CLASS OF 2020 FELLOWS

THE CHICAGO URBAN LEAGUE IMPACT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO BOOTH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS





MISSION

The mission of IMPACT is to create a pipeline of Informed, Motivated, Perceptive, Authentic, Connected Talent that will form the next generation of African-American leaders available to fill critical roles in the Chicago community and the business, public, and nonprofit sectors.

OUR PROGRAM ELEMENTS

One-on-One MENTORSHIP

Each IMPACT Fellow is paired with a senior leader who serves as a mentor. Mentors provide guidance in areas such as relationship mapping, work-life balance, and board engagement.

Individual LEADERSHIP ASSESSMENTS

Fellows take DISC and Hogan personal assessments. These assessments improve Fellows' awareness of their leadership styles and interpersonal communications preferences.

CURRENT ISSUES Modules ****

Current issue modules equip Fellows with a toolbox of facts and ideas that they can utilize when making critical decisions that affect others in their city and community.

CHICAGN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP Modules

Led by Chicago Booth faculty, Academic Leadership Modules equip Fellows with a framework for continued development. Topics include: ethics, negotiations, power and influence in organizations, decision making, and action and insight skills.

HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES Modules

An effective leader in Chicago should be aware of the moments that have shaped the city. Fellows learn about African-American history in Chicago and the roles and impact of African Americans in Chicago politics.

LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP Speaker Series

Lessons in Leadership features senior leaders who share their stories of triumphs, challenges, and lessons learned in their careers. Past speakers include: Kim Foxx, Andrea Zopp, Arne Duncan, John Rogers, Kurt Summers, Brett Hart, and Mellody Hobson.



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Message from Interim President and CEO Barbara A. Lumpkin



On behalf of the Chicago Urban League Board of Directors and our entire staff, I am delighted to welcome the Class of 2020 Fellows to our IMPACT Leadership Development Program.

IMPACT transforms lives. We know this not only because our Fellows tell us so, but also because we see it in announcements from organizations across Chicago that have tapped IMPACT alumni for leadership positions. As the program enters its sixth year, it is gratifying to know that it is accomplishing what it set out to do. IMPACT is developing a robust pipeline of African-American professionals who are well prepared to lead in Chicago's private, public and nonprofit sectors.

Increasingly, employers understand that diversity and inclusion matter. Yet, leadership diversity remains a challenge. According to Chicago United, African Americans represent only 3% of C-suite executives at Chicago's Top 50 publicly traded companies. As calls for inclusion grow, the League's 2019 State of Black Chicago report notes that increasing diversity among leadership ranks will be vital for organizations seeking to retain talent and even increase profitability.

The Chicago Urban League applauds those organizations that recognize this and are helping emerging leaders maximize their potential by sponsoring them for IMPACT. Since IMPACT began, 170 Fellows have gone through the program. We envision being able to serve hundreds more, and we are grateful for the many partners who support the Chicago Urban League in this effort.

We offer a special thank you to the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, whose commitment as our educational partner has been critical. We are also grateful for the generous financial support provided by Chicago Community Trust, the Field Foundation of Illinois, the MacArthur Foundation, and US Bank. A heartfelt thank you also goes to our advisory council and the influential leaders who have agreed to mentor this year's Fellows, and to Mesirow Financial for hosting our opening reception.

To our Class of 2020 Fellows, thank you for stepping up to invest in your future and in the future of Chicago. Prepare to be transformed.

In service to the movement,

Barbara A. Lumpkin Interim President and CEO



Since the IMPACT Leadership Development Program began in 2014, selecting Fellows has continued to be rigorous and rewarding each year. Rigorous because the process is highly competitive. Rewarding because each new cohort of individual achievers develops into a dynamic, connected group of African-American leaders.

This year, we welcome 37 new Fellows into IMPACT. Over the next nine months, they will take part in an intensive, multifaceted program that includes modules on academic leadership, current issues, and historical and political perspectives that have shaped Chicago. Through our Lessons in Leadership speaker series and oneon-one mentoring, they will gain insights from some of Chicago's most accomplished African-American business and civic leaders. They will also receive personal assessments of their

own leadership styles.

We also welcome 26 organizations that are sponsoring Fellows for the first time this year. You will not regret this decision. You join more than 100 corporate, nonprofit, and government entities that have supported the professional development of emerging African-American leaders through IMPACT. We know that, over the course of the program, our Fellows become more confident leaders, who take innovative ideas and practices back to their workplaces.

I have had the honor of guiding IMPACT since its inception, and I have witnessed first-hand the individual growth of many of our Fellows. I have also heard countless inspiring stories of ways participating in the program has changed their lives. For instance, since completing the program, dozens of our alumni have received promotions, taken on roles of increasing responsibility, joined boards, or been recognized for their civic contributions. One thing I have heard time and time again is that our Fellows gain a new network of support and counsel as they build professional bonds that extend across sectors and across cohorts.

Those relationships are maintained through the IMPACT Alumni Association (IAA), which focuses on continued professional development and community engagement for our program graduates. The IAA is working to inspire social transformation that will have a lasting impact on the face of leadership in Chicago.

Before long, the Class of 2020 IMPACT Fellows will join this group, and I am delighted to introduce them on the following pages. They represent diverse backgrounds, interests and sectors. As always, they are talented, accomplished, and eager to grow in their careers. I am confident that each of them will thrive and become stronger assets for their organizations and for our city.

Again, thank you to all of our partners and supporters who make IMPACT possible.

