**Governing Board**

# **CHUCK ABBOTT**

*Grayline Tennessee*

*BIO COMING SOON*

**BRITTANY ADAMS-DAVIS**

*Dollar General*– Brittany joined Dollar General Corporation as a Senior Employment Attorney in 2016. She currently works with Dollar General as Senior Director, Labor, and Employment. Previously, she worked as a law clerk and an associate at various entities since 2010. She studied at University of North Texas for her undergraduate in Political Science before attending Wake Forest University School of Law and earning her J.D. She participated in Nashville’s Young Leaders Council in 2019. She has completed volunteer work with The Junior League of Nashville and previously volunteered as a Reading Partner through PENCIL at Hattie Cotton Elementary. She has also volunteered as a Lunch Buddy at Cockrill Elementary School.

# **KFIR ALEXANDRONI**

Kfir is currently an Audit Manager at Aprio and has an extensive background in audit work. He has both his bachelor’s and master’s Degrees in Accounting from Middle Tennessee State University. Kfir is both a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Internal Auditor. He grew up in Israel and served three years in the Israeli Army. Most of his family now lives in Middle Tennessee. In his free time, he enjoys boating and exploring Nashville’s restaurants.

# **LAMAR ALLEN**

A native of Detroit, MI, Lamar M. Allen is a 2017 Alumnus of Fisk University, where he majored in Business Management. While a student at Fisk, Lamar started his Nashville based balloon décor company, LaMarvelous Balloon Designs (now known as LaMarvelous Balloons). Providing balloon decor out of his dorm room, Lamar started LaMarvelous Balloons with the intent of dramatizing Fisk's campus with vibrant events through balloons and creating emotional and entertaining experiences for students.

LaMarvelous Balloons has exponentially grown in services offered, counting numerous colleges/universities, businesses, and private clients around metropolitan Nashville among its growing clientele. In 2019, Lamar earned the international certification of becoming a Certified Balloon Artist, being one of 5,000 worldwide and 1 of 3 in Nashville. LaMarvelous Balloons opened its first commercial warehouse in March of 2023, located in west Nashville. Lamar is committed to advancing and growing his craft, while continuing to help clients cherish the memorable moments that mean the most to them.

# **LIBBY BERMAN**

Libby Berman joined LP in 2018 in the role of Chief Tax Officer, taking ownership of all LP’s global tax functions. In 2023, she was promoted to Vice President, Chief Tax Officer. Berman is responsible for the company’s tax strategy and reporting obligations for the complex and ever-evolving global tax regulatory environment. She began her career at PwC, rising to the level of Tax Director, before joining Elektra as Vice President of Global Taxation. Berman earned a bachelor’s degree in Accounting and a master’s degree in Taxation from the University of Georgia.

**BRENT BINNS**

Brent has nearly a decade of combined public accounting and industry experience and provides community banking customers in both public and private sectors with a wide range of assurance services, including financial statement audits, internal audits (Sarbanes-Oxley 404 and FDICIA), and other agreed upon procedures.

Prior to joining Elliott Davis, Brent spent the majority of his career at Deloitte and Touche, serving multiple industries. He subsequently spent two years at a $3 billion SEC bank where he was responsible for financial reporting (10Q’s and 10K’s), addressing technical accounting matters, and FDICIA compliance. Brent most recently performed financial statement audits and compilations at a national firm for banks across the Midwest.

# **LILLIAN BLACKSHEAR**

# Lillian Blackshear is a partner in the Nashville office of law firm Bass, Berry & Sims PLC. Exclusively focused on public finance, Lillian represents an array of governmental entities, investment banks and commercial banks on debt issuances throughout Tennessee. Since 2010, she has represented clients in public finance transactions totaling more than $10 billion. Lillian is past chair of the African-American Affinity Group of Bass, Berry & Sims and served on the firm’s Executive Committee from 2020 through 2023.

From 2014 through 2023, Lillian served as a commissioner on the Metropolitan Planning Commission. She is also a founding board member and secretary for the Tennessee Chapter of Women in Public Finance. She is a member of the Leadership Nashville Class of 2024, a 2023 Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation and a 2022 Fellow of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity.

In 2022, she was awarded a “40 Under 40 Nation’s Best Advocates Award” by the National Bar Association and the “40 Under 40 Excellence in Leadership Award” by the National Bar Association. She has been named to Nashville Post’s “In Charge” list for the Legal Sector since 2022 and was a past “40 Under 40” honoree by the Nashville Business Journal. She has funded scholarships at her undergraduate alma mater, Spelman College, and is a past corporate fundraising volunteer for Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee. Most importantly, she is the proud wife of Clifton Peay and the proud mom of sons, Leo and Julian.

# **HERBERT BROWN**

Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, Herbert received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Tennessee – Knoxville in Political Science with a concentration in Public Administration. After completing his undergraduate degree, he went on to receive his Master’s in Public Administration from Tennessee State University. Herbert has held positions with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy at Meharry Medical College, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. He has more than 12 years of experience in successfully developing and managing initiatives that improve lives through active collaboration with employees, stakeholders, disadvantaged businesses, nonprofit organizations, and the community.

