how many students didn't drop out of school after hearing her message. How many went on to graduate high school, enroll and graduate college and become contributing citizens to society and leaders in the Latino community? Consuelo has discovered and nurtured a gold mine of talent that has found its own mission of service to family, culture, community, nation, and God.

Consuelo's numerous contributions to students and parents in her community and in this nation, and to educators in our schools has been validated in many ways and many times by organizations, media, and most recently by La Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, Mexico, but never by institutions of higher learning in America, which have arguably benefitted the most from her life's work.

April 2019, Honoris Causa Doctorate from La Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, Mexico

Born and raised in a small, borderside barrio of Laredo, Texas, Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch conquered the challenges of poverty, discrimination and illiteracy. Raised without material wealth, Consuelo learned from her immigrant parents that their wealth was in culture, tradition, values, and faith. The values Consuelo learned as a child were reinforced throughout her career in the United States military.

After graduating from Hardin Simmons University, Consuelo entered the U.S. Army as an officer and served for two decades. During that time, she broke barriers and set records when she became the highest-ranking Mexican-American woman in the Combat Support Field of the U.S. Army.

When selected to assume a command post, Consuelo disrupted her advancement by deciding to retire. She chose instead to honor her mother's dying wish – for her to return to her roots and become a community leader.

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Consuelo Kickbusch affirms that her greatest achievement stems from motherhood. She loves spending time with her husband, five daughters and six grandchildren.

#### Awards & Honors

Education Graduate, Defense Systems Management College, Ft. Belvoir, VA, 1993 Graduate, Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS, 1989 Graduate, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA, M. S. Cybernetics, 1987 Graduate, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, TX, B. S. Law Enforcement 1976 Graduate, Martin High School, Laredo, TX, May 1972

Professional Experience 1997-Present Owner/President, Educational Achievement Services. Professional speaker, facilitator and strategic planner traveling throughout the United States providing services to educators, students, parents, corporate and governmental organizations. 1993-1997 Technical Advisor, Command and Control Warfare Center.

Developed the center's mission and strategic goals. Primarily responsible for all facilitation of organizational goals and systems technology. Provided leadership and technical advice in support of worldwide operational support. Served as group leader for all brainstorming sessions and creative workshops.

Retired with 20 years military service. Community volunteer in the areas of facilitation, mentor, and lecturer for over four years in San Antonio. 1991-1993 Executive Officer, Army Information's Systems

Software Command. Primarily responsible for the administration and operation of an organization with over 1,500 system programmers, contract specialists, and system analysts. Community volunteer in the Washington, DC area.

Served as mentor, facilitator, and fundraiser coordinator. 1988-1991 Adjunct Faculty, Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth. Taught Quantitative Analysis and Techniques, Leadership and Communication, Training, and Tactics/Logistics. Area of concentration: Decision-making techniques, statistics, group dynamics, and leadership development. 1986-1988 Graduate School, San Jose State University. Member of the Army Advanced Civil Schooling Program. 1983-1986 Assistant Professor of Military Science, University of Puerto Rico. Second year instructor at the University of Puerto Rico Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program. Areas of concentration: Leadership, effective communications, briefing techniques, and military history.

1977-1983 Platoon Leader (four times) and Company Commander, Fort Hood, Texas. Tactical Communications Officer.

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired) Founder & President of Educational Achievement Services, Inc. Army Veteran | Author | Motivational Speaker | Educator Professional Organizations

National Speaker's Association San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Hispanic CREO (Hispanic Council for Reform and Educational Options) Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Medallion of Excellence

National Media Profiles & Features Lifetime Network National Public Radio O Magazine Hispanic Business Magazine LatinaStyle Magazine Hispanic Magazine Glamour Magazine Catalina Magazine Vanidades Magazine Siempre Mujer Magazine Hispanics Today (Syndicated Program) CNN Heroes by Soledad O'Brian HBO's The Latino List

Designations & Certificates Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise Woman/Minority-Owned Small Business Enterprise Certified as a Small Business Enterprise (SBE)

April 2019, Honoris Causa Doctorate from La Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City, Mexico.

Published Works English Book: Journey to the Future: A Roadmap for Success for Youth Spanish Book: La Jornada Hacia el Futuro English Book: 4 Steps to Not Allowing the Pandemic to Affect your Home English CD: Shared Leadership Spanish CD: Mensaje a Mi Gente Languages English and Spanish

# CONSUELO CASTILLO KICKBUSCH

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired) Founder & President of Educational Achievement Services, Inc.

Army Veteran | Author | Motivational Speaker | Educator

## RESUME

### Education

Graduate, Defense Systems Management College, Ft. Belvoir, VA, 1993

Graduate, Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS, 1989

Graduate, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA, M. S. Cybernetics, 1987

Graduate, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, TX, B. S. Law Enforcement 1976

Graduate, Martin High School, Laredo, TX, May 1972

### Professional Experience

**1997-Present      Owner/President, Educational Achievement Services.**

Professional speaker, facilitator and strategic planner traveling throughout the United States providing services to educators, students, parents, corporate and governmental organizations.

**1993-1997      Technical Advisor, Command and Control Warfare Center.**

Developed the center's mission and strategic goals. Primarily responsible for all facilitation of organizational goals and systems technology. Provided leadership and technical advice in support of worldwide operational support. Served as group leader for all brainstorming sessions and creative workshops. Retired with 20 years military service. Community volunteer in the areas of facilitation, mentor, and lecturer for over four years in San Antonio.

**1991-1993      Executive Officer, Army Information's Systems Software Command.**

Primarily responsible for the administration and operation of an organization with over 1,500 system programmers, contract specialists, and system analysts. Community volunteer in the Washington, DC area. Served as mentor, facilitator, and fundraiser coordinator.

**1988-1991      Adjunct Faculty, Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth.**

Taught Quantitative Analysis and Techniques, Leadership and Communication, Training, and Tactics/Logistics. Area of concentration: Decision-making techniques, statistics, group dynamics, and leadership development.

**1986-1988      Graduate School, San Jose State University.**

Member of the Army Advanced Civil Schooling Program.

**1983-1986      Assistant Professor of Military Science, University of Puerto Rico.**

Second year instructor at the University of Puerto Rico Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program. Areas of concentration: Leadership, effective communications, briefing techniques, and military history.

**1977-1983      Platoon Leader (four times) and Company Commander, Fort Hood, Texas.**

Tactical Communications Officer.



# CONSUELO CASTILLO KICKBUSCH

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired) Founder & President of Educational Achievement Services, Inc.

Army Veteran | Author | Motivational Speaker | Educator

## RESUME

### Professional Organizations

National Speaker's Association  
San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Hispanic CREO (Hispanic Council for Reform and Educational Options)  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Medallion of Excellence

### National Media Profiles & Features

Lifetime Network  
National Public Radio  
O Magazine  
Hispanic Business Magazine  
LatinaStyle Magazine  
Hispanic Magazine  
Glamour Magazine  
Catalina Magazine  
Vanidades Magazine  
Siempre Mujer Magazine  
Hispanics Today (Syndicated Program)  
CNN Heroes by Soledad O'Brian  
HBO's The Latino List

### Designations & Certificates

Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise  
Woman/Minority-Owned Small Business Enterprise  
Certified as a Small Business Enterprise (SBE)  
April 2019, Honoris Causa Doctorate from La  
Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City,  
Mexico.

### Published Works

English Book: *Journey to the Future: A Roadmap for Success for Youth*  
Spanish Book: *La Jornada Hacia el Futuro*  
English Book: *4 Steps to Not Allowing the Pandemic to Affect your Home*  
English CD: Shared Leadership  
Spanish CD: Mensaje a Mi Gente

### Languages

English and Spanish

Do you have a relationship or direct contact with this individual?

Yes. Consuelo and I, Dr. Juan Andrade, have been friends and colleagues for nearly 30 years. She has addressed our national conference several times and traveled with us to high schools around the country where she has addressed thousands of students, motivating them to stay in school, focus on their education, improve their academic performance, graduate, and to pursue some level of postsecondary education or training.

**Honorary Degree Candidate Information****Honorary Degree Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_**Do you have a relationship or direct contact with this individual?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If Yes, please explain: (Attach a separate page if needed)

**Profession/Position/Title:** \_\_\_\_\_**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ext.** \_\_\_\_\_**Does the candidate have any affiliation with Governors State University?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If Yes, please explain: (Attach a separate page if needed)

**Personal Statement of Support** (Please be detailed in your response)

**Nomination Summary** Please also include:

- Curriculum Vitae, Résumé and/or Career Summary
- Letters of Support (if applicable)
- Any Additional Information (as appropriate)

**Nominated by:** \_\_\_\_\_**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ext.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_**Please forward this form and the required supporting documentation by September 15, 2023 to:**

**Veronica Blair**  
**Administrative Assistant to the Honorary Degree Committee**  
**vblair@govst.edu**

**Beverly Schneller**  
Provost & Vice President  
For Academic Affairs

**William A. Davis**  
Vice President for External Affairs and  
CEO GSU Foundation

BOT029



**Metcalf Community Academy, 12339 South Normal, 60628**

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**Stephen Fabiyi, Principal**

**Jessica Fitzgerald, Assistant Principal**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this personal statement to wholeheartedly support Principal Stephen Fabiyi in his pursuit of receiving an honors doctorate. I have had the privilege of working closely with Stephen Fabiyi for three years, and throughout this time, I have witnessed his unwavering dedication to education and his exceptional contributions to Chicago Public Schools, and more specifically Metcalfe Community Academy on the far south side of Chicago.

Stephen Fabiyi possesses an exceptional blend of expertise, leadership, and a profound commitment to the betterment of our academic community. His accomplishments are truly noteworthy. In the span of three years, Mr. Fabiyi has successfully built community partnerships for our families, including partnerships focused on mental health, academics, arts programming, a partnership with our police, and so much more. These partnerships have had a profound impact on our institution and the field at large.

What sets Stephen apart is not only his impressive list of accomplishments but also his communication of an effective vision for the school and community, his approachability, mentorship, and willingness to collaborate. Stephen has inspired countless colleagues, faculty members, and students alike through his guidance and support.

Moreover, Stephen embodies the values and principles that an honors doctorate should represent. His commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and ethical leadership makes him an ideal candidate for this distinguished recognition. I am confident that granting Stephen Fabiyi] an honors doctorate would not only be a well-deserved acknowledgment of his contributions but also a source of inspiration for others within our academic community. It is with great enthusiasm that I offer my full support for this esteemed honor.

Sincerely,

Jessica Fitzgerald  
Assistant Principal  
(773) 535-5590 ext. 5575

# Stephen Fabiyi

9545 S. Damen Ave Chicago, IL. 60643

Phone: 773-858-0299 Email: stfabiyi@gmail.com



## STRENGTHS AND SKILLS

- Resilient leadership dedicated to establishing a culture and climate safe for learning
- Consistent results with developing teams to accept change and implement action plans
- Outstanding ability to align instruction, systems and culture to increase student achievement
- Continuous experience in producing tailored professional development to increase staff performance
- Extensive knowledge of implementing Balanced Literacy Curriculum to close the gap between reading levels
- Dynamic leader with the ability to establish and maintain trusting relationships between all stakeholders
- Proficient training in implementing Data Driven Instructional techniques to drive results

## EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

### Chicago Public Schools, Metcalfe Community Academy, Chicago, IL.

*Principal*

*July 2014-present*

- Lead school wide implementation of instructional initiatives to drive student performance and improve culture
- Design professional development to increase teacher performance based on areas of growth and network/district wide initiatives
- Manage school resources to align with the needs of all stakeholders
- Engage and meet with stakeholders to improve the learning experience and respond to concerns
- Lead professional learning communities
- Supervise and monitor instruction using the CPS Framework for Teaching
- Transitioned school performance to Level 1+ Status

### Chicago Public Schools, Bass Elementary School, Chicago, IL.

*Assistant Principal*

*July 2012-July 2014*

- Conference with teachers to provide feedback on performance
- Develop adults to maintain systems that allow instruction to be executed with minimal distractions
- Create performance plans for improving teacher practice
- Created and managed a Positive Alternative to School Suspension program to reduce the amount of out-of-school suspensions
- Designed and facilitated professional developments on Data Analysis, Objective Activity Alignment, Efficacy and Guided Reading Scheduling
- Planned and facilitated Intermediate Grade Level Team Meetings to collaborate on instruction, evaluate student work samples, analyze data, plan intervention and transition into full implementation of Common Core State Standards

### Chicago Public Schools, Dumas Technology Academy, Chicago, IL.

*New Leaders Resident Principal*

*July 2011-July 2012*

- Supervised instruction, provided feedback and supports to maintain alignment with school mission, vision and instructional goals
- Planned and facilitated Literacy Team Meetings to reach school goals of second year Balanced Literacy Initiative by increasing compliance of Literacy Rich Environment Indicators
- Developed a Math Leadership Team to implement The Daily Math Cumulative Review that assessed student skills and provided consistent feedback on performance in all five Common Core Math Strands
- Managed school finances by completing transactions on Oracle

### Chicago Public Schools, Harold Washington Elementary School, Chicago, IL.

*Middle School Instructor*

*July 2009-July 2011*

*8<sup>th</sup> Grade Team Leader*

- Increased written communication performance for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students through collaborating with other instructors and integrating the writing curriculum across disciplines
- Provided instructional support with applying effective literacy instruction strategies
- Facilitated Collaborative Planning sessions

- Lead NWEA Data Reflection meetings, monitored student progress and generated reports for administration
- Implemented and modified Positive Behavior Intervention Supports for the Middle School

#### Writing Department Chair

- Presented Writer's Workshop Professional Development to all instructors
- Assisted teachers with implementing the Writer's Workshop
- Managed school participation in the Young Author's Contest
- Administered and evaluated District Wide Writing Practice Assessments

#### **Chicago Public Schools, Benjamin E. Mays Academy, Chicago, IL.**

*Middle School Instructor and Middle School Department Team Leader*

*December 2007-June 2009*

- Led team with implementing local school and district initiatives by creating a schedule that included Balanced Literacy within a departmentalized program
- Provided Balanced Literacy instruction to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Facilitated team meetings on Data Reflection and reported student progress to administration

### **EDUCATION and CERTIFICATION**

#### **New Leaders, Chicago, IL – May 2012**

*Adaptive Leadership, Data Driven Instruction, Literacy Leadership, Aligned Staff/RBT Framework, Aligned School Culture*

#### **National Louis University, Chicago, IL – May 2012**

*M.Ed Education Administration, Type 75 General Administration Certificate K-12*

#### **Saint Xavier University, Chicago, IL – May 2007**

*M.A. Elementary Education, Illinois Type 03 Standard Teaching Certificate K-9, Middle School Endorsement*

#### **Governors State University, University Park, IL – December 2002**

*Bachelor of Arts, Mass Communications*

#### **Certifications**

*Illinois Type 75 Principal P-12*

*Illinois Type 03 Elementary Teacher and Middle School ELA and LBS-1(Sped)*

*Texas Principal Certificate*

**From:** Sebastian, Angela <[ASebastian99@GOVST.EDU](mailto:ASebastian99@GOVST.EDU)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 22, 2023 6:46 PM  
**To:** Schneller, Beverly <[bschneller@govst.edu](mailto:bschneller@govst.edu)>; Davis, William <[wdavis3@govst.edu](mailto:wdavis3@govst.edu)>  
**Cc:** Green, Cheryl <[cgreen@govst.edu](mailto:cgreen@govst.edu)>  
**Subject:** Honorary Degree Candidate Nomination

Hello all -- I missed the deadline but if you are still receiving honorary degree candidate nominations, please consider Ms. Perri Irmer ([4](#)) [Perri Irmer | LinkedIn](#), President and CEO of the DuSable Museum of African American History [The DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center \(dusablemuseum.org\)](#). I have not spoken directly to Perri about this nomination and do not know whether she would even accept it. However, I believe her contribution is worthy of this distinction and recognition and also that her support of Governors State University would be valuable and aligned with the mission and impact of both institutions.

Thank you for your consideration.

#### [Perri Irmer - The Chicago Network](#)



#### [Perri Irmer - The Chicago Network](#)

Perri Irmer is President and CEO of the DuSable Museum of African American History, the iconic institution founded in 1961 by Dr. Margaret Burroughs. It is one of the oldest institutions of its kind in the U.S. She has held this position since September, 2015, and her plans for the DuSable include advancing Dr. Burroughs' [...] [www.thechicagonetwork.org](http://www.thechicagonetwork.org)

# Perri Irmer

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## President & CEO

### DuSable Museum of African American History

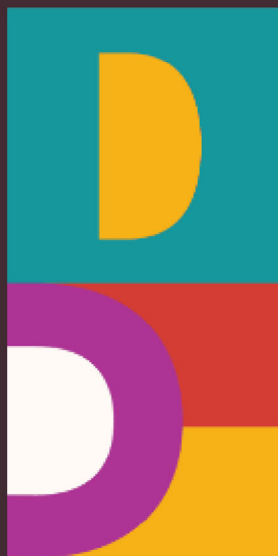
Perri Irmer is President and CEO of the DuSable Museum of African American History, the iconic institution founded in 1961 by Dr. Margaret Burroughs. It is one of the oldest institutions of its kind in the U.S. She has held this position since September, 2015, and her plans for the DuSable include advancing Dr. Burroughs' vision of the museum as a center for African and African American arts and culture, as well as a center for research, thought leadership and community advancement. Ms. Irmer was born and raised in Hyde Park, holds a Professional Bachelor of Architecture from the Illinois Institute of Technology (1981), and a J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School (1991).