Sincerely,

Movis C. Raing

Mavis C. Laing Vice President and Executive Director. IMPACT

Message from Vice President and Executive Director Mavis C. Laing

CLASS OF 2020 FELLOWS

Annie-Beryl Akuamoah

Customer Field Service Manager, Peoples Gas -WES Energy Group



Annie-Beryl Akuamoah serves as a Customer Field Service manager in Gas Operations for Peoples Gas Company. With more than 13 years of experience in engineering, gas operations, and management, she is responsible for the Chicago North District and oversees the daily customer service requests to activate natural gas delivery to customer

homes. Annie is also responsible for regulatory compliance workload for gas pipelines. She serves as a committee member on the career and development group for the African American Business Group and the women's development network at Peoples Gas.

Annie loves to sing and is a music leader at her church. She received a Bachelor of Science in General Engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Annie resides in Richton Park, a suburb of Chicago, with her husband and their three children, Michael, Gabriel and Arianna.

Elsa Andrianifahanana

Associate, Jones Day



Elsa Andrianifahanana is an attorney in the Labor & Employment Group of Jones Day. She represents clients in various employment matters, including anti-discrimination and wage & hour litigation. She also provides counsel on the employment aspects of cross-border transactions.

Prior to assuming her current position, Elsa practiced at Skadden

Arps, representing distressed companies undergoing reorganizations and debt restructurings.

She also served as a judicial clerk to the Honorable Ellen Lipton Hollander of the U.S. District Court in Baltimore, where she handled numerous cases on free speech and excessive force, among other issues arising under the Constitution. Outside her day-to-day practice, Elsa serves on the of board of the Black Women Lawyers' Association and is a Program Director for the T.E.A. Directors Institute, a program aimed to increase the presence of African-American women attorneys on corporate and nonprofit boards.

Jereme R. Braggs

Senior Program Quality Engineer, Gogo Inflight



Jereme Braggs supports Gogo LLC as a Senior Program Quality Engineer. Holding more than 10 years of experience in the aviation technical operations and quality organizations, Jereme has developed foundations in the commercial aviation sector. defense contract aviation sector and the expansive inflight entertainment sector. His key responsibilities

include Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Boeing and Airbus hardware conformities, engineering prototype hardware validation and onsite hardware installation support.

Prior to joining Gogo LLC, Jereme held senior FAA and Supplier Quality Inspector positions with Northrop Grumman in the Electronic Sector and Aircraft Maintenance Technician roles with American Eagle Airlines. Furthermore, he has volunteered with the Chicago Greater Food Depository, Hashtag Lunchbag Chicago, supporting food instability efforts in Chicago. Jereme is pursuing a Master of Science in Aviation and Space Administration from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. With a 4.0 GPA and three honors society memberships, he expects to graduate in December 2019.

J'ai Brown

HR Business Partner, BMO Wealth Management U.S.



J'ai Brown provides strategic insight and support to the senior leadership team at BMO Wealth Management across all aspects of Human Resources, including employee relations, diversity and inclusion, talent acquisition, compensation, organizational design and career development. Additionally, she is National Chair for BMO's Black

Professionals Network U.S. Previously, J'ai served as the Diversity Recruitment Advisor, North America. Before joining BMO, she worked in HR and Claims at Allstate Insurance Company.

Kelly V. Carter, Esq.

Associate Managing Director, CIBC US



Kelly is Associate Managing Director, State and Local Tax (SALT) for CIBC US, responsible for SALT-based strategic planning initiatives and ensuring compliance with all SALT-related regulations.

Kelly holds a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University and a Juris Doctor from Wayne State University Law School. She is an active member of both the Michigan and Illinois State Bars. She has more than 13 years of professional experience advising companies on tax-related matters.

Crystal T. Clark, MD, MSc

Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Sciences and Obstetrics and Gynecology, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine



researcher, and educator who specializes in women's health. Her novel studies investigating psychiatric medications during pregnancy are informing medical practice. She is a director of the Perinatal and Women's Mental Health Fellowship. She is also the rising president of Marcé of North America,

a national perinatal mental health organization.

J'ai received an MBA and Bachelor of Science in HR Management and General Management from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and has her PHR and SHRM-CP designations. She is the Workshop Chair for Chicago SHRM and mentors youth with Posse Chicago and Chicago Scholars. She was awarded the 2019 Black Queens of Chicago, 2018 Wall Street in the Black Future Leader, and 2016 Chicago Scholars 35 under 35 awards.

J'ai resides in Bronzeville with her husband, Frank, and daughter, Kylee.

Kelly has a passion for people and a commitment to mentorship and education. An avid supporter of the arts, she serves on the Associate Board of Lawyers for the Creative Arts, a not-for-profit pro bono legal assistance organization. In an effort to increase diversity within the legal community, she serves as a bar exam tutor, providing supplemental exam process management for underrepresented law students.

Kelly loves exploring Chicago museums, galleries, and the restaurants in her West Loop neighborhood.

Dr. Crystal Clark is a psychiatrist,

Dr. Clark's mental health expertise has contributed to newsworthy reporting from media outlets including NPR, the New York Times, and Chicago Tonight. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Northwestern University and her Master of Science and Doctor of Medicine from the University of Louisville. She completed her psychiatry training at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Maryland. She resides in the North Kenwood neighborhood in Chicago with her accomplished husband, Dramaine Irions.



Tiana Conley

Vice President, Global Brands, The Kellogg Company



Tiana Conley serves as Vice President of Global Brands for the Kellogg Company, where she is responsible for the \$3 billion global brand portfolio including Pringles, Special K and Kellogg's. Prior to joining Kellogg, she was marketing director of global tequila at Beam Suntory, where she led a portfolio of five brands and oversaw operations at the Casa Sauza

Heritage Center in Tequila, Mexico.

Before joining Beam Suntory, Tiana held a variety of marketing roles at Kimberly-Clark and Procter & Gamble, including leading the \$4 billion Global Bath Tissue Portfolio as well as leading the P&L for the North American Olay brand. She received a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master of Business Administration from Xavier University Williams College of Business in Cincinnati, Ohio. Tiana is based in Chicago and is the mother of two children, Griffin and Ava.