Irmer began her architecture career with Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, and later practiced with Holabird & Root. She then moved into the commercial real estate and construction management fields before pursuing a legal career. Irmer was a litigator in private law practice before enjoying a distinguished tenure in government, having served as the CEO of the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority; Assistant General Counsel for Chicago Public Schools; Deputy Commissioner of the City of Chicago Department of Buildings; and Director of Construction Services for the Public Building Commission of Chicago. As a private sector real estate professional, Irmer served as a Vice President of Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc. and as Senior Vice President of Mesirow Financial. To date, Irmer has administered well over \$6 billion in public and private construction projects. She has a strong track record of effective team building and community advocacy.

Irmer serves on The Obama Presidential Center Inclusion Council and the After School Matters Advisory Board. In addition, she serves on IIT's Alumni Board of Directors' Admissions and International Committees and was a founding member of its African American Alumni Association. Irmer is a member of both the Economic Club and the Commercial Club of Chicago. She has served on the boards of many civic and charitable organizations, including Choose Chicago and the Catholic Theological Union, and was a founding member of the Chicago Sports Commission. Irmer is the recipient of numerous awards and honors for her involvement in community and youth services, as well as her longstanding support and advocacy of minority and women-owned businesses and her promotion of international business relationships within Illinois. She has three adult daughters and three grandchildren, all of whom reside in Chicago.

10/25/2019





## CRAIN'S CHICAGO BUSINESS

### WHO'S WHO IN CHICAGO BUSINESS 2023



ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND  
RECREATION

#### Perri L. Irmer

*President and CEO, DuSable  
Black History Museum &  
Education Center*

TWEET

SHARE

MORE

Age: 63

**Undergrad:** Illinois Institute of  
Technology

**Graduate:** University of Chicago

**Professional/civic:** Chicago Bar

ALL <PREV NEXT>

Association; Economic Club; Commercial Club; The Fortnightly; Chicago  
Network; After School Matters; Obama Presidential Center Inclusion Council;  
Illinois Tech Alumni Association; Illinois Tech African American Alumni  
Association

**What has been your biggest mistake?** Everyone makes mistakes along the way,  
but at the end of the day it's the things we didn't do, the opportunities we didn't  
accept, that we regret the most.

**What is your personal motto or mantra?** I often tell young women: If you're in  
the room, you belong there. Someone likely fought for you to be there, but men  
never question their right to the seat, so neither should you.

**What or when was your big break?** I have had many great mentors and  
supporters throughout my career. I consider every opportunity a blessing, and  
try not to block them.

**What don't people know about you?** Lots of things, and I'd prefer to keep it that  
way!

**What are your guilty pleasures?** I'm officially addicted to Audible!

## The DuSable

BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM and EDUCATION CENTER

A Smithsonian Affiliate



**Perri Imer** · 3rd

President & CEO DuSable Museum of African American History

Greater Chicago Area · [Contact info](#)

500+ connections

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DuSable Museum of African American History



University of Chicago Law School

## About

Perri became President of the DuSable, the nation's oldest independent black history museum, in September, 2015. Since then, the DuSable has become a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate; increased attendance by over 60%; opened nearly 20 new exhibits; launched many new partnerships; and is on track to become a fully accredited museum in 2021, its 60th year. ... [...see more](#)

## Activity

826 followers

Perri hasn't posted yet

Recent posts Perri shares will be displayed here.

[Show all activity →](#)

## Experience



**President and CEO**

DuSable Museum of African American History

Sep 2015 - Present · 8 yrs 1 mo



**President**

IRM Group, Inc

Jul 2011 - Sep 2015 · 4 yrs 3 mos

Greater Chicago Area

## Education



**University of Chicago Law School**

Doctor of Law (J.D.), Law

1988 - 1991



**Illinois Institute of Technology**

Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch.), Architecture

1976 - 1981



**Kenwood High School**

1973 - 1976

**Honorary Degree Candidate Information****Honorary Degree Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_**Do you have a relationship or direct contact with this individual?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If Yes, please explain: (Attach a separate page if needed)

**Profession/Position/Title:** \_\_\_\_\_**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ext.** \_\_\_\_\_**Does the candidate have any affiliation with Governors State University?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

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**Personal Statement of Support** (Please be detailed in your response)

**Nomination Summary** Please also include:

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- Letters of Support (if applicable)
- Any Additional Information (as appropriate)

**Nominated by:** \_\_\_\_\_**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ext.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_**Please forward this form and the required supporting documentation by September 15, 2023 to:**

**Veronica Blair**  
**Administrative Assistant to the Honorary Degree Committee**  
**vblair@govst.edu**

**Beverly Schneller**  
Provost & Vice President  
For Academic Affairs

**William A. Davis**  
Vice President for External Affairs and  
CEO GSU Foundation

BOT037



## Cheryl Johnson's Bio

Cheryl Johnson is a long-time residents of Altgeld Gardens a public housing development located on the far south side of Chicago. She is a mother of two and two granddaughters. Ms. Johnson is the daughter of the late Hazel Johnson, "Mother of Environmental Justice," who founded People for Community Recovery 44 years ago and now Cheryl has taken the reign to continue to fight for environmental justice and equality in Chicago. Cheryl has been with PCR for the past thirty-seven years as an administrative assistance to project manager and now the executive director of PCR. Ms. Johnson is a strong advocate like her mom on air pollution and its negative impacts on human health. She believes the climate change is real like her mother stated decades ago that if America does not change its practices of damaging our ozone layers and emitting toxins into our air, we will see a change in our weather patterns. Today's her statement is true and we call it Climate Change.

Ms. Johnson has various training experiences and holds many certificates that are environmental related to help assist her in educating her community. Ms. Johnson has co-written several journal articles on environmental health and risk factors, she a passion speaker about environmental issues and the injustices associated with it and belongs to several organizations that address environment, health, housing, and safety issues. In 2012 former Governor Pat Quinn appointed Ms. Johnson as one of the 12 members of the Illinois Environmental Justice Commission. 2015 Ms. Johnson became a member of a federal advisory board, National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) under the auspice of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

# Cheryl Johnson

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Cell Phone (773) 971-5028

Email: [cheryljohnsonpcr@gmail.com](mailto:cheryljohnsonpcr@gmail.com), [cheryl@pcrchi.org](mailto:cheryl@pcrchi.org)

## EDUCATION

2016 Certificate, Plume Software Modeling Program, ICWUD Health and Safety Council  
2015 Certificate, Disaster Preparation 101, ICWUC Health and Safety Council  
2014 Certificate, Lead Renovator Training Program, Public Health and Safety  
2011 Cert Card. OSHA Disaster Site Worker 16-hr, ICWUC Health and Safety Council 2010  
Flagger Cert,  
2009 Cert Card, US Dept of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Training Course, ICWUC  
Health and Safety Council  
2007 Certificate, Mold Remediation – International Chemical Worker Union Council Center for  
Worker Health and Safety Education  
2003 Certificate, Environmental Technician on lead and rodent abatement – Alliance to End Lead  
Poisoning  
2001-2002 Certificate, International Black Lawyers Dispute Resolution and Peace Maker Institute -  
Dispute Resolution for Trainers  
2001-2001 Certificate, Harvard University/MIT, Boston, MA -- Environmental Negotiations  
1998 Certificates/Licensed, Residential Lead-Based Paint Abatement for Worker and Hazardous  
Materials Operations  
1991-1992 Certificate, University of IL at Chicago College of Medicine and School of Nursing --  
Leadership in Primary Health  
1990-1992 Certificate, Chicago Legal Clinic -- Environmental Law  
1988 Certificate, Instructor for Church-Based Blood Pressure Training, American Heart Assoc.  
1988 Certificate, Community Health Advocates, Clarartian Medical Clinic  
1982-1987 Attended, Chicago State University, Chicago, IL -- completed 110 course hours  
with a high concentration in Science, Major: Medical Records Administration  
1979-1982 Liberal Arts Degree and Registered Nurse Student, Olive-Harvey College, Chicago, IL  
1982 - Certified Nursing Assistance, Olive Harvey College

## EMPLOYMENT

2001- **Executive Director**, People for Community Recovery, Inc., Chicago, IL  
In charge of all functions within the organization including project developments, generating reports and programs, evaluation for Board of Director of the organization personnel department. Prepare annual budget, reports and develop campaign strategies. Meet with potential funders and donors for solicitation of funds.  
1994-2001 **Project Manager**, People for Community Recovery, Inc., Chicago, IL  
Developed, coordinated and implemented training programs on lead and asbestos abatement for workers. Hired training instructors to teach hazardous material operations and underground storage tanks. Attended meetings with governmental officials to obtain additional funding for these programs.  
1983-1994 **Administrative Assistant**, People for Community Recovery, Inc., Chicago, IL  
Responsibilities consisted of managerial operation, account receivable and account payable, payroll keeping, inventory and ordering of supplies, solving clients' questions and concerns and organizing traveling arrangement for the Executive Director.  
1982-1985 **Data Coordinator**, Maxima Corporation, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, IL  
Responsible for the management of the Business Informational System (BIS) for the State and Local Conservation Program that distributes funds to schools, hospitals and public buildings for the conversion of fuel to more energy conservation systems recommended by the Department of Energy. Traveled to different regions around the country training employees on database entry and correcting inconsistency data to ensure clients' applications are corrected to receive government funding for conversion of energy systems

## **Memberships & Affiliations**

2020	Member, Chicago Green New Deal Coaliton
2019	Member National Environmental Justice Forum
2017	Solar for All Collaborative
2017	Energy Efficiency for All Collaborative
2016	Network for Energy, Water, and Health in Affordable Buildings (National NEWHAB)
2015	Illinois Climate Table
2015	Member, National Environmental Justice Advisory Council of the United States Environmental Protection Agency
2013 -	Member, Chicago Environmental Justice Network
2012 -	Commissioner, Illinois Environmental Justice Commission
2011 -	Member, Chicago Housing Initiative
2011 -	Founding Member, Environmental Justice Alliance of the Greater Southeast Chicago
2009 -	President, Altgeld Riverdale Consortium

## **Honors**

2022	Influencer Award, Landmarks IL
2015	National Wild Life Federation Region Urban Initiative Award
2014	ComEd Neighborhood Hero Award
2014	Ralph Scott Community Award
2010	YWCA Hero Award for Outstanding Community Work
2009	Kujichagulia Award for Community Organizing

## **Conference Presentations (Oral and Poster)**

1. White, B., **Johnson, C.**, & Ellis, C., “Environmental Health Literacy in Support of Social Action: An Environmental Justice Perspective.” National Conference on Health Disparities, November 2012. Little Rock, AK. (Poster)
2. **Johnson, C.** and White, B. “Youth for Community Recovery: Giving Youth a Voice through Photos.” EJ Conference: One Community – One Environment, August 2011. Detroit, MI. (Poster)
3. White, B. M., Sirard, J., Jones-Webb, R., **Johnson, C.** & Okuyemi, K., “A Community’s Perspective of Environmental Hazards.” Networking and Leadership Training Organization, May 2010. Research Triangle Park, NC. (Poster)
4. White, B. M., Sirard, J., Jones-Webb, R., **Johnson, C.** & Okuyemi, K., “A Community’s Perspective of Environmental Hazards: Leveraging Community Resources to Improve Risk Communication.” EJ, Air Quality, Goods Movement, and Green Jobs, January 2010. New Orleans, LA. (Poster)
5. White, B. M., Sirard, J., Jones-Webb, R., **Johnson, C.** & Okuyemi, K., “A Community’s Perspective of Environmental Hazards: Leveraging Community Resources to Improve Risk Communication.” Society for African-American Public Health Issues, November 2009. Philadelphia, PA. (Oral)

## **Journal Article**

1. White, B. M., Hall, E. S., & **Johnson, C.** Environmental Health Literacy in Support of Social Action: An Environmental Justice Perspective. *Journal of Environmental Health*. In press.

## **Journal Article Under Review**

1. White, B. M., Hall, E. S., & **Johnson, C.** Perceptions of environmental health risks among residents in the Toxic Doughnut: Opportunities for risk prioritization and community mobilization. *Journal of Community Practice*.

## **Speaking Engagements:**

Chicago State University, Loyola University, St. Xavier University, DePaul University, Roosevelt University, Chicago Cultural Center, Northwestern University and community-based and national organizations.

**Honorary Degree Candidate Information****Honorary Degree Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_**Do you have a relationship or direct contact with this individual?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If Yes, please explain: (Attach a separate page if needed)

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**Personal Statement of Support** (Please be detailed in your response)

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- Any Additional Information (as appropriate)

**Nominated by:** \_\_\_\_\_**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ext.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please forward this form and the required supporting documentation to Veronica Blair,  
Administrative Assistant to the Honorary Degree Committee,  
at [vblair@govst.edu](mailto:vblair@govst.edu) by September 15, 2023.**

**Beverly Schneller**  
Provost & Vice President  
For Academic Affairs  
[bschneller@govst.edu](mailto:bschneller@govst.edu)

**William A. Davis**  
Vice President for External Affairs and  
CEO GSU Foundation  
[wdavis3@govst.edu](mailto:wdavis3@govst.edu)

August 22, 2023

Governors State University Honorary Degree Committee  
1 University Parkway  
University Park, Illinois 60484-0975

Subject: Strong Endorsement for Dr. Lennor Johnson's Honorary Degree Candidacy

Dear Members of the Governors State University Honorary Degree Committee:

I am writing to enthusiastically endorse Dr. Lennor Johnson's candidacy for an honorary degree from Governors State University. As an esteemed alumni of GSU and a dedicated supporter of higher education, I am compelled to share my resounding support for Dr. Johnson, whose transformative leadership and unwavering commitment to educational excellence have left an indelible mark on both his institutions and the communities they serve.

Dr. Johnson's accomplishments are both numerous and impressive. His recent achievement in leading Imperial Valley College to win the prestigious Aspen Community College Excellence Award in 2023 serves as a testament to his exceptional leadership and dedication to fostering academic excellence. This accolade not only reflects his commitment to empowering students but also showcases his ability to lead his institution to the highest standards of educational quality.

Moreover, Dr. Johnson's dedication to social justice and community service is remarkable. His receipt of the Dr. Martin Luther King Stone of Hope award from the Imperial Valley Social Justice Association is a reflection of his commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. Serving as the President of the Imperial Valley Rotary Club further illustrates his active engagement in giving back to the community and promoting positive change.

With over 25 years of outstanding leadership in higher education, Dr. Johnson's impact has been felt far and wide. His visionary approach to leadership has consistently transformed the colleges he has served, positioning them as leaders in their respective sectors. His pioneering initiatives at Imperial Valley College, such as the development of tiny homes for foster and homeless youth, the establishment of restorative justice programs within correctional facilities, and the creation of dual enrollment programs for high school students, have had a profound and lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals.

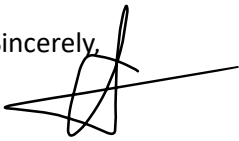


Perhaps most notably, Dr. Johnson's establishment of a basic needs center at Imperial Valley College demonstrates his dedication to student well-being and success. This center, providing crucial resources such as food, housing support, mental health services, and emergency funding, embodies his commitment to addressing the holistic needs of students and ensuring their ability to thrive academically and personally.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly believe that Dr. Lennor Johnson is a deserving candidate for an honorary degree from Governors State University. His transformative leadership, commitment to community service, and dedication to advancing education make him an exemplary role model for students, faculty, and the entire community. I strongly urge you to consider conferring this well-deserved honor upon Dr. Johnson in recognition of his exceptional contributions to higher education and society at large.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that your decision will have on the recognition of Dr. Johnson's remarkable achievements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Espinoza', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Elizabeth Espinoza

Energy Source Minerals Community Affairs Liaison  
Central Union District Board of Trustee  
Imperial Valley College Foundation Board of Director

**PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**

**Aspen Community College Excellence Award Winner.** Energetic, experienced, accomplished educator and student advocate with a proven record of intuitive and innovative leadership that fosters inclusion, team building, fiscal accountability, dynamic problem solving and community responsiveness. Acknowledged throughout career as a collaborative, transformative, and inspirational leader with a strong reputation for advancing the college's mission, regardless of challenges facing the institution.

**Extensive Educational Administration and Leadership Experience**

- Over 24 years of progressively responsible administrative leadership in higher education, including over 7 years of executive-level leadership.
  - Key leadership positions include: Interim Superintendent/President, Vice President for Student Services, Campus Director (President), Dean, Curriculum Lead, Director(s), Academic Advisor, and Professor.
- Extensive institutional change management experience, including repositioning a university, implementing new technology, launching housing and student equity initiatives, campus expansion, and realigning curriculum to better meet the needs of students.
- Ability to develop excellent relationships and collaborate with internal and external constituents and have established many mutually beneficial relationships that resulted in funding, partnerships and enrollment growth.
- Highly effective in increasing enrollment, expanding access and improving student outcomes.
- Extensive experience in leading accreditation committees to affirm or reaffirm accreditation status.

**EDUCATION**

<b>Doctor of Education, Educational Leadership,</b> Argosy University	2010
<b>Master of Business Administration, Marketing,</b> Governors State University	2002
<b>Bachelor of Business Administration, Management,</b> Robert Morris University	2000

**ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP****SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT**

IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE, IMPERIAL CA

AUGUST 2020 TO PRESENT

- **Contributed and led Imperial Valley College to winning the prestigious Aspen Community College Excellence Award for 2023**
- Report to the Governing Board and strive to ensure Trustees are well informed and connected with the campus and the community to aid them in setting direction and crafting board policies.
- Provide the vision for the college and continuous leadership and direction for planning, operations and all aspects of college.
- Enhanced college-wide execution of critical initiatives by establishing executive highlight reports, providing training for managers, implementing enrollment management initiatives, and providing faculty and staff timely assessment and improvement as the term progresses.
- Instrumental in developing the 2030 comprehensive master plan and played a pivotal role in ACCJC accreditation reaffirmation.

- Lead and/or co-led major construction projects, including the Student Housing, DSPS building, College Center, building 200,300 and 800, library and future projects tennis courts, restroom facilities, and auto-tech building to ensure Bond and building funds are being maximized and used in accordance to the district and bond measure.
- Actively promote IVC to the community at-large, such as City Councils, Rotaries, ICOE, and community events.
- Represents the college in cooperation with the Board, staff, faculty and community and develop appropriate partnerships that advance the College's mission and vision.
- Actively promote the advancement of participatory governance to ensure all voices are heard and considered in the decision-making process.
- Actively engages community stakeholders to expand opportunities for students including establishing articulation agreements with SDSU, CETYS, Columbia College, working with community and faculty to establish culturally relevant curriculum and learning opportunities and collaborating with elected officials to expand student housing.

## **ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP**

### **VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT SERVICES & EQUITY**

IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE, IMPERIAL CA

JULY 2018 TO AUGUST 2021

- Provided leadership and direction of all Student Services programs and services, including planning and budget oversight, selection and evaluation of staff, and accountability for all student services categorical programs.
- Worked with President's Cabinet to lead and support the planning and implementation of college-wide programs and initiatives. Lead transformational change efforts as directed by the Superintendent/President.
- Collaborated with staff, faculty, and leadership in strategic planning initiatives to improve access, equity, and improve outcomes.
- Coordinated and implemented supportive programs and services to address barriers to student success and work towards closing the achievement gaps of disproportionately impacted students, including serving as a lead coordinator in establishing housing programs for students.
- Worked closely with the Office of Research, Instruction and campus stakeholders to research and develop innovative practices and to align current practices to Chancellor's initiatives, such as AB705, Funding Formula and Guided Pathways.
- Ensured compliance with federal and state laws and district policies and procedures. Serve as the Title IX compliance coordinator.
- Planned, developed and administered the budget for the student services and provide direction and advice regarding fiscal management of student and campus organizations.

## **ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP**

### **DEAN OF STUDENT SERVICES AND SPECIAL PROJECTS**

IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE, IMPERIAL CA

OCTOBER 2016 TO JUNE 2018

- Started as the Interim Dean of Counseling and earned the permanent role after nine-months. Provided administrative leadership, coordination, and vision for the Students Services Counseling division including SSSP, TRIO, District Counseling, EOPS, DSPS, CalWORKs, Transfer Center, Prison program, Behavior health, Veteran Center, Student Equity and Special Projects.
- Served as the Interim Dean of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, while position was vacant, and provided oversight over ASG, Financial Aid, admissions and records.
- Developed solid relationships with internal and external constituencies that resulted in improved morale, collaboration and faculty & staff engagement.
- Implemented a training task force to ensure continuous quality improvement in MIS, advising, and customer service and to strengthen the collaboration between student services and instruction.

- Chaired and co-chaired several committees including CART, strategic enrollment management planning, student equity and success, and a member of the marketing and think tank committees.
- Developed policies and procedures to increase efficiency and counselor effectiveness.
- Met, evaluated and supported faculty and staff to ensure programs are achieving the desired outcomes.
- In close collaboration with VPSS, Student Equity, and other campus constituents developed and launched the dual-enrollment and prison programs, and food and housing insecurities initiatives, including the IVC Kitchen.

**ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP****CAMPUS DIRECTOR**

BRYANT &amp; STRATTON COLLEGE, GLENDALE &amp; MILWAUKEE, CAMPUSES FEBRUARY 2013 TO MARCH 2016

- Provided Chief Executive Leadership over two campuses, 4000 students, including Instruction, Student Services, Business Affairs, Admissions & Records, Marketing, Financial Aid, Information Systems, Facilities and Career Services with the goal of growing enrollments, maximizing limited resources and improving student outcomes.
- Received Campus of the Year honors in the 20-campus system for improving all key performance indicators, including Financial Performance, Cohort Default Rate, Highest Placement and Salary Rates, Student Retention and Improved Customer Service as defined by the Noel-Levitz Survey.
- Planned, administered and controlled budgets, analyzed records and produced financial reports for two campuses with an annual budget in excess of \$20,000,000. Supervised over 300 staff and faculty, including 12 deans and directors.
- Lead and participated in college committees, including the system-wide curriculum realignment committee where we rewrote the entire first term curriculum to make it learning centered and student focused, and the college-wide marketing and enrollment reimaging committee where we designed new enrollment and marketing strategies that focused on increasing the access of special populations: high ability, veterans and international students.
- Researched barriers impacting retention and graduation rates, particularly first generation & at-risk students. Formulated and implemented, in consultation with campus department managers, strategic enrollment management plans, strategies to improve English and math basic skills, and organizational policies that resulted in increasing graduation rates by 3.2%, increasing the full-time enrollment conversion by 22% and student retention.
- Coordinated large & small-scale campus buildout, facilities improvement, and campus safety plans.
- Researched, analyzed, and furnished comprehensive reports and program reviews for the Board, President, state and government agencies and accreditation bodies.

**ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP****SENIOR DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS**

DEVRY UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO, IL AUGUST 2010 TO JANUARY 2013

- Provided leadership over admissions, records, and marketing functions for the largest region in the DeVry organization, including International, Military, High School, Community College, and Corporate Outreach.
- Led the charge in developing and executing the strategic plan, allocating resources, marketing, researching and adapting to trends, training/development, succession planning and compliance assurance.
- Developed several partnerships and articulation agreements with High Schools, Colleges, and Universities.
- Planned and administered a budget in excess of \$8,000,000 and supervised over 60 admissions, community outreach, and administrative personnel, including 10 directors.
- Improved the operating margin contribution by 6% within 8-months of hire by working closely with the President in repositioning resources, improving customer retention and introducing new recruitment strategies.

**ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP****DEAN OF ADMISSIONS**

ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO, IL

NOVEMBER 2006 TO AUGUST 2010

- Promoted to Dean of Admissions to provide leadership for the admissions, records, financial aid, veteran services and the marketing division of the university. Developed and executed several enrollment management and marketing plans, including freshmen orientations, retention programs, high school presentations, collateral materials and all-encompassing communication plans: web, email, mail, phone, newspaper and television campaigns.
- Managed 7 Directors and Assistant Directors, 55 advisors, communications, financial aid, and field representatives
- Researched, developed and coordinated comprehensive strategies to improve student persistence and outcomes, particularly of minority and at-risk students; including the Freshmen Experience Program, College 101 Pre-Orientation, and the Scholarship Ambassador Program and instituted the Department of Scholarship of Funding.
- Increased undergraduate enrollment from 3800 to 7800 FTE in five years.
- Developed strong relationships with hospitals, businesses, philanthropists and civic organizations that resulted in grants, donations, leadership symposiums, VIP tours of the campus and partnerships.
- Supported and managed various grant programs, including TRIO/Upward Bound and College Excel and conducted full program reviews. Secured a \$500,000 renewable annual grant to fund the College Excel program.

### **ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP**



#### **DIRECTOR OF HIGH SCHOOL RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATION**

ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO, IL

MARCH 2005 TO NOVEMBER 2006

- Rehired to manage the floundering high school outreach and communications departments
- Provided community relations and high school outreach support for the 7 Locations (Chicago, Orland Park, Bensenville, Lake County, DuPage, Peoria, Springfield and out-of-state) and managed 20 outreach representatives and 40 admissions specialists and support staff.
- Within 6 months, increased inquiries by 46%, campus visits attendance by 36% and applications by 24%. Subsequently, enrollment increased 12% in 2005 and by 14% in 2006.
- Reengineered the departments, by repositioning staff members, realigning territories, targeting new markets, implementing innovative rewards programs and significantly enhanced training and development.
- Developed several innovative marketing/communication plans and supporting collateral materials that distinguished RMU from other universities in the highly competitive Chicago market.

### **ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP**



#### **DIRECTOR OF RECRUITMENT**

REMINGTON COLLEGE, SAN DIEGO, CA

JULY 2003 TO MARCH 2005

- Oversaw the recruitment, marketing, and community outreach departments. Within three months, made the San Diego Campus Recruitment Department the most successful enrollment division in the entire 21-campus organization. Exceeded goal by 32%, which was a 72% increase over the PY.
- Managed 1 assistant director, 12 admissions representatives and 3 field representatives.
- Instantly became a model for other Directors of Recruitment by increasing lead to enrollment from 11% to 19%, and enrollment to start from 58% to 68% for degree seeking students within six months of employment.
- In less than two years, increased enrollment from 263 to 690 students -162% increase.
- Won the 2004 School of Distinction Recruitment Award and the Viridian Award for increasing student enrollment by 128% from the previous year and increasing campus profits.

### **ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP**



#### **CAMPUS DIRECTOR**

ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY, BENSENVILLE, IL

FEBRUARY 2001 TO JULY 2003

- Promoted to Campus Director for the Bensenville Campus with the bottom line objective to increase enrollment, improve student outcomes and increase the profit contribution
- Oversaw all campus operations – academics, student services, financial aid, career services, admissions and student services. Managed 25 staff and faculty members.
- Named Campus of the Year for increasing revenues by 41% and achieving the highest profit margin of 33% in the organization.
- Implemented a Faculty Partnership program that united academics with operations, shared best practices, and discussed and resolved student concerns timely.

**ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP****CENTER DIRECTOR**

ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY, GREAT LAKES NAVAL BASE, IL

FEBRUARY 2000 TO FEBRUARY 2001

- Promoted to Center Director for the Great Lakes extension site: oversaw faculty and staff members who supported the site, worked closely with Navel administrators to maintain and expand the facility.
- Oversaw location operations - academic advising, financial services and admissions.
- Developed creative ways to help military students complete their studies in a timely manner and finance their education by way of negotiating contracts with Navel administrators, working closely with each student and maximizing credit articulations.

**ADMINISTRATION & LEADERSHIP****ADMISSIONS MANAGER**

ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY, NAPERVILLE, IL

MAY 1998 TO FEBRUARY 1999

- Started as an Admissions Representative and within five months promoted to Admissions Manager for the new Naperville campus with the charge of creating an tele-counseling department to help achieve the campus goals
- Grew campus from 150 students to over 500 students – managed 10 admissions specialists.
- Defined marketing strategies, established record keeping and tracking systems, initiated formal sales techniques and created reward systems to reach the ambitious goals for the new organization.

**FACULTY EXPERIENCE & ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP****Adjunct Instructor**

Columbia College, Imperial, CA

January 2020 to April 2020

- Course Taught: Business Analytics

**Adjunct Instructor**

Bryant &amp; Stratton College, Milwaukee, WI

September 2013 to June 2015

- Courses Taught: Introduction to Business and Marketing Principles

**Graduate Curriculum Lead / Professor**

Robert Morris University, Chicago, IL

February 2007 to August 2010

- Researched and the developed the curriculum for the Master of Management degree in Higher Education Leadership
- Courses Taught: Multicultural Education in a Pluralist Society, Issues in Higher Education, Business in Education, Operations Management, , Strategy, Policy and Management, Organizational Change

**Visiting Professor**

September 2009 to July 2014

DeVry University & Keller University, Chicago IL

- Courses Taught: Human Resources Management, Strategic Management, Leadership Practice & Theory

**Adjunct Instructor**

**February 2002 to July 2003**

Robert Morris University, Chicago IL

- Courses Taught: Business Communication, Career Management

**MILITARY SERVICE**

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

August 1993 - August 1997

**ADVANCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CERTIFICATES**

MLK Stone of Hope Recipient, Imperial Valley Social Justice Association February 2023

Aspiring CEO Program, Community College League of California, 2021

The Leadership Challenge Certificate, 2021 & 2019

Great Deans, Association of California Community College Administrators, 2017

ATIXA Title IX Civil Rights Investigator & Coordinator Certificates, 2016 - 2019

Managing College Crisis Communication Certificate, CCCCO, 2018

DeVry University Executive Leadership Catalyst Aspire Program, 2012

7 Highly Effective People Franklin Covey Certificate, 2011

Dale Carnegie Certified Course Assistant, 2010

Dale Carnegie Training Course Effective Communication, 2008

Walt Disney Institute – Delivery Customer Service Excellence, 2003

The University of Chicago – Project Management Certificate, 2003

Robert Morris University Management Institute Program, 2002

**PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION**

Housing and Basic Needs, Berkeley, CA 2020

Holistic Student Support, Los Angeles, CA 2019

Tomorrow's College Student, Milwaukee Urban League, Milwaukee, WI 2015

Creating an Enrollment Friendly Campus, Bryant & Stratton College, Milwaukee, WI 2014



Motivating the Unmotivated Students, NBMBAA, Chicago, IL 2012

Drive Enrollment through Community Partnerships, IACAC Conference, Chicago, IL 2011

Improving Student Success of First-Generation Students, ACT Conference, Chicago IL, 2010

The Art of Community Outreach: “Get them to say Yes,” AACRAO Conference, New Orleans, 2009

Reimagining the Campus Visit, NACAC Conference, Columbus, OH, 2008

Norton Norris Inc., Consulting - Secret Shopping and Admissions Boot Camp, 2007-2009

The New Face to High School Visits, AACRAO Conference, San Diego, CA 2006

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

President of Imperial Breakfast Rotary Club 2023-2024; Member since 2018

Board Member, Imperial Valley College Foundation, 2021- present

Member, Association of California Community College Administrators, 2016-present

Member, Imperial Valley Social Justice Committee, 2019 -present

Founding Board Member for Elevation Foundation: Youth Development Organization, 2010-2016

Chair Education Committee - National Black Master of Business Administration Association, 2008-2010

Board Member, Boys & Girls Club of America, Chicago, 2007-2010

Partner/Educator, Junior Achievement, 2002-2008

### **REFERENCES**

Provided Upon Request



## Blair, Veronica

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**From:** Elizabeth M. Espinoza <eespinoza@mycuhsd.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 3, 2023 7:42 PM  
**To:** Blair, Veronica  
**Subject:** Honorary Degree Nomination - Dr. Lennor Johnson - Imperial Valley College  
**Attachments:** HonoraryDegreeCommittee GSU 8-22-23.pdf; Letter of Support for Lennor Johnson -8-22-23 (1).pdf; LJohnson CV 6-27-22 Updated - Copy.docx

You don't often get email from eespinoza@mycuhsd.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Ms. Veronica Blair,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to nominate Dr. Lennor Johnson for special recognition at Governors State University for his unparalleled dedication and contributions to education, particularly within community colleges.

Dr. Johnson's work transcends the ordinary, not only in terms of educational impact but also in his unyielding commitment to mentorship and community building.

Over the years, Dr. Johnson has become a beacon of hope and a role model for countless students, faculty, and community members. He has been instrumental in shaping Imperial Valley College, into the number one community college in the nation this year, according to the Aspen Institute.

This is a remarkable achievement in itself, but what makes it even more exceptional is the context within which this transformation has occurred. Located in one of the poorest, youngest, and least educated—but also one of the most resilient and rapidly evolving—communities in the nation, the college under Dr. Johnson's leadership has become a nucleus of opportunity and growth.

Under his leadership, strategized and recognized workforce development needs for students with "Lithium Valley" and developed curriculum with industry partners to establish certificate programs for students with pathways to careers.

Dr. Johnson does not merely focus on academic excellence but also takes the time to mentor lives, nurturing not just well-qualified graduates but also well-rounded individuals.

Whether he is launching groundbreaking projects in support of closing student equity gaps, or offering a listening ear to a struggling student, Dr. Johnson exhibits a level of empathy and understanding that is genuinely rare.

His actions speak volumes, echoing the belief that education is a right, not a privilege. Dr. Johnson has been instrumental in developing student development programs for marginalized students, community outreach initiatives, and mentoring programs that offer individualized support to students from all walks of life.

His strategies have ensured that a diverse body of students not only gain entry into higher education but also flourish within it.

Lastly, his encouragement towards me to run for political office as a Board of Trustee with the Central Union High School District, within our community, had given me confidence to run and win, uncontested, because my message and the lessons were clear. I am in it for the success of my community and our students.

Recognition or not, Dr. Lennor Johnson would continue to be a star leader in education, a role model that people of all backgrounds can look to for inspiration. However, recognition is a tool that can amplify impact, and there are few individuals as deserving of such amplification as Dr. Johnson.