Nicholas E. Cummings

Chief Attorney, Tort Litigation, Chicago Transit Authority



Nicholas Cummings serves as a Chief Attorney for the Chicago Transit Authority's Law Department, where he is responsible for complex litigation of personal injury cases. Prior to joining the CTA, Nicholas was a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Cook County Bar Association, where he

chairs the Judicial Evaluation Committee.

Nicholas was recently named Chair of Community Programs for Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, Xi Lambda Chapter in Chicago. Before his career as an attorney, he was responsible for the implementation and management of technological infrastructure for Fletcher Jones Automotive in Chicago and SUA Insurance Company. He received a Bachelor of Science in Human-Computer Interaction from DePaul University and a Juris Doctor from Chicago-Kent College of Law. Nicholas was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. He has lived in Chicago for more than 20 years and currently resides on the city's South Side.

Nathalie Essex

Vice President of State Funding, Teach for America



Nathalie Essex serves as Vice President of State Funding at Teach for America. With more than 14 years of government relations experience as an attorney in the private sector and state government, she previously served as Legislative Coordinator and Assistant General Counsel for the Tennessee Department of Human Services. She worked in both

Democratic and Republican administrations, managing significant political shifts.

Nathalie is passionate about advocating for equity and diversity through her work to ensure that citizens register to vote and understand their ability to influence their lives. She also volunteers in underserved communities in an effort to increase civic engagement.

Nathalie began her career as an attorney and government relations specialist, representing clients in regulatory and judicial proceedings. Nathalie is an Alabama native who grew up in Memphis, Tennessee. She is a graduate of Spelman College and St. Louis University School of Law. Nathalie loves college football, traveling, and reading.

Ashley Floyd

Vice President of Institutional Advancement, LINK Unlimited Scholars



Ashley Floyd is responsible strategic initiatives, commu and fund development to su overall visibility, impact and ming for LINK Unlimited Scl Chicago's oldest scholarshi mentoring program exclusiv African-American students

Over 10 years, Ashley has w

diverse segments of nonprofit manageme ing STEM education, arts and culture, an music. She previously held positions with organizations in her hometown of New O

Kenneth Gilkes, Jr.

Senior Analyst, Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL)



As a Senior Analyst in the Business and Economic Incentives Group for Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), Kenneth Gilkes, Jr., is responsible for real estate site selection, specific to multi-state comparisons of statutory and discretionary incentives, calculating estimated incentives based on project parameters, economic analysis, overall project

execution, and strategy.

Christina Harris

Director of Land Use and Planning, Metropolitan Planning Council



As Director of Land Use and Planning for the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC), Christina Harris works across MPC initiatives to focus on the intersection of planning, development, land use and open space and to consider how these broad issues impact stormwater management and water use, transportation and mobility, housing and community development.

Prior to joining MPC, Christina practiced landscape architecture and urban planning, with a particular focus on integrating resident engagement into

for crafting unications	in Chicago, including the New Orleans Ballet Association and the Museum of Science and Industry
upport the 1 program- holars, p and vely serving	She serves as membership co-chair for the Big Shoulders Fund's Chairman's Advisory Council and is a member of the Auditorium Theater's Auxiliary Board and Chicago Women in Philanthropy.
vorked in ent, includ- id jazz prominent prleans and	Ashley received her B.F.A. in Dance Performance/ Choreography from the University of Southern Mississippi, M.A. from the University of New Orleans, and M.B.A. (specializing in supply chain management) from Governors State University. She resides in Chicago with her husband, Derrick Manuel, and their dog, Miles Davis.

Prior to joining JLL, he served as an economic development project manager before being recruited to serve as a project manager for the City of Chicago. Kenneth earned a bachelor's degree from Fisk University, a Master of Public Administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a Financial Decision Making Certificate from the University of Chicago. He also has a Master of Science in Real Estate from Roosevelt University. Kenneth currently resides in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood with his wife, Angela, and their three children—Kennedy, Leia, and Mina.

planning and landscape frameworks. As a landscape architect, she worked on projects at a range of scales, from managing neighborhood plans to detail design for parks. Several of her projects have won awards from local chapters of the American Society of Landscape Architects. She is currently active in BlackSpace Chicago. Christina received her master's degree in landscape architecture from Harvard University and her bachelor's degree from Princeton University. Originally from the East Coast, Christina has lived in Chicago for more than 10 years.



Kelwin Harris

Corey Haynes

Sales Manager, CDW LLC

Director of Outreach and Engagement, Office of Cook County Assessor



Kelwin Harris is a city planner dedicated to creating equitable communities and empowering people who have historically been excluded from connectivity. Prior to his current roles as Director of Outreach and Engagement for the Office of Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi, Kelwin was a senior outreach planner with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), where he

translated policy and dense data into issues families care about and discuss around the kitchen table.

Kelwin has served the Chicago community for years in numerous roles. He led social services, economic development, violence prevention, and nutrition and financial interventions in the Auburn Gresham neighborhood as director of a nonprofit. He also served in the administration of Mayor Richard M. Daley. Kelwin is a member of the Board of Acero Schools and is a graduate of Cornell University and the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. To unplug, Kelwin enjoys reading, traveling, and curating '90s Hip Hop music.

Raquelle "Rocki" Hunter

Senior Director of Brand Development, Zoro.com

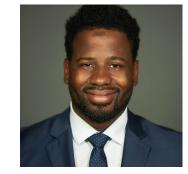


With more than 15 years of leadership experience in brand, marketing, and general management, Rocki Hunter is a results-driven marketing executive with diverse experience across a breadth of B2B and B2C brands, businesses, industries and categories. She is currently responsible for developing and managing the marketing and brand growth strategy, as well as

media, advertising, digital, and content marketing for the entire Zoro business.