A formal commendation from Governors State University would not only honor his tremendous contributions to date but would also empower him to continue shaping the future of education in this country.

Thank you for considering Dr. Lennor Johnson for this well-deserved recognition. I firmly believe that honoring him would enrich the legacy of Governors State University by associating it with one of the most transformative figures in modern education.

Attached should be the documents required for the Honorary Degree program, if not or further information is requested, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Take Care,--

**Elizabeth Espinoza**  
**CUHSD Trustee**

(she/her/hers)

[Central Union High School District](#)

[Central Union High School](#)

[Desert Oasis High School](#)

[Southwest High School](#)

[Phoenix Rising High School](#)

[Central Union Adult School](#)

[Central Union Virtual Academy](#)

## Blair, Veronica

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**From:** Davis, William  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 12:43 PM  
**To:** Schneller, Beverly; Blair, Veronica  
**Subject:** FW: Dr. John Kahler Honored as 2019 American Red Cross Disaster Services Hero | American Red Cross of Illinois

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi,  
Please add this to the list on nominations, I am being told a more formal nomination is on its way.

Education is Economic Development

Will Davis  
Governors State University  
Vice President, External Affairs  
Chief Executive Officer, GSU Foundation  
1 University Parkway  
University Park, Illinois 60484  
Phone: 708.235.7494

Mission: Governors State University is committed to offering an exceptional and accessible education that imbues students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed in a global society. GSU is dedicated to creating an intellectually stimulating public square, serving as an economic catalyst for the region, and being a model of diversity and responsible citizenship.

-----Original Message-----

From: Levinson, Larry <LLevinson@govst.edu>  
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2023 4:17 PM  
To: Davis, William <wdavis3@govst.edu>  
Subject: Dr. John Kahler Honored as 2019 American Red Cross Disaster Services Hero | American Red Cross of Illinois

Will,  
I wanted to talk to you about whether Dr. John Kahler would be a good nominee for an honorary doctorate. Below is an article about some of his humanitarian work. He is also a co-founder of med-global, which delivers emergency services to needy areas globally. I know him personally for 35 years, beginning with his serving as a pediatrician on the southside of Chicago. Great humanitarian, and all around good human being.

Feel free to call me. 708-299-0876.  
Larry Levinson  
GSU Professor Emeritus

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kxnxE%3D&reserved=0

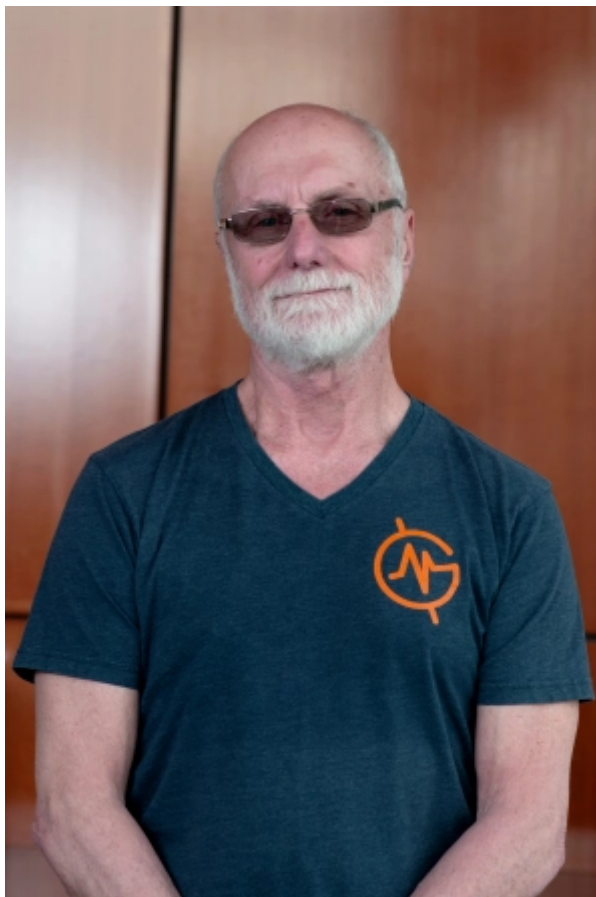
Sent from my iPhone

# American Red Cross of Illinois

## Stories from the Hearts of Red Crossers

### Dr. John Kahler Honored as 2019 American Red Cross Disaster Services Hero

APRIL 2, 2019 *By* redcrossstories *in* HEROES BREAKFAST [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



Much of Dr. John Kahler's life has been spent treating sick children. The first of his family to graduate from college, John was a pediatrician at John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital for 31 years, providing care to many of the underserved. John could have chosen a relaxing retirement, but with so many children around the globe facing tragedy and hardship, he couldn't bring himself to stop his work.

His medical travels have taken him to clinics across the globe, including Jordan, Lebanon, Greece, Haiti, Mexico, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Columbia, Tanzania, and Honduras. Dr. Kahler administers to places torn apart by fear and violence, despite the danger, because he knows that is where he is needed most.

In 2013, the world was shaken by the horrific deaths of thousands of kids as a result of chemical attack in Ghouta, Syria. Watching the pain of these families on the news, torn apart by war and violence, John felt called to expand his medical work abroad. He was heartbroken to see the Syrian people lose their hope. "It touched my heart and seared my soul. I was changed at that moment," he said.

Soon after, John traveled to Greece at the height of the migration crisis to provide care to Syrian refugees. It was there he met Dr. Zaher Sahloul, another Chicago area physician, who at the time was the President of the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS). The two stayed in contact after the trip, and in 2016 after learning about the death of the last pediatrician in Aleppo, John called his friend and told him, "send me to Syria. I can help".

While in Syria, John and the other medical professionals were forced to sleep in the basement of a secret hospital that they worked out of, as the threat of snipers and bombs made it too dangerous to leave. The two were among the last remaining western doctors in Aleppo.

It was after this mission in Syria that in 2017, that he co-founded the non-profit, MedGlobal. Based in the Chicago suburbs, MedGlobal is an international relief organization working to create a world without healthcare disparity. Their mission is to send culturally diverse, experienced medical teams to respond to humanitarian crises throughout the world and to partner with global communities to provide innovative, sustainable and dignified healthcare.

At 72 years old, John has dedicated his next chapter to helping heal those who are left vulnerable and defenseless and tell their stories. He's committed to continuing to travel with his organization. A father of six and grandfather of twelve, he wants global service to be his final legacy.

He reflected, "I have health, strength and perseverance, and I'm on the last lap- there's no question about that. I hope it's a long, slow last lap. My goal is to keep going."

*The Disaster Services Award is presented to an individual(s) who has exhibited heroic efforts in any or all of the areas of disaster services, including preparedness, response or recovery during a natural disaster or emergency situation, or has made an ongoing commitment to a community that experienced a disaster in response to an identified need.*

*Follow #RedCrossHeroes on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for updates about the 2019 Heroes. For more information about the 2019 Heroes Breakfast, click here (<https://www.redcross.org/local/illinois/chicago-and-northern-illinois/about-us/news-and-events/events/heroes-breakfast.html>).*

*To hear more of Dr. John's story, watch his video here (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAsf4ypASsQ&list=PLIKBwsHw0lxMr8bVOAQ49sf6-3sItQyKD&index=7&t=20s>).*

## American Red Cross of Illinois

*Blog at WordPress.com.*



**Honorary Degree Candidate Information****Honorary Degree Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_**Do you have a relationship or direct contact with this individual?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If Yes, please explain: (Attach a separate page if needed)

**Profession/Position/Title:** \_\_\_\_\_**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ext.** \_\_\_\_\_**Does the candidate have any affiliation with Governors State University?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If Yes, please explain: (Attach a separate page if needed)

**Personal Statement of Support** (Please be detailed in your response)

**Nomination Summary** Please also include:

- Curriculum Vitae, Résumé and/or Career Summary
- Letters of Support (if applicable)
- Any Additional Information (as appropriate)

**Nominated by:** \_\_\_\_\_**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ext.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_**Please forward this form and the required supporting documentation by September 15, 2023 to:**

**Veronica Blair**  
**Administrative Assistant to the Honorary Degree Committee**  
**vblair@govst.edu**

**Beverly Schneller**  
Provost & Vice President  
For Academic Affairs

**William A. Davis**  
Vice President for External Affairs and  
CEO GSU Foundation

BOT057



September 1, 2023

Governors State University  
1 University Pkwy  
University Park, IL 60484

Dr. Cheryl Green,

I am the dean of the College of Professional Studies at Olivet Nazarene University which includes our School of Nursing, School of Education, School of Business, Social Work & Criminal Justice Department, Exercise & Sports Science Department, Family & Consumer Science Department, and ROTC Military Science. As you can imagine, we have numerous students who gain relevant knowledge and experience through clinicals, internships, and field placements because of our partnership with Riverside Medical Center. In fact, Mr. Phil Kambic, President & CEO of Riverside, models and prioritizes collaborations where students benefit from ongoing exposure to industry knowledge so their academic learning can be enhanced through practical experience.

Mr. Kambic is deserving of the Healthcare Administration honorary degree for his outstanding leadership, his commitment to continuously improving healthcare access and quality, and his strong commitment to community partnerships. Mr. Kambic has served as Riverside's President & CEO since 2006 and during his tenure he has expanded inpatient and outpatient services covering five counties, earned Magnet designation, initiated a medical residency and fellowship program, and earned numerous awards designating Riverside as a premier healthcare provider. Mr. Kambic is driven by a desire to serve all members of our community as evidenced by his leadership on several key community grants, his population health initiative, and ability to create a continuum of care for medical and behavioral health patients. In fact, Olivet's bachelor-, masters-, and doctoral-level students benefit from opportunities to enter Riverside and work in areas of computer science, business, leadership, mental health, social work, nursing, family nurse practitioners, marketing, and fundraising. Mr. Kambic has proven his commitment to raising future strong professionals through his Young Leaders program and scholarships where he focuses on finding and developing future leaders. Mr. Kambic is a key strategic macro-level leader while simultaneously maintaining a posture of humility and interest in micro-level matters.

Mr. Kambic has displayed an extensive history of strong leadership in healthcare administration and is well deserving of this honorary degree.

Respectfully,

Amber Residori, Ed.D., MSW, LCSW  
Dean, College of Professional Studies  
Olivet Nazarene University



September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Phillip M. Kambic

Candidate for Honorary Doctorate

Governors State University

**Personal Statement of Support:**

I have known Phil Kambic for almost 20 years in my capacity on the various boards and committees of Riverside Healthcare and Riverside's various subsidiaries. I also know him from the many Kankakee area not for profit organizations he works with throughout the entire community.

I was a member of the search committee that was tasked with finding a replacement for the prior Riverside CEO 17 years ago. Out of many highly qualified candidates Phil stood out as far and away the most outstanding and we were thankful he accepted our offer to become CEO of the healthcare system.


Phil has led us, along with our great team of highly talented professionals, to unparalleled growth, extremely high levels of quality and national recognition throughout the state of Illinois and nationally. Our current top 100 recognitions in several areas are the result of his direct oversight and ability to maintain and motivate an amazing group of professional doctors, nurses, healthcare professionals, and administration support staff. Phil leads a team of almost 3,000 individuals and still maintains quite a low turnover rate in this team.

Not only does he achieve amazing results with this RHC team, Phil also maintains a leadership position within the community speaking before most community organizations frequently year after year. He brings the well-developed Riverside vision "to be the best" to all organizations in the community through the values of Integrity, Excellence, Partnership and Stewardship.

Having read through Phil's history of personal, system, and community (state, local and national) service; He has accomplished so much and led the growth of the organization, I am overwhelmed at the 17 years of accomplishment Phil has envisioned, organized, led and accomplished. His yearly plan lays out fifty to sixty goals for the healthcare system color coded in to four categories of desire and difficulty. Every year over eighty percent of these strong new goals are accomplished. This goal focus and accomplishment is always attached to entire healthcare team, yearly bonuses to share, and recognize the entire team success.

There is no doubt in my mind or the minds of Riverside's entire team that in our world of hundreds of Degreed doctors Phil deserves to be recognized as an honorary Doctor of Governors State University.

Sincerely,



Harry D. Bond CPA MBA,

Chairman Riverside Healthcare/Riverside Medical Center

**Phillip M. Kambic, MBA, FACHE**  
**National, State, and Regional professional participation**

***National participation***

- **American Hospital Association Regional Planning Board member [2018 - 2022]**

**The American Hospital Association (AHA)** is the national organization that represents and serves all types of hospitals, health care networks, and their patients and communities. Nearly 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks, other providers of care and 43,000 individual members come together to form the AHA.

Through our representation and advocacy activities, AHA ensures that members' perspectives and needs are heard and addressed in national health policy development, legislative and regulatory debates, and judicial matters. Our advocacy efforts include the legislative and executive branches and include the legislative and regulatory arenas.

Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends.

- **American College of Healthcare Executives [1992 – present] [Fellow 2007 – Present]**

For over 85 years, **the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE)** has focused on one mission—advancing leaders and the field of healthcare leadership excellence. We are the professional home to more than 48,000 healthcare executives who are committed to integrity, lifelong learning, leadership and diversity and inclusion. With today's rapidly-changing healthcare environment, ACHE remains more committed than ever to being the preeminent professional society leaders can count on to help them gain valuable knowledge to improve health for their patients and their communities. In addition, through an established network of 77 chapters members have access to networking, education and career development at the local level. Members also can earn the prestigious, gold standard FACHE® credential, signaling board certification in healthcare management.

Through *The Foundation of The American College of Healthcare Executives*, excellence is advanced with ongoing research and education, including the annual Congress on Healthcare Leadership. Each year over 4,000 participants gather to benefit from groundbreaking research and thought leadership, policy updates, and actionable innovations championed by their peers.

The Foundation's publishing division, Health Administration Press (HAP), is one of the largest publishers of books and journals on health services management, including textbooks for college and university courses. ACHE is also known for its magazine, Healthcare Executive.

Our commitment to educate, engage and inspire our members as they lead and serve hospitals, healthcare organizations and systems will never waver.

- **Member, Vistage 306 [2006 – 2020]**
- **Vistage International - Ascent Award winner October 2010**

**Vistage International** is the world's largest executive coaching organization for small and midsize businesses. For more than 65 years we've been helping CEOs, business owners and key executives solve their toughest challenges through a comprehensive approach to success. At the heart of our proven formula is confidential peer advisory groups and executive coaching sessions.

### ***State of Illinois participation***

- **Board Member, Illinois Hospital Association [2011 – 2021] [Chair – 2020]**
- **Committee Member, IHA Finance and Audit Committee [2014 – 18; Chair 2016-2018]**
- **Committee Member, IHA Executive and Compensation Committee [ 2016 – 2022]**
- **Committee Member, IHA Political Action Committee [2014 – 2021]**
- **Committee Member, IHA Advocacy Council [2007 – 2012]; Chairman [2011]**
- **IHA Grassroots Champion 2021**

**The Illinois Health and Hospital Association**, with offices in Naperville, Chicago, Springfield and Washington, D.C., is dedicated to advocating for Illinois' more than 200 hospitals and nearly 50 health systems as they serve their patients and communities throughout the state. Our members provide a broad range of services—not just within their walls, but across the continuum and throughout their communities. Reflecting the diversity of our state, our member nonprofit, investor-owned and public hospitals include: • Community hospitals • Safety net hospitals • Teaching hospitals and academic medical centers • Rural and critical access hospitals • Specialty hospitals

- **Board Member, Illinois Provider Trust –**
  - **Cayman Islands [2007 – present]; Chairman [2011 – present]**
- **Committee Member, Illinois Provider Trust,**
  - **Claims Committee [2007 – present], Chairman [2015 – present]**

**The Illinois Provider Trust (IPT)** is a Hospital Professional/General Liability program serving Illinois hospitals and their affiliated physicians. Founded in 1978, IPT is a leading provider of medical professional and general liability coverage for Illinois hospitals. Since its inception, IPT has returned over \$100 million in dividends to its members.

IPT operates under an early intervention claims philosophy with an emphasis on risk management programs that focus on identification of liability exposures and increased quality of care.

The Trust is managed by Illinois Risk Management Services (IRMS) which provides claims handling, risk management and other administrative services to the members.

Physician professional liability insurance is provided by Medical Alliance Insurance Company (MAIC), an admitted Illinois insurance company. Coverage is available to closely aligned physicians on staff at self-insured hospitals being served by IRMS and members of IPT. The program takes advantage of the cooperative effort between hospitals and physicians with early claims intervention that serves to reduce legal costs; prevent plaintiff attorney creation of conflict between defendants; and reduce premiums.

### ***Metropolitan Chicago participation***

- **Board Member, Rush System for Health [2006 – 2017]**
- **Board Member, Rush University Medical Center [2016 – 2017]**

**Rush Health** is a collaborative, member-based network of Chicago-area physicians and hospitals, working together to improve health through high quality, efficient health services covering the spectrum of patient care from wellness, prevention and health promotion, to disease management and complex care management. Rush Health includes more than 1,900 professional providers in approximately 136 practices. Rush Health members share abundant resources and benefit from the services Rush Health provides. Rush Health is organized around the following services: • Payer contracting • Membership and network • Care management • Quality monitoring • IT and analytics Rush Health includes four hospitals: Riverside, Rush Copley Medical Center, Rush Oak Park Hospital, and Rush University Medical Center.