Tyeise Huntley Jones

Director of Network Support, Chicago Public Schools



Corey Haynes is an Academy Sales Manager, covering the Corporate West and SMB Central segments for CDW Direct, LLC. He is responsible for enriching the CDW culture through new coworker engagement and for developing future sellers by enhancing their natural skillsets, uncovering new business opportunities, and generating strategic relationships with partners

and clients in current and emerging markets.

Additionally, he serves as Marketing Chair of CDW's business resource group, BeU: Black Excellence Unlimited.

Corey is an avid learner and loves the outdoors. Corey also serves as a mentor and divides his free time between volunteering and playing with dogs. He currently resides on the West Side of Chicago in Logan Square.



Tyeise Huntley Jones serves **Director of Network Support** Chicago Public Schools (CPS) she provides strategic leader support for Chiefs of Schools superintendents) who lead m 600 schools in the district.

Tyeise made a career switch into education in 2015 as a Broad Resident at CPS. Previously she held leadership

roles in Brand Management at SC Johnson and Ferrara Candy Company. Tyeise holds a Bachelor of

Latoya Hughes

Supervisor, Community Justice Centers, Cook County State's Attorney's Office



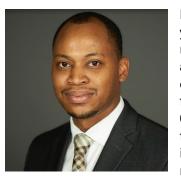
Latoya Hughes has more than 17 years of legal experience. In her current role, she manages a team of attorneys and staff who focus on the development and implementation of crime prevention programming, increasing engagement and collaborations between the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and members of the community as well as the prosecution

of crimes of particular significance to the community.

Prior to joining the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, Latoya worked as an Assistant Public Guardian, advocating for the rights of children in the child welfare system. She volunteers as a mentor and is a member of the Chicago Chapter of the National Black Prosecutors Association. Latoya is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Sociology as well as a Juris Doctor from the University of Illinois College of Law. Latoya resides in South Suburban Cook County with her son, Isaiah.

Michael Jones

Human Resources Manager, Community and Diversity Programs, Rush University Medical Center



years of strategic human capital management, process improvement and data centric business management experience. Michael is responsible for building and leading Rush's Corporate Social Responsibility function as it relates to local hiring initiatives, which aim to hire and retain individuals from communities

that have been disinvested in throughout Chicago.

Michael also oversees Rush's campus recruitment, veteran recruitment and individuals with

Prior to joining Zoro, Rocki led brands at ConAgra Foods and Procter & Gamble. Rocki serves on the Board of Directors for YouthBuild Lake County, headquartered in North Chicago. She received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Spelman College and Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech, as well as an MBA from Harvard Business School. Rocki lives in Highland Park with her husband, Bruce, and their two children, Bailey and Bruce II.

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Science in Marketing and International Business from Georgetown University and an MBA from Cornell University. She recently earned a master's degree in Educational Leadership from the Broad Residency. Tyeise is also heavily involved in diversity initiatives and recruitment at Cornell.

Prior to attending business school, she worked in public relations, as well as in the utility industry as a marketing analyst at the Southern Company. Tyeise lives in Chicago with her husband, Daryl, and their two young sons, Justice and Chancellor.

Michael Jones has more than eight

disabilities recruitment strategies. Michael takes a proactive and purposeful approach to building strong talent networks that help to create long-term value and importance to Rush. One of the things he enjoys most about his role at Rush is being able to help community members rebuild and build out their future success through hiring.

Michael holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a master's degree from Northwestern University in Evanston.



Jason T. Mercer

National Account Manager, U.S. Customer Retail, Fonterra (USA)



Jason Mercer has more than 10 years of experience in strategy, finance and mergers & acquisitions-related roles within multinational organizations such as Lehman Brothers, Warner Music Group, Deloitte Consulting, TreeHouse Foods and now Fonterra USA. As National Account Manager for the U.S. Retail business for New Zealand-based Fonterra, a global

dairy co-op, Jason leads Fonterra's retail growth ambitions and brand awareness by solidifying partnerships with distribution outlets (grocers, eCommerce, etc.) across the U.S.

Jason is treasurer for both the Chicago Area Morehouse Alumni Association and Stanford Black Alumni of Chicago Club. He is also a member of the Young Leadership Board for America Needs You (Illinois) and 100 Black Men of Chicago.

Jason earned his MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business and Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Morehouse College, where he was a four-year letterman in basketball and pledged Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (Alpha Rho Chapter). Jason resides in Bronzeville with his wife, Lydia.

Brittany Merritt

Chicago Executive Director, Peer Health Exchange



Brittany Merritt is a nonprofit executive with experience in the public and private sectors, focusing on business development, program development and implementation. At Peer Health Exchange (PHE), she is primarily responsible for cultivating funding sources to support the growth of programs, managing and growing the Chicago Board of Directors,

and providing fiscal and organizational oversight for PHE Chicago.

Prior to joining PHE, she served as Chief Program Officer at Umoja Student Development Corporation, where she oversaw the vision and strategy of Umoja's program portfolio. Brittany remains deeply committed to youth empowerment and equity in Chicago as she serves on the Auxiliary Board for Girls in the Game and is a member of the Chicago Foundation for Women's Southside Giving Council. Brittany holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Howard University and a Master of Arts in Sports Administration from Northwestern University.

Michelle Mills Clement

CEO, Chicago Association of REALTORS®



Michelle Mills Clement is CEO of the Chicago Association of REALTORS®. She previously served as President and CEO of the Commercial Brokers Association and association executive for the Washington State Commercial Association of REALTORS®. She is an active member of Association Forum of Chicagoland and ASAE: The Center for Association Excellence,

where she was recently named to their prestigious Fellows program.