- **Board Member, Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council [2009 – 2013]**
- **Committee Member, MCHC Finance Committee [2009 – 2011]**
- **Committee Member, MCHC Advocacy Council [2011 – 2013]; Chairman [2012]**

The **Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council** (MCHC) was a membership and service organization organized to advocate for member hospitals.

MCHC was composed of more than 140 hospitals and health care organizations in the Chicago metropolitan area.<sup>[1]</sup>

The Council's members included hospitals, physician groups, nursing homes, outpatient treatment centers, insurers, medical schools and other health care-related organizations.

The MCHC was founded in 1935. In April 2015, MCHC announced plans to merge with the Illinois Hospital Association.<sup>[4]</sup> The merger was completed in January 2016.

# PHILLIP M. KAMBIC, MBA, FACHE

3383 TOULOUSE  
BOURBONNAIS, ILLINOIS 60914

MOBILE (815) 263-5497  
OFFICE (815) 935-7549  
PKAMBIC@RHC.NET

## QUALIFICATIONS

SENIOR EXECUTIVE with thirty-eight years of progressive and diversified management experience. Innovative and resourceful leader with a history of producing outstanding results. Highlights:

- **Results-Driven Executive** - Able to generate increased revenues and cost reductions while improving quality of care, patient satisfaction, market-share and organizational financial performance in competitive markets
- **National Recognition** – Awarded for the quality of care provided at Riverside as recognized by IBM Watson Health “Top 100 Hospital” recognition eleven times.
- **Strategic Planner** - Development and growth of Riverside Medical Group, the largest multi-specialty medical group (175+ physicians and advanced practice providers) in the south Chicago metro market
- **Relationship Builder** - Possess outstanding interpersonal relationship skills and regarded as flexible, diplomatic, and proficient in developing board, physician, and community relationships.

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

**Riverside HealthCare, Inc.**  
350 North Wall Street, Kankakee, Illinois 60901

*10/1985 - Present*

Riverside HealthCare is a comprehensive, integrated system of medical and wellness-focused services. These services include Riverside Medical Center, a 300-bed community hospital; a comprehensive Heart Center, several ambulatory surgical centers, a full continuum of senior adult living care, featuring independent, assisted, and skilled care nursing facilities; a regional network of 175+ physicians and advanced practice providers; a health and fitness center; and a variety of other specialized healthcare services that serve many diverse needs.

Riverside HealthCare is affiliated with the Rush Health, which provides healthcare and educational services for two million people in the Chicago metropolitan area.

### President and CEO

*01/2006- Present*

- Created a culture that encouraged and allowed people to excel in everything that we do as a health system
- Development of a geographically broad integrated delivery system spanning five counties and growing.
- Established Internal Medicine and Psychiatric residency programs as well as Gastroenterology, Cardiac and Interventional Cardiac fellowship programs at Riverside.
- Achieved Magnet designation and multiple re-designations for nursing excellence from the American Nurses



## Credentialing Center (ANCC)

- Implemented the organizations first true electronic health record, EPIC, through-out the health system; including our ambulatory setting and our post-acute settings.
- Rebuilt the acute care hospital from “the inside out”.
  - East Tower development included new OR’s, new ICU’s, new LRD’s, new private patient rooms
  - First Floor re-design included new Interventional Labs, new Special Procedures Labs, 56 new pre/post op recovery spaces.
  - Bourbonnais Outpatient Campus is a model design for the “Hospital of the Future”.
  - New energy efficient power plant
  - New state of the art Emergency Department
- Developed and maintained close working relationships with local, state, and federal legislators to ensure Riverside Healthcare’s best interests were represented
- Developed and maintained close working relationships with local media outlets to ensure Riverside Healthcare’s best interests were represented

## **Senior Vice President for Operations & COO**

01/1994-12/2005

*(Promoted in 9/2000 from VP of Operations)*

- Administratively responsible for the activities of the VP for Medical Affairs, VP for Patient Care Services, VP for Community Health, VP for Information Services, Facilities Development & Management, Environmental Services, & Nutritional Services
- Responsible for the coordination and implementation of the Health System’s strategic planning process
- Active participation in capital expansion initiatives including the organization’s last three bond issues; \$46,000,000 in 2004, \$55,000,000 in 2002, \$33,000,000 in 2000.
- Responsible for the development and implementation of the Medical Center’s three-year, \$130 million master facility plan (2002 – 2005)
- Responsible for the design, development, and operations of the Riverside Pavilion, a 115,000 square foot, \$26 million office and parking complex which opened in 2003. The building was over 90 percent leased to physicians at its opening, and also incorporated a new on-campus ambulatory center for growth and expansion of ambulatory care services.
- Responsible for the design and development of the Emergency Department’s *Fast Track* service (2004). The first year of operation saw a 10% increase in total Emergency Department visits; Second year of operation generated another 8% increase.
- Responsible for the design, development, and operations of the Riverside’s Bourbonnais Campus which includes:
  - A 70,000 square foot Health and Fitness Center (1998)
  - A state-of-the-art Radiation Therapy Center (2003)
  - A comprehensive Outpatient Women’s Center and Diagnostic Center (2004)
  - A physician joint ventured Ambulatory Surgery Center (2005)
  - A medical office complex (2005)
- Coordinated various cost containment and revenue enhancement initiatives including:

- A productivity related consulting engagement which reduced approximately 100 FTEs without layoffs
  - A Charge Master pricing initiative, which increased net re-imbursement by approximately 2.5 million annually.
  - A Case Mix Index Task Force, which increased Medicare net re-imbursement by approximately 1.2 million annually.
  - Commissioned a team to develop patient placement rules to consolidate nursing units and achieved 700 thousand in annual expense reduction
  - Participated in advocacy efforts which resulted in grants from the Department of Health and Human Services totaling more than 3.0 million.
  - Coordinated a Revenue Cycle Management Task Force, which reduced net days in receivables by approximately 65 days over a two-year period.
- Served as part of senior team that developed the Rush-Riverside Heart Center and obtained Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board approval for open-heart surgery in January, 1999. The program did its first procedure in November, 1999 and has enjoyed outstanding clinical and financial performance. In 2003, Riverside installed its third catheterization laboratory, and constructed its second operating room to accommodate continued growth in heart procedure volume. HealthGrades.com has awarded its five (5) star award to the Rush-Riverside Heart Center open-heart program for the past five years.
  - Developed and implemented a program in our Obstetrics department where a photographer would photograph mom, baby and family, then put those pictures to music on a DVD. The program restored OB hospital share back to the 70% range.
  - Chair and coordinate the annual capital and operating budget committees for Riverside Medical Center
  - Chair the Health Systems Operations Council which was chartered to focus on the overall day to day operations and financial stability of the organization
  - Participated in senior management activities including: strategic plan development, senior staff meetings, senior staff planning retreats, Board of Directors meetings, various medical staff department meetings, and full medical staff meetings.
  - Participated in and/or Chaired various Rush System for Health committees (including COO and CIO committees) to better coordinate the member hospitals operations and realize economies of scale.

### **Vice President, Information Services and CIO**

*05/1992-01/1994*

- Responsible for Information Systems, Patient Accounting, Patient Registration, Medical Records
- Coordinated the successful search, selection, and implementation of a replacement hospital-wide information system.
- Responsible for the search, selection, and implementation of Laboratory and Pharmacy information systems
- Developed and implemented the medical centers first Information Technology strategic plan

### **Programmer, Manager, Director of Information Services**

*10/1985-04/1992*

- Supervised all aspects of Information Services

## EDUCATION

### **Masters of Business Administration, 08/1992**

Governors State University

### **Bachelor of Science in Business, Computer Management, 05/1985**

Eastern Illinois University

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Hospital Association Regional Planning Board member [2018 -2022]

Board Member, Illinois Hospital Association [2011 – 2021] [Chair – 2020]

Committee Member, IHA Finance and Audit Committee [2014 – 18; Chair 2016-2018]

Committee Member, IHA Executive and Compensation Committee [ 2016 – 2022]

Committee Member, IHA Political Action Committee [2014 – 2021]

Committee Member, IHA Advocacy Council [2007 – 2012]; Chairman [2011]

Board Member, Rush System for Health [2006 – 2017]

Board Member, Rush University Medical Center [2016 – 2017]

**Board Member, Kankakee Valley Healthcare [2001 – present]**

**Board Member, Illinois Provider Trust –**

**Cayman Islands [2007 – present]; Chairman [2011 – present]**

**Committee Member, Illinois Provider Trust,**

**Claims Committee [2007 – present], Chairman [2015 – present]**

Board Member, Midwestern University Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institute (OPTI)

Governing Board. Midwestern University [2010 – 2020]

**Fellow (2007), American College of Healthcare Executives [1992 – present]**

Member, Vistage 306 [2006 – 2020]

Board Member, Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council [2009 – 2013]

Committee Member, MCHC Finance Committee [2009 – 2011]

Committee Member, MCHC Advocacy Council [2011 – 2013]; Chairman [2012]

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

**Board Member, Economic Alliance of Kankakee County [2009 to present];**

**Executive Committee Member [2011 – present], Chairman [2015 – 2017]**

**Board Member, Kankakee County Economic Development Corporation [2008 – present] [Chair 2022]**

Board Member, American Red Cross of Kankakee County [2012 to 2015]

Steering Committee Member, Cornerstone Steering Committee [2014 to 2018]

Steering Committee Member, Kankakee Urbanized Area Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP)

Steering Committee [2014]

Board Member, Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce [2012 to 2013]

Advisory Board Member, ONU Center for Ethical Leadership and Executive Dev [2009 to 2011]

Board Member, Kankakee – Kankakee River Valley Area Airport Authority [2007 – 2012]

Board Member, Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School [2004 to 2012]

Board Member, Bradley-Bourbonnais Chamber of Commerce [1999 to 2009]

Board Member, Kankakee County United Way [2006 to 2009]

Board Member, Kankakee Development Council [2001 to 2008]

Board Member, Riverside Community Credit Union [1987 to 2006]

Board Member, Kankakee Area YMCA [1997 to 2005], Board Chairman [2002 to 2004],

Sustaining Drive Chairman, [1999 & 2000]

Board Member, Kankakee Rotary Club [1998 to 2004], Treasurer [2001 to 2002],

Membership Chairman [1999 to 2001]

## **MISCELLANEOUS RECOGNITION**

Consistently named to Becker's "Community Hospital CEO's to Know", including 2023  
Named Governors State University School of Business Distinguished Alumni Fall of 2022  
Inducted into the Governors State University College of Business Hall of Achievement Spring of 2022  
IHA Grassroots Champion 2021  
Finalist 2017 Wellness Awards, category "Best Executive Wellness Champion"  
2016 Becker's Healthcare Leadership Award  
United Way of Kankakee County – Annual Campaign Chair 2005 & 2016  
2011 Honorary Chair, Christmas Day Golf in September  
Vistage International - Ascent Award winner October 2010  
Bradley-Bourbonnais Chamber of Commerce - Business Person of the Year 2006  
Kankakee Daily Journal – Citizen of the Year 2006

**Honorary Degree Candidate Information****Honorary Degree Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_**Do you have a relationship or direct contact with this individual?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If Yes, please explain: (Attach a separate page if needed)

**Profession/Position/Title:** \_\_\_\_\_**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ext.** \_\_\_\_\_**Does the candidate have any affiliation with Governors State University?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If Yes, please explain: (Attach a separate page if needed)

**Personal Statement of Support** (Please be detailed in your response)

**Nomination Summary** Please also include:

- Curriculum Vitae, Résumé and/or Career Summary
- Letters of Support (if applicable)
- Any Additional Information (as appropriate)

**Nominated by:** \_\_\_\_\_**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ext.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_**Please forward this form and the required supporting documentation by September 15, 2023 to:**

**Veronica Blair**  
**Administrative Assistant to the Honorary Degree Committee**  
**vblair@govst.edu**

**Beverly Schneller**  
Provost & Vice President  
For Academic Affairs

**William A. Davis**  
Vice President for External Affairs and  
CEO GSU Foundation

BOT071

# N MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WEEK

Nebraska (<https://www.unl.edu/>) › Martin Luther King Jr. Week (<https://mlkweek.unl.edu/>) › Commemorative Celebration Event (<https://mlkweek.unl.edu/mlk-week-commemoration>) › Dr. Bernice King bio

## Dr. Bernice A. King bio

Dr. Bernice A. King is a global thought leader, orator, peace advocate, and Chief Executive Officer of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change (The King Center), which was founded by her mother, Coretta Scott King, in 1968. She was appointed CEO of The King Center in January 2012, by the Board of Trustees. From this position, the same one once held by her mother, this transformative leader steadfastly continues her efforts to advance her parents' legacy of Kingian Nonviolence, which Dr. King re-branded Nonviolence365™.

Through her work at The King Center, Dr. King educates youth and adults about the nonviolent principles modeled by her parents. In 2012, she implemented an annual N.O.W. Encounter Summer Camp which has engaged youth from New Mexico, South Carolina, Michigan, Alabama, and as far away as the Island of Cyprus. Because of the impact the camp, now called Camp NOW, had on their lives, youth from Cyprus returned two years in a row.

Dr. King spearheaded the 'Let Freedom Ring and Call to Action' event to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington and her father's famous 'I Have a Dream' speech. This global event included then President Obama, former Presidents Clinton and Carter, and members of Congress, as well as many other international leaders, dignitaries and entertainers.

As part of the Center's Nonviolence365 education and training initiative, Dr. King launched Students with King, which enables students to interact with King family members, as well as those who knew and/or worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mrs. Coretta Scott King. As part of the interactive conversation, which is typically moderated by either a local radio or TV on-air personality, students are given the opportunity to learn about the more personal side of the King Family and Legacy. Dr. King also launched a series of interactive web-talks with students throughout the country using Google Hangout as the platform. These talks enable her to use technology to converse with students while she is at The King Center and the students are in their classrooms.

After the tragic death of Michael Brown at the hands of law enforcement, Dr. King led The King Center team in engaging educators, law enforcement, civic leaders, activists, gang members and business leaders in the Ferguson community in dialogue and Nonviolence365 training. The Center's work in Ferguson included a 4-day education and training for adults and a 4-day education and training for students and faculty at Riverview Gardens High School. Participants were encouraged to commit themselves to embracing nonviolence as a lifestyle. The work in Ferguson, MO continues, and the requests for Nonviolence365 education and training continue to pour into The King Center.

Under Dr. King's leadership, the Center has expanded and enhanced its community engagement to include partnering with the Urban League of Atlanta to provide Nonviolence365 experiences for 100 ex offenders and to encompass launching the Better Together: Racial Reconciliation initiative for pastors and church leaders. Dr. King also led a King Center team in partnering with Ujamaa Place in St. Paul, Minnesota to provide Nonviolence365 for 120 youth and adults in the community that was home to Philando Castile. Further, in an effort to build relationships between community and law enforcement and to decrease incidents of police brutality, The King Center, under Dr. King's leadership, facilitates Nonviolence365 for Law Enforcement. Participants in NV365 Law Enforcement trainings have included chiefs, sheriffs and captains from metro Atlanta departments, as well as directors for agencies such as the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. The Center received certification from the state of Georgia to accommodate participants receiving training credit for attending NV365 for Law Enforcement.

Dr. King also initiated the Beloved Community Talks to begin having courageous conversations about the difficult racial issues impacting our communities, nation and world. The first was entitled 'The Race Factor: The Lies, The Myths and The Truths' and was held as part of its 2015 King Holiday Observance. The next year's KHO Beloved Community Talk was 'The Race Factor: Rights vs Responsibilities,' and in 2017, the focus was 'Let's Bridge the Racial Divide Across Urban, Suburban and Rural America.' In addition to expanding and enhancing The King Center's Nonviolence365 Education and Training Platform, Dr. King has focused her efforts on transforming the physical King Center campus. She began by using technology to add the sound of her parents' voices to the campus experience. When you visit the Center, you not only get to see and read their words, you get to hear their voices. From quotes on the walls and the walkway landing to the restoration of the reflecting pool where the crypts of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and Mrs. Coretta Scott King are housed, the campus is being revived.

Prior to taking on her role at the Center, Dr. King was already nationally and internationally known as one of the most powerful, motivating and life-changing orators and speakers on the circuit today. She began her oratorical journey when she spoke in her mother's stead at the United Nations at age 17. Over the years, she has spoken on the steps of The Lincoln Memorial, The White House, major corporations and universities, and in nations throughout the world, including South Africa, Germany, and New Zealand.

Dr. King is a graduate of Spelman College with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and of Emory University, with a Masters of Divinity and Doctorate of Law. She has also received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree from Wesley College. In honor of her mother, Coretta Scott King, she returned to her alma-mater, Spelman College, to announce the establishment of the Be A King® Scholarship. Dr. King is currently a member of the State Bar of Georgia and a trained mediator. She is also a member of the International Women's Forum and National Council of Negro Women.