A native Chicagoan, she enjoys political campaign fundraising and volunteer management. She was

integral in the election of Congresswoman Robin Kelly (D-IL) from Illinois' 2nd Congressional District. In 2019, she was elected trustee for Bradley University and is active in the university's Black Alumni Alliance. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Michelle holds a bachelor's degree in communication from Bradley University and a master's degree in nonprofit management from DePaul University. She has a certificate in commercial real estate from the University of Washington and earned the Certified Association Executive (CAE) certification from ASAE.

Ashanti Morgan

Global Manager of Inclusion & Diversity, Hyatt Hotels Corp.



Ashanti Morgan is charged with supporting business and human resource leaders in ensuring Hyatt increases, develops and leverages a diverse workforce; sustains an environment of inclusion via a multitude of strategic initiatives; and generates impactful business results. Before taking on her current role as Global Manager of Inclusion & Diversity, she served as

the Global Manager of Learning Strategy & Design at Hyatt.

Nakhia Morrissette

Regulatory Counsel & Midwest Director of State Affairs, Solar Energy Industries Association



Nakhia Morrissette serves as Regulatory Counsel & Midwest Director of State Affairs for the Solar Energy Industries Association, a national trade association dedicated to solar advancement, advocacy, and education. In her role, Nakhia oversees regulatory and legislative matters involving the growing solar market in all Midwestern states. With nearly a decade of legal experience, Nakhia previously

worked for the Illinois Commerce Commission, in private practice at Schumacher Electric Corporation and as a law firm owner serving entrepreneurs.

Nubia Murray

Global Family Marketing Manager McDonald's Corporation



decade of experience in sponsorship and partnership marketing, spearheading global sports properties in the US, Frankfurt, Singapore, South Africa and Sydney. At McDonald's, Nubia contributes to the strategic oversight of the Family Experience in 120+ countries and 36,000 restaurants worldwide. She also tackles brand

alignment and relationship management of McDonald's nearly 30 different licensing partners, including Universal, DreamWorks, and Disney.

Prior to joining Hyatt, Ashanti held senior-level roles at DePaul University, Chicago Public Schools and Learning Point Associates (now American Institutes for Research). Ashanti's passion is supporting mission-driven, community-based organizations such as LEEP Forward, Gary Comer Youth Center and Year Up—sharing her expertise through consultation and volunteerism.

Ashanti received a Master of Science in Instructional Technology from Northern Illinois University. She lives in the Beverly community in Chicago with her husband Jacob and their three amazing children.

She serves as Parliamentarian of the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc., is a Founding Associate Board Member of Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago/Northwest Indiana, and is a member of the Women's Energy Network.

Nakhia earned her Bachelor of Science in Journalism/Mass Communications from North Carolina A&T State University and her Juris Doctor from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, California. She resides in the Oakland neighborhood of Chicago with her husband, Wesley.

Nubia joined McDonald's with over a

Nubia was previously a Vice President in JPMorgan Chase's Sports & Entertainment Marketing division, and served the Chase Foundation on the Strategic Initiatives team. Nubia is an active member of Junior League Chicago and Delta Sigma Theta's Chicago Alumnae Chapter. Crediting sports for developing her strong work ethic and competitive drive, Nubia competed in track and field at Howard University and is a proud finisher of five Olympicdistance triathlons and two New York City Marathons. Nubia is married to her elementary school sweetheart, Brian Davis.





Britney Robbins

Founder and CEO, The Gray Matter Experience



Britney Robbins founded The Gray Matter Experience in 2016 to help black high school students start socially conscious businesses. She has several years of experience working within Chicago's business/ tech community, including with some of Chicago's top venture capital firms and incubators: Sandbox Industries, Lightbank and 1871.

She has been recognized as one of Ariel Investments' 40 Under 40 Gamechangers and in Essence Magazine's Woke 100. She was a finalist for *Ebony*

Magazine's Power 100 People's Choice Award and was featured on Fox32 and in Chicago Inno, BlackEntrepreneur.com, DNAInfo Chicago and Chicago Tribune. She has also spoken at several conferences and panels about the value of community development.

Britney is passionate about entrepreneurship, education, youth and community and believes in empowering others to use their passions and strengths to create opportunities. She is also a published children's book author. Britney received her Bachelor of Arts in Rhetoric with an English minor from the University of Illinois in 2009.

Johnni Rodgers

Director of Marketing, The Laughing Cow, Bel Brands USA



With more than 10 years of experience in the consumer products industry, Johnni Rodgers has taken on the challenge of reinventing the historic flagship brand, The Laughing Cow, which is core to Bel Brands' \$4 billion global portfolio. Her responsibilities range from full-brand P&L responsibility to developing and executing the roadmap to accelerating

growth in the U.S.

Prior to joining Bel, Johnni came from the Breakthrough Innovation group at Kraft Heinz.

Throughout her career, Johnni has played an integral role in the marketing, innovation, and turnaround efforts across many well-known brands, including but not limited to Planters[®], Kashi[®], Eggo®, FruitLove® and Kraft® Macaroni & Cheese.

Johnni serves on the Board of Directors for Chicago Debates (formerly Chicago Debate Commission). She received a bachelor's degree in economics from UCLA and an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Originally from San Diego, Johnni currently lives with her husband, Aaron, in Chicago's South Loop neighborhood.

Mironda Ross

Director, PricewaterhouseCoopers



Mironda Ross is a Deals Director in PricewaterhouseCoopers' (PwC) Advisory practice. She has more than 10 years of consulting experience, helping her clients strategically and tactically execute on mergers and integrations, divestitures and carveouts, and overall business transformation across a range of industries. Her expertise includes large-scale

project management, human resources, change management and communications, Day 1 readiness, employee transitions and workforce planning.

When Mironda is not helping her clients realize the value of a deal, she proudly serves as a volunteer with Ladies of Virtue and a mentor with Chicago Scholars, organizations committed to empowering the next generation of leaders in underresourced or underrepresented communities. Mironda graduated with honors from the University of Alabama with a Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems and Computer Science and an MBA from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. Mironda currently resides in Bronzeville on the South Side of Chicago.



Vice President of Development, World Business Chicago



Melanie Sillas has more than 10 years of experience in the public sector, and her more recent work has been in nonprofit fundraising. At World Business Chicago, she has primary responsibility for developing key external alliances through the cultivation and solicitation of corporate and foundation support, special events, as well as individual giving.

Prior to joining World Business Chicago, Melanie held fundraising roles at the University of Chicago,

Alexandra "Alex" Sims

Founder and CEO, APS & Associates



Alex Sims believes that one's birthplace and economic status should not disproportionately determine one's life journey. A native of Metro Detroit, Alex majored in social policy at Northwestern University. Inspired by President Barack Obama's social policies, she accepted an appointment to head his 2012 presidential campaign for Missouri. Following President Obama's historic

victory, she became a state coordinator with Organizing for Action before relocating to the Chicago headquarters. Alex later served as

Rendel L. Solomon

Managing Director, Muller & Monroe Asset Management LLC



Rendel Solomon is a Managing Director with Muller & Monroe Asset Management (M²), a Chicago-based private equity firm that manages \$1.2 billion on behalf of public pension plans. He serves on the investment team and leads sales & marketing and client services. Prior to joining M² in 2008, Rendel worked as an engineer at P&G in Cincinnati.

Rendel obtained his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Tulane University and

the Chicago Urban League, and Chicago Youth Centers. Melanie received a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Illinois in 2005, a Master of Science in Public Service Management from DePaul University in 2008, and a Certificate in Fundraising Management from North Park University in 2014. In her spare time, Melanie enjoys running half marathons and destination races, baking and volunteering with her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

campaign manager for Kurt Summers' race for City Treasurer and directed his impactful 77 in 77 platform. After Summers' election, Alex was named Senior Advisor for the Treasurer's Office and helped advance an agenda of financial equity.

The establishment of APS & Associates distills the remarkable skills and talents Alex has honed. Two years into business, her vast client base has ranged from the Obama Foundation to the Black Aldermanic Caucus to JB Pritzker for Governor.

his MBA from Columbia Business School. In June 2016, he founded the nonprofit One Stock One Future NFP (OSOF) to turn one million youth into public company shareholders. OSOF uses workshops to expose young people to stocks and ownership; then the organization purchases gift certificates for public company stocks so that each student can open their first investment account. Rendel is a member of 100 Black Men of Chicago and has been recognized by Ariel Investments, Chicago Defender, Chicago Community Trust, Chicago Urban League, Ebony, and WVON for his accomplishments.



Thomas K. R. Stovall

President, Intention Mastery



An alum of the Tennessee State University Electrical Engineering department, ironically, Thomas K.R. Stovall has never actually worked a day as an engineer. He started his entrepreneurial career selling luxury custom car accessories online from New York to California out of his dorm room at 19 years old, and he never looked back.

Thomas' online courses and group training programs (IntentionMastery.com), along with his problem/solution think tanks

(ThinkLikeAStartup.global), teach entrepreneurs and business leaders practical ways to guickly close gaps between intentions, deliberate actions, and measurable outcomes, to make bottom line revenue predictable, and amplify growth in their companies.

Thomas is an author, a sought after speaker and facilitator, a Google Entrepreneur in Residence, the founder of an enterprise microfeedback company, and the creator of an organization that catalyzes growth for Black and Latinx entrepreneurs (ImBlackInTech.com), with almost 6000 people in the membership network across 16 countries.

Jeremey Watson

Art Director of Global Digital Content Marketing, Groupon



As Art Director of Global Digital Content Marketing for Groupon, Jeremey Watson sets the strategy for visual storytelling and marketing campaigns for digital channels across 16 countries. He also manages the international design team. Since joining the company in 2012, Jeremey has held a number of leadership roles that have elevated the Groupon brand

through the new channels he has defined globally.

Marcus Thomas

Senior Manager of Customer Marketing, Reynolds Consumer Products



Marcus Thomas has more than 10 years of leadership experience in marketing, sales and operations planning, and supply chain management. In his current role at Reynolds Consumer Products, he is responsible for developing sales and marketing strategies to drive market share, revenue, and profit growth for the Hefty Brand. He is also responsible for developing and

managing pricing and promotional plans for Hefty products across all sales channels.

Prior to joining Reynolds, Marcus held positions at Kraft Foods, ConAgra Foods, and OfficeMax, Inc. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Marcus currently resides in the near western suburbs of Chicago with his wife, Dawn, and their two daughters, Leah and Avery.

James Williams

Director of Finance, Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives



James Williams has more than 15 years of experience in accounting and finance. As Director of Finance at Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives (CNI), he is responsible for financial management across all subsidiaries and affiliates. He is also responsible for facilitating strategic planning for new business opportunities. Prior to joining CNI, he was an investment officer at

the California Public Employees Retirement System.

Anthony D. Tindall

Policy & Special Projects Manager, Forest Preserve District of Cook County



Anthony Tindall manages the policy, sustainability, and climate resiliency agenda for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, a 70,000-acre public land management agency. Prior to joining the Forest Preserve, Anthony served as an associate director at the Francis W. Parker School. He also previously held positions at the University of Chicago

and the Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens.

Anthony received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, N.C., and a Master of Public Administration from DePaul University in Chicago. Anthony currently serves on the National Advisory Board for the Union of Concerned Scientists in Cambridge, Mass. He is also a coach for One Million Degrees in Chicago and was one of the inaugural fellows for Chicago United for Equity in 2018. Anthony resides in the Rogers Park community in Chicago.