With a strong concern for youth, family and community partnership, Dr. King was privileged to serve as a law clerk in the Fulton County Juvenile Court system, under Judge Glenda Hatchett, who was host of the nationally syndicated 'Judge Hatchett Show.' She has served as a mentor and advisor to the Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy (CSKYWLA). In 2014, Dr. King was delighted to serve as the high school commencement speaker for the inaugural graduating class of young ladies who she first met in 2007 when they were in the 6th grade. In January of 2011, she launched the "100 Days of Nonviolence" campaign at CSKYWLA to expose the girls to nonviolence as modeled by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Nonviolence 365), and to encourage them to begin embracing it as a way of life.

Dr. King has been featured on numerous television shows, in magazines, as a television commentator and is the recipient of a host of awards and accolades. In April 2008, she was one of the fifteen delegates selected to meet Pope Benedict XVI during his visit to the United States. On March 12, 2018, while being honored by the Center of Gandhi in Montelone di Puglia, Dr. King was privileged to have a private meeting with Pope Francis at the Vatican. A noted author, she has to her credit, 'Hard Questions, Heart Answers,' a compelling and inspiring book.

Dr. King is an innovative, energetic and committed leader dedicated to taking her parents' legacy and teachings, The King Center, and the work of creating a more peaceful, just, humane world with Nonviolence365 into a new era.



BOT074






CONTACT US

University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
1400 R Street  
Lincoln, NE 68588  
402-472-7211

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**Honorary Degree Candidate Information**

**Honorary Degree Candidate:** JOHN KIRKSEY

**Do you have a relationship or direct contact with this individual?** ☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please explain: (Attach a separate page if needed) SEE MY LETTER

KIRKSEY — 4770 TORTONA COURT LAKEWOOD RANCH, FL  
PHONE 215 882-0186 JKirkseyTK@gmail.com 34221  
comcast.net

**My Profession/Position/Title:** CHAIR / CO-FOUNDER, GLOBAL FUTURES

**Mailing Address:** 234 FIFTH AVE, 2ND FLR GROUP, LLC  
NEW YORK, NY 10001

**Telephone:** +1 347 407-0300 **Ext.** —

**Does the candidate have any affiliation with Governors State University?** ☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please explain: (Attach a separate page if needed) GRADUATE, SEE LETTER

**Personal Statement of Support** (Please be detailed in your response)

SEE MY LETTER

**Nomination Summary** Please also include:

- Curriculum Vitae, Résumé and/or Career Summary
- Letters of Support (if applicable)
- Any Additional Information (as appropriate)

**Nominated by:** JERRY MULTIN

**Telephone:** +1 347-407-0300 **Ext.** — **Email:** Jerry@globalfuturesgroup.co

Please forward this form and the required supporting documentation by September 15, 2023 to:

**Veronica Blair**

**Administrative Assistant to the Honorary Degree Committee**

**vblair@govst.edu**

**Beverly Schneller**  
Provost & Vice President  
For Academic Affairs

**William A. Davis**  
Vice President for External Affairs and  
CEO GSU Foundation

## **ENDORSEMENT – JOHN KIRKSEY**

**September 6, 2023**

Veronica Blair  
Administrative Assistant to the Honorary Committee  
Governors State University

Dear Ms. Blair,

I want to express my enthusiastic endorsement for John Kirksey as a prospect for an Honorary Degree from Governors State University.

I have had two very positive connections to John, initially when he was Vice President for Human Resources at Knight-Ridder, Inc., and I was Senior Vice President; and later when John served on the Board of the National Executive Service Corps, and I was the Chairman and CEO.

John possesses an unusual combination of strong leadership attributes together with an extraordinary human dimension. He inspires those with whom he is associated through his personal example of commitment to achieving meaningful goals.

I was always impressed with John's adherence to his personal values and convictions. He demonstrated this time and again in his responsibilities for fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion for all of our employees.

John has a strong intellect and a wonderful way of presenting innovative and forward-looking ideas in small and large settings. His special writing talents are evidenced in his recent accomplishments as an author of a best-selling book on organizational effectiveness.

On a more personal level, I don't believe that I have ever had more confidence and trust in any of my associates than I have had with John. It's been a privilege and honor to count him as a friend and fellow colleague.

Governors State University would be well served to award its Honorary Degree to one of its most remarkable graduates.

Very truly yours,

Marv Berenblum, Chairman Emeritus, National Executive Service Corps

BUD BLOCK Ph.D  
760 GREAT ELM LANE  
HIGHLAND PARK, IL 60035  
[budblockpm@comcast.net](mailto:budblockpm@comcast.net)

TO: Governors State Honorary Degree Committee

I am delighted to provide a letter of support for the consideration of John Kirksey for and honorary doctorate at Governors State University.

I have known John for 25 years and have always considered him one of the most impressive individuals I have been associated with. I consider him to be:

A THOUGHT LEADER  
AN IMPRESSIVE LEADER AND COACH  
STRONGLY COMMITTED TO PUBLIC SERVICE  
A GREAT ROLE MODEL  
A PERSON OF GENUINE INTEGRITY  
A COMPELLING AUTHOR

I lead the people and change practice for PricewaterhouseCoopers. When our diversity leader retired, we looked across the country for the best possible resource to be our new head. That person was John. We were delighted and felt lucky to be able to entice him to join us. He did not disappoint. As a PWC partner, John was truly exceptional. He worked closely with progressive US companies to establish leading edge initiatives that were then benchmarked and emulated by other companies. He also assisted those organizations who needed to change –

helping them to become better and more responsive. He treated all clients with respect and was greatly appreciated. He showed himself to be insightful, innovative and realistic in his approach.

He also demonstrated strong leadership - inspiring, supporting and developing his staff. Under his direction, he created a high performing and very successful team.

John also provided leadership to our firm – both advising us to be a leader in diversity and also by contributing generally as a valued partner.

I found John to be great to work with. He contributed to our success, made us a better firm, and was a role model and inspiration to others.

I have followed his career since John moved in other directions. He has continued to show leadership, to commit himself to making a difference and to have a positive impact. I am proud to call him a colleague and friend.

I can be reached by e-mail or 847 323-4937 if you would like to discuss further. I believe John is clearly a distinguish alumni the Governors State should be proud of.



*Global Futures Group, LLC*  
*234 Fifth Avenue, 2nd Floor, The Yard*  
*New York, NY 10001*  
*+1 347 407 0300*  
*jerry@globalfuturesgroup.co*

September 11, 2023

Governors State University  
University Park, Illinois

Nomination of John Kirksey

Dear Provost Schneller and Vice President Davis,

Here is my wholehearted nomination for John Kirksey to be awarded an honorary degree by your university. John is a remarkable American who throughout life has demonstrated the value of empathy and civility. In a time where trust in our institutions is in short supply and divisiveness can get one elected President of the United States, John stands out as a leader who understands and promotes the importance of understanding others and working together as trusted friends and colleagues.

I have known John for nearly 15 years. We are both active members of the Foreign Policy Association, John served as a trustee of the Polytechnic Institute of New York University when I was president, and, over our years together as John and I became friends.

John's professional career as an adult is enough to warrant an honorary degree to one of Governors State University's own graduates. But let me go even earlier in John's life, where as a young child of Rockford, Illinois, he suffered the harshness and racial discrimination that was so prevalent in post-WWII mid-western America; incidentally this a world I know from another perspective, because I came of age in a town in Michigan which did not allow blacks to stay overnight, let alone live in our town.

John could have wilted under this racism or become an angry, disconnected young man, but instead, he moved on, sought an education (thank you for giving him this education), and used his education to live a life of helping some of America's leading corporations understand and deliver on empathy, diversity, and inclusion. The list is remarkable, including Sony, Disney, Time Warner, JP Morgan Chase, Pepsico, AXA and others.

John's support of the Foreign Policy Association also demonstrates John's commitment to a globally-aware, well-informed and better America, since the FPA's flagship program is Great Decisions, an annual guide to discussion groups in thousands of churches, non-profits, and service organizations across America.

When I met John at FPA, I recruited him to join the trustees of the Polytechnic Institute. I had just merged Polytechnic University with NYU (now it's called the NYU Tandon School of Engineering) and needed a leader on our board who would back me in maintaining Poly's historic role as a racially and economically-diversified engineering school that offered young men and women the technological education needed to succeed. As NYC transitioned to an entrepreneurial and innovative global center, John helped ensure that Polytechnic's tradition of access and opportunity was not diminished but was augmented.

If this is not enough, let me close by recognizing the compelling and heart-warming book that John has written, *Hope Lives Between Us*. His book will change many young lives as they see, through John's compassionate and evocative writing, how beneficial it is to build teams, to work together rather than alone, and to see the world from the perspective of others.

For all the remarkable accomplishments and insights of John Kirksey, I sincerely hope you will give him an award he has earned. By doing so, you will give your students a real, tangible role model and guide for how to live their lives and you will demonstrate why being educated and graduating from Governors State University can make a positive difference.

All the best,

Jerry Hultin

CEO, co-founder, Global Futures Group

Co-founder, Fighting Chance Ukraine

Chair, New York Academy of Sciences

Chair, Educational Housing Services

Executive-in-Residence, Arizona State University

Former Under Secretary of the Navy

Former Dean Stevens Institute of Technology

Former President Polytechnic University (now NYU Tandon School of Engineering)

## **John Kirksey**

In the Organization Effectiveness community, I am internationally recognized as one of the most innovative leaders in Human Resources, and Employee Engagement. I have led groundbreaking initiatives at the highest levels of corporate and consulting leadership.

I am an accomplished leader with the ability to see and share a compelling vision for a desired future state. I paint word-pictures that inspire a shared vision and a visceral sense of ownership.

My recently published book, *Hope Lives Between Us*, was a #1 bestseller in the Amazon Books Social Theory category. Organizational effectiveness leaders are hailing my book as both timely and transformational.

I am a trusted leader and advisor who works effectively at all levels. I have had direct reporting relationships to CEOs, and Board Chairpersons. I have also been on the Board of Directors of the NYU Polytechnic/Tandon School of Engineering and the Board of Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

I have been an advisor on strategic HR initiatives for Sony, Disney, Time Warner, JP Morgan Chase, Pepsico, Comerica Bank, TD Bank, and numerous other marquee organizations.

My board service has included the National Executive Service Corps, A Journey For 911 and the Old Barracks Revolutionary War Museum. I am a Fellow of The Foreign Policy Association and a member of the Executive Leadership Council. During my career I have served on many other boards, including the Allegheny Industries Board of Directors, Philadelphia and Southeastern Pennsylvania United Way Board of Directors, Miami Dade Board of the Chamber of Commerce, and numerous others. I was a lecturer at the Wharton's Graduate School of Business, on Managing change in corporate mergers and acquisitions.

I am often invited to be a Keynote Speaker for professional conferences and seminars. My business savvy combined with exceptional knowledge of organizational culture has made me a highly regarded Employee Engagement and Organization Effectiveness executive and advisor.

My career, as a senior executive, board member, consulting partner and board level adviser, has honed my skills as an exceptional listener, with a distinct ability to analyze and process information that both identifies and addresses the needs of the organization.

As a senior executive, I have led major innovations in Workforce Planning, and Organization Change Management. My career has always been on the cutting edge of organizational innovation.



During the past three decades, I have applied my extensive leadership expertise to enabling Organizations to leverage their workplace dynamics to drive innovation and stakeholder engagement.

While I am self assured, I am open and approachable. Part of my success, in enhancing high performance, is built on sensitivity to the professional and personal needs of individuals. I am a leader of people because I am willing to journey with them. I have been able to develop and express my organizational vision in a fashion that is visceral, inclusive, and compelling. In this way I have had great success in embedding a shared vision for excellence that is both universal and sustainable within organizations. My ability to drive a shared vision for organization excellence has been my hallmark.

I am a collaborative, decisive and, most importantly, a result driven executive, adept at executing a well developed and clearly communicated strategy within organizations. Key to my success has been structuring win/win relationships that elevate the organizations interests above personal, territorial, and political agendas. By encouraging and enabling symbiotic relationships, I get things done.

My experience as an Organizational Change executive, and as a corporate culture consulting leader, when combined with my board experience, gives me a unique perspective. My hallmark is that I drive engagement of employees around a shared vision of excellence in pursuit of the mission of the organization. By getting the right people in the right places doing the right things and making them feel welcome, wanted, and important, I have created phenomenal results.

John Kirksey  
4770 Tortona Court  
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34211  
(215)882-0196  
[jkirkseytkg@comcast.net](mailto:jkirkseytkg@comcast.net)

Dr. Chiji Ohayia, PhD  
Vice President / Chief of Staff at JPMorgan Chase  
Email: [drchiji05@yahoo.com](mailto:drchiji05@yahoo.com)  
Phone: 908-625-4201

September 3, 2023

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing with the utmost enthusiasm to endorse Mr. John Kirksey as an exceptional candidate for an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Governors State University. His extraordinary accomplishments and unwavering commitment to effecting positive change in our society make him a most deserving recipient of this esteemed honor.

One of Mr. Kirksey's remarkable achievements that stands out is his literary success. His book, "Hope Lives Between Us," securing the #1 bestselling position in Amazon Book's Social Theory category, speaks volumes about his profound insights and capacity to engage readers on issues of paramount societal importance. Through his writing, Mr. Kirksey has been a catalyst for informed discourse and meaningful change, which resonates with the core values of Governors State University.

Mr. Kirksey's illustrious career path is a testament to his exceptional leadership abilities. Having served in pivotal roles as Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operations Officer, Chief Human Resources Officer, and Chief Diversity Officer, he has consistently exhibited a unique combination of visionary thinking and pragmatic execution. His contributions to the fields of executive leadership, operations management, and human resources have had a transformative impact on the organizations he has led, reflecting a dedication to organizational excellence that aligns perfectly with the university's mission.

Equally noteworthy is Mr. Kirksey's involvement as a University Board Member and his extensive service on the boards of numerous not-for-profit organizations. These roles underscore his deep commitment to advancing higher education and fostering community development. His tireless efforts and contributions to these institutions have enriched their missions and exemplify his dedication to the betterment of society.

On a personal note, I have had the privilege of being mentored by Mr. Kirksey over the years. His guidance, wisdom, and unwavering support have been instrumental in my personal and professional growth. His mentorship reflects his genuine desire to empower and uplift others, a quality that is truly commendable.

Considering these remarkable accomplishments and contributions, I wholeheartedly endorse Mr. John Kirksey for an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Governors State University. His ability to bridge theory and practice, his dedication to social justice, and his exemplary leadership in fostering positive change embody the values and principles that Governors State University holds dear.

I firmly believe that conferring upon Mr. Kirksey this prestigious honor would not only recognize his extraordinary achievements but also serve as a source of inspiration for our university community. His life's work exemplifies the transformative power of education and underscores the boundless potential of individuals to affect profound and positive change in the world.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Selection Committee for considering Mr. Kirksey for this well-deserved recognition. I have every confidence that his contributions to society, combined with his embodiment of the principles cherished by Governors State University, make him an outstanding candidate for this distinguished honor.

Sincerely,



Dr. Chiji Ohayia, PhD  
Email: [drchiji05@yahoo.com](mailto:drchiji05@yahoo.com)  
Phone: 908-625-4201



**Honorary Degree Candidate Information****Honorary Degree Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_**Do you have a relationship or direct contact with this individual?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If Yes, please explain: (Attach a separate page if needed)

**Profession/Position/Title:** \_\_\_\_\_**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ext.** \_\_\_\_\_**Does the candidate have any affiliation with Governors State University?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If Yes, please explain: (Attach a separate page if needed)

**Personal Statement of Support** (Please be detailed in your response)

**Nomination Summary** Please also include:

- Curriculum Vitae, Résumé and/or Career Summary
- Letters of Support (if applicable)
- Any Additional Information (as appropriate)

**Nominated by:** \_\_\_\_\_**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ext.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_**Please forward this form and the required supporting documentation by September 15, 2023 to:**

**Veronica Blair**  
**Administrative Assistant to the Honorary Degree Committee**  
**vblair@govst.edu**

**Beverly Schneller**  
Provost & Vice President  
For Academic Affairs

**William A. Davis**  
Vice President for External Affairs and  
CEO GSU Foundation

BOT086

## Letter of Support

September 15, 2023

Veronica Blair

Administrative Assistant to the Honorary Degree Committee

Dear Esteemed Committee Members,

I am pleased to submit this letter of support to this committee for Javon Nichols. I have known Javon for more than 75% of her life. She has been exemplary as a committed member of the communities that she has served. She has championed the underdog and worked tirelessly to create new opportunities for the underprivileged.

Javon has utilized her skills and made her business available to underserved communities. I have watched her grow her business and enhance her skills; while still keeping a level mind and laser focus on those in need.

In conclusion, I cannot think of a better person to represent the tenacity and undertone that is a letter of distinction for the bestowment of an Honorary Degree from Governor State University. Javon Nichols's character, work acumen, dedication, and focus are all traits that will represent this degree. She will wear it proudly and it will greatly represent what dedication and determination can produce.