Nykia Wright

Interim Chief Executive Officer, Chicago Sun-Times

Nykia Wright is Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Sun-Times. In May of 2019, she was named one of the top 10 most powerful women in Chicago journalism. Before joining the Sun-Times, Nykia was a strategy consultant with experience in financial management, business restructuring, performance improvement, supply chain, and human resources. Her work

history included roles with JPMorgan Chase, Huron

Before joining Groupon, Jeremey held a number of creative and industrial design roles, including furniture design, fashion design and package design for a range of consumer brands including KitchenAid, SC Johnson and Ed Hardy. Outside of work, Jeremey is an avid photographer, artist and fashion designer who also finds inspiration through his passion for travel. Jeremey currently resides in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood.

James serves on the board of directors of the Village Method, a nonprofit youth development organization, and of the Roseland Youth Center. He received a Bachelor of Science in Business with an emphasis in Accounting from San Francisco State University and a Master of Science in Nonprofit Management from North Park University in Chicago. He also is a CFA Charterholder. James resides in the Hyde Park neighborhood on the South Side of Chicago, with his wife Paris and their three children, James III, Zariah and Gabriella.

Consulting, and North Highland Worldwide Consulting. Nykia has a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Carnegie Mellon University, International Business Certification from the University of Cambridge (England), and an MBA from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth. She has also studied business at the Indian School of Business in Hyderabad, India. She is a member of the 2018 Crain's Chicago Business 40 under 40 class, and also a member of the 40 gamechangers under 40 class, a recognition bestowed from a partnership between WVON and Ariel Investments.



Bryce Yancy

Director of Government Affairs, Chicago State University



As Director of Government Affairs at Chicago State University, Bryce Yancy is responsible for advocating for the university's interests with federal, state, and local governments.

Prior to joining Chicago State, Bryce served in senior staff roles on political campaigns for Illinois state representatives, Chicago aldermen, U.S. Senate candidate Andrea Zopp, and Chicago

Mayor Rahm Emanuel. He also consulted for

Fortune 500 companies and other large organizations, including the University of Chicago, Ford Motor Company, and American Airlines. In addition, he was a co-convener of the Coalition for Police Contracts Accountability, an organization that advocates for changes to the Chicago Police Department contracts.

Bryce is a proud Chicagoan, and is civically involved. He serves on the boards of Joel Hall Dancers and Center, and PEAK Chicago. He is a graduate of Michigan State University.



Gleacher Center, the University of Chicago Booth School of Business' downtown Chicago facility

Our Education Partner

The University of Chicago Booth School of Business

Chicago Booth hosts each of our monthly sessions at its state-of-the-art Gleacher Center in Chicago's Streeterville neighborhood. Members of Booth's world-class faculty provide instruction on various academic topics that are relevant to our Fellows' leadership development.

In addition to Booth faculty, Chicago Booth Executive Education has been an amazing partner of IMPACT since the program's inception. Executive Education staff have provided invaluable support at each of the program's monthly sessions and many supplemental events and activities. We are incredibly grateful for their remarkable partnership.













Our Mentors

Carol Adams Jacinda Adams Terrell Anderson Linda Crane Boyd Carole Brown Karen Caldwell Dorothy Capers Dorval Carter Adela Cepeda Gregory Chappell Elvin Charity Virginia Clarke Karen Collins Michelle Collins Les Coney Cheryl Cooke Tarrah Cooper Toni Cornelius Risa Davis Ronald DeNard Donna Grant Dorsey Sidney Dillard Derek R.B. Douglas William Farrow Michael Fisher Rahni Flowers Rebecca Ford Terry Janel Forde Esther Franklin Anne Fredd **Richard Gamble** Gary Gardner Maria Green Nickol Hackett

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Diane Primo Juliette Pryor **Reginald Reed** Gary Rozier Jelani Rucker Shari Runner Kelly Saulsberry Zaldwaynaka Scott Brian Sleet (deceased) Eric S. Smith Melody Spann Cooper Lovetta Spencer **Stephanie Springs** Kurt Summers Jonathan Swain Desiree Tate (deceased) Stuart Taylor Stephen Thomas Donna Thompson Domingue Jordan Turner Paula Thornton-Greear Sherri Thorton-Pierce William Towns Chad Walker Alex Washington Pamela Wedgeworth Darrell Williams **Melvin Williams Rufus Williams** Vince Williams Sherman Wright Andrea Zopp





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What Our Alumni Say About IMPACT





Torrey L. Barrett IMPACT Class of 2015

"When I first joined IMPACT, I had an idea of building a \$23.5 million housing development to help hardworking families on the South Side of Chicago have quality housing with retail options similar to those that downtown affluent families enjoy. IMPACT helped me take my project from concept to completion. I was able to leverage the skills and tools I gained through the program to put together a development team to complete this difficult project.

"My mentor, Gary Gardner, invested in me. He helped identify funding sources, as well as much needed counsel to protect my interest and the project. As a result of the program and my mentor, whom I still speak with today, we recently celebrated the grand opening of the KLEO Art Residences, a 58-unit mixed-use project with retail on the first floor that will also house an upscale, affordable boutique restaurant and banquet hall."



LeDeidre Turner IMPACT Class of 2018

"I walked away from each Lessons in Leadership session more confident in my abilities than before the session began. I was encouraged to step out of my comfort zone and take steps to advance my career rather than waiting for the traditional path in the position I had at the time.

"The support system is unmatched. I am connected to a group of people who celebrate each other's successes and encourage each other through their trials. After I applied for my previous job, which was my first supervisory role, one of my fellow cohort members spent five hours prepping me for the interview."