Sincerely,

Lydia Hamilton

GSU Adjunct Faculty

773-320-3671

# JAVON A. McCain NICHOLAS

503 E 61<sup>st</sup> street, Chicago, Illinois, 60637, 844-434-4765, Javon@theflavourunitcorp.com

## EDUCATION

Governors State University, Richton Park, IL  
Bachelor of Arts Business Administration, May 2014

Wenzao Urseline University, Kaohsiung, TW  
Studied Mandarin Chinese Language, May 2011 to January 2012

Malcolm X College, Chicago, IL  
Foodservice Management, Dietetic Technology, May 2000  
Basic Certification

## EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Lakeview Living Center, Chicago, Illinois

Nutritionist and Foodservice Director, May 2000 to November 2003

- Supervised food prep employees, created standardized recipes and monitored standards while ensuring food safety and sanitation practices were being upheld
- Managed daily Dietary operations of the Living Center
- Provided Dietary recommendations, nutritional counseling and charted data in medical charts
- Supervised twenty dietary personnel
- Controlled dietary budget, and the dietary needs for three hundred residents

Red Lobster, Oak Lawn, Illinois

Restaurant Manager, November 2003 to January 2011

- Managed, coached, and developed one hundred employees while also managing a restaurant with the potential occupancy of three hundred customers
- Supervised food prep and cooking standards while ensuring food safety and sanitation practices were being upheld
- Managed daily restaurant operations in both front and back of the restaurant
- Upheld sanitation, safety, and quality assurance standards
- Responsible for liquor sales, employee scheduling, and budget
- Engaged in daily customer service

Steritech Quality Assurance, Charlotte, North Carolina

QUALITY MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST, July 2012 to August 2014

- Quality Assurance Auditor for over 65 retail food service establishments
- Evaluated food prep and cooking standards while ensuring food safety and sanitation practices were being upheld
- Facilitated communication of food safety and brand standard information to clients
- Nationally consulted with clients on issues observed during inspections

Meal Prep Kitchen Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

PROPRIETOR, April 2016 to 2017

- Provide weekly meals to clients within the Chicagoland area
- Create menus, recipes, grocery and supply shop for weekly menus
- Create custom meal plans for various groups
- Manage staff
- Provides moderate nutritional counseling

The Flavour Unit Corporation DBA EGG ROLLS ETC

PROPRIETOR, June 21, 2017 to Present

- Create recipes and ideas for concept
- Manufactures a frozen product line of comfort filled Egg Rolls, Potstickers and Rangoon
- Supplies product line to a wide variety of food service establishments
- Evaluates food prep, HACCP and cooking standards while ensuring food safety and sanitation practices are being upheld
- Manage employees, sales team and operations
- Budgets cost of goods and materials needed for production

## **SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS**

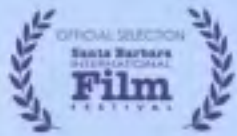
### **SPANISH LANGUAGE SKILLS**

- Fluent speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish (native language is English)
- Advisory Council Board member for The Illinois Restaurant Association installed February 2023
- Learned Mandarin (Simplified) in Kaohsiung Taiwan 2011 to 2013
- City and State health sanitation certification 2022 thru 2025
- Certified in HACCP by the Department of Illinois Agriculture August 2022
- Small business Coach for Sunshine Enterprises March 2022 to Present

## REFERENCES

Available upon request





# Go On, Be Brave

Press Kit



BOF091  
[Learn More](#)





DIRECTORS CONTACT  
MIRIAM MCSPADDEN  
MJ@FLYSQUIRRELFILMS.COM

BRIAN BECKMAN  
BRIAN@FLYSQUIRRELFILMS.COM

WEBSITE  
[www.goonbcbrave.com](http://www.goonbcbrave.com)

Running Time: 111 mins | World Premiere  
Genre: Documentary - Human Interest | Sports

## — LOGLINE —

*Go On, Be Brave* is the story of one woman's race against time - a diagnosis of ALS and an attempt at the impossible - to be the first person with ALS to complete a marathon in all 50 states.

## — SYNOPSIS —

*Go On, Be Brave* begins when Andrea Lytle Peet receives the death sentence of an ALS diagnosis at age 33. The life expectancy for ALS is 2-5 years. She is told her disease is rapidly progressing and to get her affairs in order. She does. And like a true athlete, she decides to do one final triathlon before she dies. She walks across the finish line with trekking poles, her husband, David Peet by her side. And then she waits And waits. Until one day, she gets tired of waiting to die. She decides to live.

At the five-year anniversary of her ALS diagnosis, Andrea sets an ambitious goal: be the first person with ALS to complete a marathon in all 50 US states. An “attempt at the impossible,” shares her neurologist Dr. Bedlack; a goal even Andrea doesn't think she will reach. But she wants to try.

As we follow Andrea's story for more than three years, we see that her journey is not at all what we expected. It is not solely an epic sports tale nor is it a sobering depiction of a patient with ALS preparing to die. Instead, it is a story of hope that transcends sport and disease. What starts out as one woman's individual quest towards 50 marathons evolves into a story of community. It is about the quieter moments between races where Andrea brings hope and joy to people with ALS as they fight for a cure together. *Go On, Be Brave* is a meditation on life - of how each one of us chooses to live.

## Miriam (MJ) McSpadden - Director



Miriam first picked up a camera when she was 19 years old while studying theater in undergrad. Prior to that she had always been in front of the camera as her background was in acting and dancing. When she stepped behind the lens, Miriam fell in love with cinematography and editing. She became even more impassioned when she realized how few women were represented in the technical fields of film. Over the last decade Miriam has been fortunate to be mentored under award winning cinematographers and editors. Her work has been featured on outlets like NBC, ESPN, The Today Show and PBS North Carolina. Miriam honed her unique sense of storytelling through her upbringing as an athlete, dancer, and actor. Her background as an athlete has equipped her to pick up a camera and run, sometimes for miles, to capture the intimate and poignant moments that take place far off the beaten path. As a dancer, her deep connection to sound and music infuse her editing as she works to transport an audience into the feeling of each scene. And her experience as an actor informs her ability to approach each person with curiosity and empathy. Her work over the last decade has won her 2 Mid-South Emmy awards and 16 more nominations. *Go On, Be Brave* is Miriam's debut as a director of a feature documentary film.

## Brian Beckman - Co-Director

Brian's journey to film has been unorthodox in every way. At the age of 23, he found himself as a research assistant at a large hospital, utilizing his degree in exercise sports science. The job was not the right fit. When approached by a non-profit to travel to east Africa (Uganda, Rwanda) to put on sports camps, he put in his 2-weeks' notice and got on a plane. That was in 2009. Since then, Brian founded a non-profit that employs 24 Rwandans who use soccer to work with kids who are experiencing homelessness. Starting a non-profit at the age of 23 didn't afford a budget for photography and film, so Brian taught himself. He has always had a deep passion for telling marginalized stories and has honed his craft over the last 15 years by partnering with individuals within underrepresented communities to ensure filming and storytelling is empowering for all involved. *Go On, Be Brave* will be Brian's debut as a co-director of a feature documentary film.



## Andrea Lytle Peet - Subject

Before receiving a death sentence of ALS at age 33, Andrea was living a normal life: urban planner, triathlete, and wife hoping to start a family with her beloved husband, David. In four months, she went from completing a half Ironman triathlon to walking with a cane, then a walker. With her disease progressing rapidly, she was told to get her affairs in order. Like a true athlete, she decided to do one final race before her body failed her—an extraordinary experience that convinced Andrea she could create something positive from her journey. She kept riding the recumbent trike purchased for her “last” race, waiting for the disease to take over. She kept waiting. After five years with ALS, Andrea declared she wanted to live and embarked on the craziest goal she could think of: become the first person with ALS to complete a marathon in all 50 US states. Andrea and David created the Team Drea Foundation, which has raised more than \$1 million for ALS research and has inspired more than 400 people to be brave. With co-author Meredith Atwood, Andrea's memoir, *Hope Fights Back*, will be released in Fall 2023 by Pegasus Books.



## — DIRECTORS' STATEMENT —

When we started this project, we had no idea where it would take us. Andrea Lytle Peet with her husband Dave approached us and asked, “Do you think if I tried to become the first person with ALS to do a marathon in all 50 states it would be an interesting documentary?” The answer was a resounding ‘yes,’ but we had no budget and were first time filmmakers. And so we did what any good filmmaker would do and grabbed the gear that we had and started filming.

We knew a little bit about the disease ALS, but had no idea just how devastating it was. That it steals your ability to walk, feed yourself, speak, and ultimately to breathe - all while your mind stays perfectly intact. The average life expectancy is only 2-5 years. Many people are not able to set long-term goals like doing 50 marathons with ALS. We expected this film would evolve into a film about someone preparing for death, as Andrea’s one request at the start of filming was, “Please tell the truth about this horrible disease, no matter what happens to me.” In our 3.5 years of filming a lot of people we met and filmed and interviewed sadly passed away.

And yet, Andrea kept completing marathons - pedaling up hills in her recumbent trike, taking no’s from race directors, persevering when races were canceled due to covid. She kept going and doing what doctors thought impossible.

We followed her across the country - at times driving and sleeping in a bed a friend built in the back of our small SUV. We ran and filmed 6 miles in Oakland with our camera gear so that we could capture her conversation while racing with her fellow ALS Warrior, Peggy Holt. Through Andrea, we found an ALS community that was determined to live life to the fullest - whether that meant they had a year to live or ten. Everywhere she went she met with people with ALS and comforted people who had lost someone to the disease. Because of her, we were welcomed into the community and given access to see the pain and hurt caused by the disease, but also the joy of a community united by tragedy. We saw firsthand that ALS can steal everything physical, but it cannot steal your spirit.

We know how precious a gift time is with ALS and so upon wrapping the film, we set an aggressive editing scheduling. Miriam edited the bulk of the film in ten weeks so that we could apply to film festivals while Andrea could still travel and speak. Our goal from the beginning was that Andrea’s story could be told in her voice. Her story - one that inspires hope without turning away from the brutality of ALS - is vitally needed. From our research, it is the first feature documentary made on a woman with ALS.

Go On, Be Brave is, in the words of Meagan Bereman who lost her husband to ALS in 2021, Andrea’s “love letter to life” and our love letter to the ALS community.

## —WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING—

"A beautiful portrait of perseverance, resiliency, and connection, *Go On, Be Brave* is the powerful, resonant story of one woman's determination to live her life, despite a diagnosis that will end it. You will laugh, you will cry, and you will be reminded about the impact each of us can have in living a life guided by community, purpose and most of all, love."

- AK Clemmons, Freelance Writer - NYTimes/ESPN

"Andrea Lytle Peet's spirit and determination floored me to the point of joyful tears... She's such a hero and a role model, and so much more deserving than the typical athletes that we grow up idolizing."

Jason Delgado, Film Threat

"It's a joyous trip we all need to take because we all need to see that life is what we make of it... A Must See."

-Steve Kopian, Unseen Films

"It's hard to describe what a moving experience it was to watch the world premiere of the documentary *Go On, Be Brave*."

- Leslie Dinaberg, Santa Barbara Independent

"A beautiful film that allowed me to see a similar journey to my own for the first time. *Go On, Be Brave* is the best depiction of the triumphs and struggles of ALS I have yet to see."

- Alexandra Cavaliere, Her ALS Story Vice President (*Diagnosed at 28*)

"*Go On, Be Brave* and Andrea's story empowers us all to be brave enough to go after our dreams now, knowing that tomorrow is never guaranteed."

- Meredith Atwood, co-author of Andrea's forthcoming memoir, *Hope Fights Back*

— CREDITS —

FEATURING

Andre Lytle Peet

David Peet

Peggy Fort

Mayuri Saxena

Dr. Richard Bedlack

DIRECTORS

Miriam McSpadden

Brian Beckman

PRODUCERS

Miriam McSpadden

Brian Beckman

EDITOR

Miriam McSpadden

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Brantley Sawyer

Mark McSpadden

COLORIST

Marshall Alderman

AUDIO DESIGNER

Nathan Shepard

DRONE FOOTAGE

Brooks Bennett

Miriam McSpadden







A Film by Fly Squirrel Films

BOT098



**Honorary Degree Candidate Information****Honorary Degree Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_**Do you have a relationship or direct contact with this individual?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If Yes, please explain: (Attach a separate page if needed)

**Profession/Position/Title:** \_\_\_\_\_**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ext.** \_\_\_\_\_**Does the candidate have any affiliation with Governors State University?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If Yes, please explain: (Attach a separate page if needed)

**Personal Statement of Support** (Please be detailed in your response)

**Nomination Summary** Please also include:

- Curriculum Vitae, Résumé and/or Career Summary
- Letters of Support (if applicable)
- Any Additional Information (as appropriate)

**Nominated by:** \_\_\_\_\_**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ext.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_**Please forward this form and the required supporting documentation by September 15, 2023 to:**

**Veronica Blair**  
**Administrative Assistant to the Honorary Degree Committee**  
**vblair@govst.edu**

**Beverly Schneller**  
Provost & Vice President  
For Academic Affairs

**William A. Davis**  
Vice President for External Affairs and  
CEO GSU Foundation

BOT099

## Background

John is the Lead Portfolio Manager of the Ariel Fund and Co-Portfolio Manager of Ariel Small Cap Value, Ariel Small/Mid Cap Value, Ariel Mid Cap Value and Ariel Appreciation Fund. John's passion for investing began at age 12 when his father began buying him stocks as Christmas and birthday gifts. His interest in equities grew at Princeton University, where he majored in economics, and over the two-plus years he worked as a stockbroker for William Blair & Company, LLC. In 1983, John founded Ariel to focus on patient, value investing within small-and medium-sized companies. While our research capabilities have expanded across the globe, patience is still the disciplined approach that drives the firm today. Early in his career, John's investment acumen brought him to the forefront of media attention and culminated in him being selected as Co-Mutual Fund Manager of the Year by Sylvia Porter's Personal Finance magazine as well as an All-Star Mutual Fund Manager by USA TODAY. Furthermore, John has been highlighted alongside legendary investors Warren Buffett, Sir John Templeton and Ben Graham in the distinguished book: *The World's 99 Greatest Investors* by Magnus Angenfelt. His professional accomplishments extend to the boardroom where he is a member of the board of directors of McDonald's, NIKE and The New York Times Company. John also serves as vice chair of the board of trustees of the University of Chicago. Additionally, he is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a director of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights. In 2008, John was awarded Princeton University's highest honor, the Woodrow Wilson Award, presented each year to the alumnus or alumna whose career embodies a commitment to national service. Following the election of President Barack Obama, John served as co-chair for the Presidential Inaugural Committee 2009, and more recently, he joined the Barack Obama Foundation's Board of Directors.

**Honorary Degree Candidate Information****Honorary Degree Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_**Do you have a relationship or direct contact with this individual?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If Yes, please explain: (Attach a separate page if needed)

**Profession/Position/Title:** \_\_\_\_\_**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ext.** \_\_\_\_\_**Does the candidate have any affiliation with Governors State University?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If Yes, please explain: (Attach a separate page if needed)

**Personal Statement of Support** (Please be detailed in your response)

**Nomination Summary** Please also include:

- Curriculum Vitae, Résumé and/or Career Summary
- Letters of Support (if applicable)
- Any Additional Information (as appropriate)

**Nominated by:** \_\_\_\_\_**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ext.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_**Please forward this form and the required supporting documentation by September 15, 2023 to:**

**Veronica Blair**  
**Administrative Assistant to the Honorary Degree Committee**  
**vblair@govst.edu**

**Beverly Schneller**  
Provost & Vice President  
For Academic Affairs

**William A. Davis**  
Vice President for External Affairs and  
CEO GSU Foundation

BOT101

The Honorable Jesse White is the former Illinois Secretary of State. He was the longest-serving American to hold this office. He previously served as the Cook County Recorder of Deeds and in the Illinois House of Representatives.

White served as a paratrooper in the United States Army and as a member of the Illinois National Guard.

As a minor league baseball player in 1959, Mr. White formed a youth sports and community organization, the Jesse White Tumbling Team to serve as a positive alternative for children residing in the Chicago area. Since its inception, more than 18,500 young men and women have performed with the team.

Mr. White went on to become a teacher and administer in the Chicago Public Schools.

White was elected to the Illinois General Assembly in 1974 and served for 16 years. He was then elected Cook County Recorder of Deeds in 1992 and served two terms. Mr. White was elected as Illinois Secretary of State in 1998 and re-elected in 2002, 2006, 2010 (the leading vote-getter in the state), 2014 and 2018.

White has been as advocate for traffic safety issues, worked to crack down on DUI's by partnering with Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, worked to improve truck safety and was a leading advocate for organ donation.

Mr. White has had an esteemed career and continues to be a positive influence in the Chicago area through his on-going work with the Jesse White Tumblers.

**Honorary Degree Candidate Information****Honorary Degree Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_**Do you have a relationship or direct contact with this individual?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If Yes, please explain: (Attach a separate page if needed)

**Profession/Position/Title:** \_\_\_\_\_**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ext.** \_\_\_\_\_**Does the candidate have any affiliation with Governors State University?** ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If Yes, please explain: (Attach a separate page if needed)

**Personal Statement of Support** (Please be detailed in your response)

**Nomination Summary** Please also include:

- Curriculum Vitae, Résumé and/or Career Summary
- Letters of Support (if applicable)
- Any Additional Information (as appropriate)

**Nominated by:** \_\_\_\_\_**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Ext.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_**Please forward this form and the required supporting documentation by September 15, 2023 to:**

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**Beverly Schneller**  
Provost & Vice President  
For Academic Affairs

**William A. Davis**  
Vice President for External Affairs and  
CEO GSU Foundation

BOT103

Anjanette L Young, MSW, MSHS, LCSW  
[anjanetteLyoung.11@gmail.com](mailto:anjanetteLyoung.11@gmail.com)  
(630) 452-2301

## Education

- 2015 MSW, University of Illinois, Jane Addams School of Social Work, Chicago, IL  
Concentration: Mental Health  
Focus: Adolescents
- 2006 MSHS, Springfield College, Milwaukee Campus, Milwaukee, WI
- 1994 BASoc, Mississippi Valley State University, Itta Bena, MS  
Concentration: Social Work

## Publications

### Book

- 2019 Young, A. L. *30 Days to the Finish Line; Conquering the Mountain to Social Work Licensure* Independently Published  
<https://www.amazon.com/Days-Finish-Line-Conquering-Licensure/dp/107934053X>

### Journal

- 2021 Young, A. L. *#IAMHER: Anjanette Young Speak to Power*  
Afflia Journal of Women and Social Work  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0886109921996067>  
[https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/socwork\\_fac/505/](https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/socwork_fac/505/)
- 2021 University of Illinois, Jane Addams School of Social Work, Alumni Newsletter  
Spotlight Feature, 5/21 & 10/21
- 2022 Social Worker Anjanette Young Talks with NASW President MIT Joyner About Healing from Trauma  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nlzWTZt71I&t=2s>

## Teaching

- 2019-Present Educational Tutor/Consultant, Café Social Work Consulting LLC, Chicago, IL
- Conduct Webinar Training and Facilitate psycho-educational lectures on Social Justice trauma, addiction, grief and loss, stress management, assertive communication, cognitive distortions, and relapse prevention.
  - Prepare Social Workers for Licensure in a hybrid and online setting.

## Invited Presentations

- 2021 Living Beyond the Trauma of Racism: #IAMHER Keynote Speaker

- Growing Together as Allies (Webinar)  
Monmouth University, School of Social Work, West Long Beach, New Jersey 10/21
- 2021 Monmouth University Anjanette Young Media Library Guide <https://lnkd.in/e7D4x28z>
- 2021 Social Justice Week, Consortium Panelist, Howard University, Washington, D.C. 7/21
- 2021 National Social Workers Policy Briefing Panelist, The White House, Washington, D.C. 7/21
- 2021 Living Beyond the Trauma of Racism: #IAMHER Keynote Speaker  
Applications of Social Justice and Human Rights to Social Work Practice (Webinar)  
Monmouth University School of Social Work, West Long Beach, New Jersey 4/21
- 2021 Silence is Complicity, Anti- Racism Virtual Summit Keynote Speaker  
Social Work Helpers, Dover, DE 3/21
- 2020 Emergency Town Hall: On the Ballot: Eliminating No-Knock Warrants, (Webinar) Panelist  
Gwen's Girls Social Services Organization, Pittsburgh PA 3/20
- Podcast*
- 2021 The Story of Anjanette Young  
Social Workers Rise! 1/21

### **Practice Experience**

- 2022-Present Clinical Operation Manger, NAMI Chicago, Chicago IL
- 2019-2022 Medical Social Consultant, University of Illinois Chicago-Division of Special Care for Children, Chicago, IL
- 2019-Present Private Practice Licensed Clinical Social Worker/Sole Member, Anjanette L. Young, LCSW Chicago, IL
- 2017-2019 Clinical Social Worker, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL
- 2016-2017 Social Work Care Coordinator, Family Health Network/CCAI, Chicago, IL

### **Licensure**

- 2015-Present Licensed Clinical Social Worker (IL)

## **Professional Membership**

2015-Present    National Association of Social Workers

## **Awards and Recognitions**

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2023 | Traverse Area Camera Club: 2022 Award Winners, "Disrupt & Dismantle: The Future of 'Policing'"   2/8/2023.  |
| 2021 | Emmy, CBS 2 News Chicago, Unwarranted on Wrong Raids: "My Name is Anjanette Young" Anjanette L. Young, Dave Savini, Recipients<br>Dave Savini, CBS 2 News Chicago, Investigative Reporter |
| 2021 | Better Government's Driehaus Foundation Award for Investigative Reporting, "My Name is Anjanette Young"<br>Dave Savini, CBS 2 News Chicago, Investigative Reporter                        |
| 2021 | Better Government's Reader's Choice Award, "My Name is Anjanette Young"<br>Dave Savini 2 News Chicago, Investigative Reporter   |
| 2021 | DuPont-Columbia Award Finalist<br>"My Name is Anjanette Young"  |
| 2021 | The Leader's Network of Chicago<br>Rosa Parks Award for Outstanding Courage and Leadership<br>Anjanette L. Young, Recipient   |
| 2021 | The Community Renewal Society<br>Yvonne V. Delk Courage Legacy Award,<br>Anjanette L. Young, Recipient  |



To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Anjanette Young, MSW, LCSW who is being considered for an honorary doctoral degree with Governors State University.

Ms. Young, a graduate of University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)- Jane Addams College of Social Work, and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), has devoted her social work career to mentoring new social workers and to advocating for policy change in the city of Chicago.

I have had the honor and opportunity to work with Ms. Young over the past three years. Following the February 2019 wrongly raid of her home by the City of Chicago Police Department, Ms. Young become more active in Social Justice reform, as she continues to fight for justice for herself and other families who have experienced harm by the City of Chicago Police Department. The NASW Illinois Chapter has supported her advocacy efforts including the support for the Anjanette Young Ordinance, that would, among other requirements, ban no-knock warrants, require that officers wait at least 30 seconds during knock and announce raids to give residents a chance to open the door to their home, thus implementing common sense policy and procedural changes surrounding warrants and safeguarding the human rights of Chicago citizens. Ms. Young's courage in these efforts has garnered statewide, national, and international attention and support. This continued advocacy led her to establish in 2021 she founded the "I AM HER" Foundation in honor of Breonna Taylor.

Ms. Young's professional work has been with individuals, children, and families in the Chicago area. She is experienced in mental health interventions, crisis management, and trauma informed treatment; her clinical lens is guided by an extensive knowledge of brief cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), and other evidence-based theories within the BIPOC communities. In March of 2019 Anjanette became President and CEO of Café Social Work consulting LLC, which aims to provide valuable mentorship.

Ms. Young was elected to the NASW Illinois Chapter Board of Directors in the spring of 2023 and began serving a two-year term as Member-At Large and a member of the Chapter's Executive Committee on July 1, 2023.

Once again, this letter supports her candidacy for an honorary doctorate at Governors State University. Ms. Young's courage and concern for social justice is exemplary.

Sincerely,

*Joel L. Rubin*

Joel L. Rubin, MSW, LSW, ACSW, CAE  
Executive Director

# MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Veronica Blair, Administrative Assistant  
Honorary Degree Committee  
Governor's State University  
University Park, Illinois 60484

September 3, 2023

Dear Ms. Blair,

I am writing this letter in support of Ms. Anjanette Young's nomination for an honorary doctoral degree from Governor State University. Ms. Young has had an outstanding and significant impact at the local, state and national levels in the field of social work and in public advocacy in Chicago. Her compelling leadership and service warrants the award of an honorary doctoral degree.

I first met Ms. Young in the spring of 2021 after reaching out to her randomly on LinkedIn after reading her story. I was struck by her courage and selflessness in choosing to release the footage of the police raid of her apartment where she was handcuffed naked for the greater good of using it to hold the police accountable and to change the policy of no-knock warrants. Even though she did not know me, she responded and agreed to speak to my online social work class based in New Jersey on social justice and human rights about her experiences and her quest for systemic change. Her impact on the students was so powerful that the following semester I was able to get funding for a lecture series on anti-racism and I knew Ms. Young had to be one of the speakers. She agreed, and in this online event, more than 100 social workers joined to listen to her powerful message of living beyond the trauma of racism through fighting for justice through the movement she started #Iamher. Ms. Young has continued to make an impact on the social work profession through her numerous speaking engagements, including Governor's State University, and interviews throughout the country. At Monmouth University, she continues to have an impact in her role as a champion/advisor to our anti-racism initiative, Growing Together as Allies.

Throughout her career in social work, Ms. Young has impacted emerging social work professionals as the President/CEO of Café Social Work through which she mentors and prepares social work graduates for successfully passing licensing exams. In addition, at the state level, she has contributed her time and expertise as a Board member of National Association of Social Workers in Illinois.

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West Long Branch, New Jersey 07764-1898 Phone: 732-571-3543 Fax: 732-263-5217

Ms. Young's impact on the United States goes beyond the social work profession. She founded the *I Am Her Foundation* with the goal of supporting women and girls of color by providing them with opportunities and a space to speak up about racial injustices. So far, she has hosted two conferences focused on women and one on youth empowerment.

At the local level, Ms. Young has been engaged in years of organizing for policy change at the Chicago City Council to pass the Anjanette Young Ordinance that would ban non-knock warrants to ensure that no one else endures the inhumane treatment that she received.

Ms. Young has dedicated her life to social work and the advancement of racial and gender justice and to empowering marginalized girls, women and youth to using their voices to speak up and speak out on injustice and make change. Her impact has been significant and sustaining in so many different arenas, from social work practice to social work academia, to Chicago City Council, to community members within and beyond Chicago. She is a role model for the profession of social work and for all of us. I humbly recommend that her outstanding work be recognized with an honorary doctoral degree.

Sincerely,

Anne C. Deepak, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Social Work



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™  
MERIDIAN

September 6, 2023

To Governor State University Selection Committee

Re: Ms. Anjanette Young

I am pleased to write a letter of support for Ms. Anjanette Young, as a nomination for an honorary degree at Governor State University. I have known Ms. Young since 2022 in the capacity of social work colleague and professional leader within the field of social work. Ms. Young is an exceptional clinician and she has continually excelled in being a trailblazer for social justice and change within her community and the world. Ms. Young has become a public figure in the social work profession and has used her life as a testament for change and advocacy.

She is remarkable in sharing her experience from the lens of not only being a survivor of injustice, but as a beacon of hope and inspiration for all of us within the social work profession. Her life has become the blueprint of social justice and advocacy. Ms. Young has become a social work innovator in the state of Illinois. She sets the standard for achievement and devotion to teaching upcoming social work leaders and practitioners. She has an unrelenting passion to empathetically engage with people, mentor upcoming social workers, engage in community advocacy and social policy. In spite of her circumstances of injustice, she shares her resilience, knowledge and passion for social work in all of her accomplishments both in the community and around the world.

I have the distinct pleasure of calling on Ms. Young to be a guest at The Association of Baccalaureate Social Workers (BPD), a national social work education conference that will be held in March 2024. As a guest of this national conference, she will have an opportunity to share her journey, her knowledge and inspiration to the next generation of social workers. Ms. Young has a remarkable testimony that will live in the lives of social workers throughout the country. Her personal use of self, resilience and work of social justice is unmatched. Ms. Young would be an epitome of a candidate for an honorary doctorate from Governor State University. It has truly been an honor to know her and watch her work in the community and the profession.

In closing, I highly recommend Ms. Young for this prestigious honorary degree. If you should require additional information or questions, please contact me at [asavage@meridian.msstate.edu](mailto:asavage@meridian.msstate.edu) or 601-484-0148.

Warm Regards,

Dr. Angela Savage, DSW, MSW, LMSW  
Director of Social Work & Clinical Assistant Professor  
Mississippi State University-Meridian

## **Anjanette Young Bio:**

Anjanette Young is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and graduate of Jane Addams School of Social Work at The University of Illinois Chicago. She obtained a master's degree in clinical social work with a special interest in Mental Health with individuals and families.

Anjanette has worked in the profession for over 26 years and her passion for people and her professional ethics is rooted in her DNA. Her grandmother was a civil right activist who fought for justice and equity and marched with Dr. King. She is devoted to doing her part to continue her family legacy and raise the bar of accountability regarding social justice with a focus on the social work core values of service, dignity and worth of all individuals.

Anjanette professional work has been with individuals, children, and families in the Chicago area. Anjanette is experienced in Mental Health interventions, crisis management, and trauma informed treatment; her clinical lens is guided by an extensive knowledge of brief cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), and other evidence-based theories within the BIPOC communities.

In March of 2019 Anjanette became President and CEO of Café Social Work consulting LLC, which was birthed out of a dream when Anjanette decided to return to school in 2012 to obtain a master's degree in social work, despite having worked in the field for over 11 years and already held a master's degree in human service. Anjanette learned a valuable lesson in the need for Social Work mentorship, due to the lack of mentorship in her own life.

Anjanette took an unnecessary extended route to her current destination of Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). It is because of her journey she wanted to give back and offer her life experiences to assist future Social Workers in walking a more intentional path. Anjanette does not regret her journey as she gleaned a wealth of knowledge along the way, which she uses to support the work and mission of Café Social Work.

In February of 2019, Anjanette's home was wrongly raided by the City of Chicago Police Department, and that event push Anjanette to be more active in Social Justice reform, as she continues to fight for justice for herself and other families who have experienced harm by the City of Chicago Police Department.

Anjanette continues her efforts to fight for justice and support others. In 2021 she founded the "I AM HER" Foundation. "I AM HER" is in honor of Breonna Taylor as Anjanette experienced a terribly similar raid, which took the life of Breonna, but GOD spared her life. Anjanette believes God did so that she would lift others who have come before her and continue to fight for those who are living with injustices. Dr. King once said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." "I AM HER" Foundation was born from that experience and is designed to support girls and women of color to provide them with opportunities and a space to speak up about racial injustices and other inequities that impact the quality of life for all. It is a virtual platform that allows women to come together and support, encourage and speak truth to power about the issues that have impacted them or their loved ones. Through the I AM HER Foundation, Anjanette provides mental health support and education, assistance and connection to therapeutic services, and scholarship for Black girls and women who will attend school for mental health, social work, or social justice degrees.

"I AM HER" places the responsibility of social justice and personal empowerment on the shoulders of all of us. It is a representation that you are not alone, and that we are fighting with and alongside you – that you matter.

**Book:**

**30 Days to the Finish Line: Conquering the Mountain to Social Work Licensure**

<https://www.cafesocialwork.com/subscriptions>

**Media/Journal**

**#IAmHer: Anjanette Young Speaks Truth to Power**

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0886109921996067>

**Anjanette Young reminds Black women of their ancestors who stood naked on a slave auction block.**

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/columns/dahleen-glanton/ct-anjanette-young-raid-20201221-e23lqpliqvhvpgenwp4i34sme-story.html>

**Anjanette Young, Victim of Wrong Raid, Using Fundraising Effort to Help Others Seek Justice**

[https://chicago.cbslocal.com/2020/12/18/anjanette-young-wrong-raid-gofundme/amp/?\\_twitter\\_impression=true](https://chicago.cbslocal.com/2020/12/18/anjanette-young-wrong-raid-gofundme/amp/?_twitter_impression=true)

**Monmouth University: Living beyond trauma.**

<https://www.monmouth.edu/igu/2021/10/18/ssw/>

**Essential Chat with MIT Joyner, NASW President**

<https://fb.watch/aJaTQKa5Af/>

**Anjanette Young exclusive with Gayle King CBS Morning Show**

[https://www.cbs.com/shows/cbs-mornings/video/LHGpRexwKUP7VWGkJzZtYQn\\_byvYd4Gy/anjanette-young-on-2-9-million-settlement-the-money-is-not-justice/](https://www.cbs.com/shows/cbs-mornings/video/LHGpRexwKUP7VWGkJzZtYQn_byvYd4Gy/anjanette-young-on-2-9-million-settlement-the-money-is-not-justice/)



**March 6, 2023**

**5:30pm-7:30pm**

**Engbretson Hall & via YouTube**

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Ms. Anjanette Young**

**RSVP by March 3rd**

**socw@govst.edu**

**RESPOND TO  
VIOLENCE**

A multimedia initiative of  
Governors State University



# RESPOND TO VIOLENCE PRESENTS TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE: TURNING PAIN INTO POWER!

Join us for a heartfelt interview with Ms. Young, a social worker who was wrongly targeted and victimized by the Chicago Police Department. She courageously transformed her life from victim to social justice activist calling for police reform. After the interview there will be a panel discussion on the historical systemic injustice within police culture, its impact on community mental health and how collectively we can harness our power to create change through advocacy and policy, followed by Q&A with the audience.

## PANELISTS

**LATESHA NEWSON**, MSW, LCSW- Lecturer, Department of Social Work, President-Elect of the National Association of Social Workers Illinois Chapter

**ANJANETTE YOUNG**, MSW, LCSW- President CEO of Cafe Social Work Consulting & Founder of I AM HER Foundation NFP

**ARTURO CARRILLO**, PhD, LCSW- Brighton Park Neighborhood Council & Collaborative for Community Wellness

**VANESSA WESTLEY**- Healing Beyond Harm Restorative Justice Coordinator at Adler University, Institute on Public Safety and Social Justice and Retired CPD

**SPONSORED BY:** The Department of Social Work, Department of Digital Learning & Media Design, and The Social Justice Initiative

## LIVE STREAM