Jennifer Hodges IMPACT Class of 2018

"I became a more self-aware and confident people leader. I was promoted twice within my organization over the course of two years and was offered more opportunities to lead initiatives across the United Way system. Much of the work I was leading was important, but I was not comfortable vocalizing the impact of my contribution of projects and how it affected team, and organization prioritizes. After completing IMPACT, I became more vocal in raising challenges that were being overlooked, tactfully promoting my contributions, trusting my intuition and judgement and sharing my perspective with the leaders of the organization. I trusted that as a creative, African-American woman and a business professional, my perspective is important and matters in any seat I hold."



Jerremy Howell

IMPACT Class of 2017

"Not only did IMPACT meet my expectations, the program exceeded them. The connections to the market through the mentorship program provided me with exposure to names and networks that I would have never been able to access so fast without the program. The access to top professors at Booth gave me the institutionalized structure I needed to be focused and allowed me to continue to pursue my passion for education."







IMPACT Alumni Association

The extent to which IMPACT is successful in its mission depends on the collective success of our alumni. We are proud of the professional and community-oriented strides that each of our 170 alumni have made since joining IMPACT and are excited about what they will accomplish in the future as Chicago's to leaders. One vehicle through which our alumni remain connected to IMPACT and to each other is the IMPACT Alumni Association (IAA). Launched in 2016, the IAA provides graduates of the IMPACT program with opportunities for continuing education, networking, and community trusteeship.



Left to right: IAA Vice President Jonathan Buckner, Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, Illinois Lieutenant Governor Julianna Stratton, and IAA President Charise Williams at IMPACT Day at the University of Chicago Gleacher Center on July 12, 2019.



IMPACT alumni gathered for a group photo at the IAA Annual BBQ at Pier 31 on June 29, 2019.

Alumni – Class of 2019



Jasmine Bankhead, Ed.D. Danielle Banks Kristin Beal Alex Breland Micae Brown Frank Brown II Steve Cade William Collins Cory Croft Jeff Dase Francine Dower Averil Edwards Julie Félix Tamara Fletcher, Ph.D. Jessica R. Harris Kenya Jenkins-Wright Franchella Jennett Carnell R. Jones Christina Jordan LeeAndra Khan Channing Lenert Stephen McClain, Ed.D. Jerell Parker Ariel DeNey Rainey Felicia Rauls Dawn Frances Reese Akobe Sandy Blake Sercye Jason Smith Kemi Solade Tiffany Taylor Danielle Tillman Shaan Trotter Bradley Washington Destiny Woods Tanesja M. Young



Alumni – Class of 2018



Adekunle Akingboju Erin Alexander Jeffery Beckham Carolyn Branton Eva Brown Jayson Canady **Courtney Curtis** La Toya Dixon Jerry Doss Sheehan Fisher Kelley Foxx William Hall Simuel Hampton

Amiel Harper Kebreab Henry Jennifer Hodges Katrina Jackson Kimberly R. Jackson Wynter Jackson Jason Johnson Emanuel Johnson II James Joshua Reyahd Kazmi Kenya Key Erica Kirkwood Camile Lindsay Kumi

Raven Mackey Ronald Milsap **Curtis Monday** Kafi Moragne-Patterson Martita Mullen Qiana Nelson Rondell Newcombe Brian Packer Lamont Robinson Drahcir Smith LeDeidre Turner Garth Walker

Alumni – Class of 2017



Michelle Brown Jonathan Buckner Inger Burnett-Zeigler **Clarence** Carson Michael Clark Ameshia Cross Rukiya Curvey-Johnson Alexandrea Davis Chris-Tia Donaldson **Bobby Earles** Kendra Freeman **Corliss Garner**

Joshua Miller

- Jonathan Glover Eddie Gordon Toinette Gunn **Courtney Hollins** Tony Howard Jerremy Howell Adrienne Irmer Candace Jackson-Akiwumi Janelle James Farissa Knox Patrice Louis

Halleemah Nash Alex Ofei Eugenia Orr Renai Rodney Marielle Sainvilus Ayom Siengo Russell Singleton, Jr. Jamila Trimuel **Blessing Uchendu** Charise Williams Jeremy Wright



Alumni – Class of 2016



Helen Ashford Stacey Austin Meredith Brooks Garrett Buchanan Kam Buckner Erryn Cobb Marquita Cunningham Katie Ellis Andrea Flynn Marlo Gaal Na'Ree Hankins Alpachino Hogue Erica Hubbard Kevin Lamarr James Sizwe Kamara Imani Lewis Claoe Louis Tiffany McQueen Lewis Gerard Nixon Danielle Parker Darryl Rodgers Jelani Rucker Mark Sanders II Jolene Saul Kelly Saulsberry Alvin Schexnider Aaron Sims Charles Smith Michael Smith Erin Starkey Dania Terrell Damien Trimuel Vanessa Wasserman

Alumni – Class of 2015



Brent Baccus Ellamonique Baccus Rai Barney Torrey L. Barrett Roslind Blasingame-Buford Dwayne Bryant John Casmon Tarrah C. Cooper Kenesa Debela Doresah A. Ford-Bey Ryan C. Green Nicole Hayes Brandi Head Tasha Henderson Jud Henry Lisa Hinton Nathalina A. Hudson Constance Jones Timothy L. Jones, Jr. Karyn Brianne Lee DeJuan M. Lever Gerald E. Lewis, Jr. Miguel S. Millett Jimi Orange

Dartesia A. Pitts Xavier Ramey Christopher Rooney Michael Simmons Brian E. Sleet* Lovetta J. Spencer Joshua Strickland Dominique Jordan Turner Daphanie Wallace Kenneth P. Williams

*Deceased



Program Partners

The Chicago Urban League gratefully acknowledges the support of our IMPACT Leadership Development Program partners.







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