Currently, he is the Community & Citizenship Director for Turner Construction. As Director, he helps support, align, and communicate strategic priorities relative to economic impact for underrepresented business enterprises in the construction industry. In addition to economic development, he is also responsible for leading workforce development and community outreach/engagement. Herbert is very active in the community. He currently serves on the Urban League of Middle Tennessee Board of Directors, PENCIL’s Board of Directors, and the Cane Ridge High School Academy of Architecture and Construction Advisory Board. Also, Herbert is involved with the Urban Land Institute (ULI) and was in the ULI Nashville Pathways to Inclusion 2022 Cohort. He was selected as a 2023 Nashville Business Journal 40 Under 40 recipient and Nashville Post’s In Charge 2023 Leaders List.

# **ELIZABETH GARZA BUMPAS**

Elizabeth Garza Bumpas serves as Community Impact Officer in the division of Government and Community Relations at Vanderbilt University. Elizabeth’s experience ranges across sectors, including business, higher education at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio and the nonprofit sector at the Girl Scouts of the USA in New York City. In her role with the Vanderbilt Community Relations team, Elizabeth works strategically to support and partner with local organizations, convene stakeholders and to bring Vanderbilt's people and resources into the community in service of others. She is committed to outreach and engagement with the diverse Nashville community to foster social impact and improve the well-being of our community.

Elizabeth graduated from Texas A&M University Corpus Christi with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice. Her passions include community and board service in advancing women and girls leadership, education, and access to higher education opportunities for those from marginalized communities. Originally from south Texas, Elizabeth moved to Middle Tennessee in 2020. She enjoys spending time with her husband James and their two dogs, Tank and Bruno.

# **BRITNEY CLINE**

Britney is currently the Vice President and a Wealth Advisor for Regions Private Wealth Management. She has over 13 years of banking experience in both the Birmingham, Alabama and Nashville, Tennessee area. She has her bachelor’s degree in finance from the University of Alabama. Britney is the proud mom of a current MNPS student and a future MNPS student. She and her family live in East Nashville.

# **MELISSA CORNEJO-NELL**

Melissa Cornejo-Nell is the Partnerships, Impact, and Engagement Manager for the Office of Family and Community Partnerships at Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS). Melissa is a proud queer Chicana, originally from Los Angeles, California. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Feminist Media Studies and French Culture from the University of Redlands’ Johnston Center for Integrative Studies. Inspired by the intersection of social justice, community, and education, she served for a year as an AmeriCorps State National member at a charter high school in rural Oregon. Here she developed an early college program for first-generation college students like herself. This experience sparked her career in the education and the nonprofit sectors and led her to pursue a Master of Education in Learning, Diversity, and Urban Studies from Vanderbilt University when she moved to Nashville in 2016.

In addition to her current role at MNPS since 2021, Melissa has worked at the Civic Design Center, Conexión Américas, and the United Way of Greater Nashville. Her nonprofit career has spanned curriculum development, leading a college access program for first-generation college students from immigrant backgrounds, and coordinating professional development for staff supporting families experiencing homelessness across Middle Tennessee. At MNPS, Melissa has served nearly three years fostering impactful partnerships between the community, schools, and the district through Community Achieves and later, the Office of Family and Community Partnerships. She is currently serving her second year on the PENCIL Emerging Leaders Board and as a Board Director for Urban Green Lab. Melissa graduated from Nashville Emerging Leaders in 2023.

# **LESLIE COWELL**

A native of Destin, Florida, Dr. Cowell holds a Bachelor of Science degree and a Ph.D. in elementary education K-6 from Auburn University, a Master of Education in reading education from the University of West Florida and a Master of Education from the University of North Carolina-Charlotte in urban education. Has worked and taught in both private and public schools as a teacher and administrator in Florida and Alabama.

Dr. Cowell currently serves as the Dean for the College of Education at Lipscomb, this appointment starting August 2022. Prior to working at Lipscomb, Dr. Cowell was the Dean for the College of Education at Faulkner University in Montgomery, Alabama. Dr. Cowell has served on multiple nonprofit boards while in Alabama and was a Deans for Impact fellow 2021-2022.

# **KENNY CRAPSE**

*Fifth Third Bank*-- Kenny Crapse is a Commercial Banking Relationship Manager at Fifth Third Bank. He was born in Charleston, South Carolina and grew up in Columbus, Indiana. Kenny moved to Nashville in 2014 after working for two years in JPMorgan Chase’s Government, Not-for-Profit, Healthcare, and Higher Education group. He has been with Fifth Third for four years, working with the local Middle Market Banking team.

Kenny has a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of Louisville where he was also on the swim team. He enjoys volunteering locally with Junior Achievement of Middle Tennessee and Project Return. Kenny lives in Bellevue with his wife Alex and their puppy Jackie. He is an avid reader and enjoys watching reruns of The Office.

# **KASON DAVIS**

Kason Davis is a graduate of Florida St. University with a bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering and holds a Master of Business Administration from Rice University. Kason has worked at Caterpillar for 16 years, holding a variety of positions with increased responsibilities. He started his career completing various assignments as part of a Leadership Development Program. Upon completion of the program, he completed assignments as a Sales Support Engineer and Sales Representative within the Power Generation Systems organization. Kason then transitioned to Caterpillar Financial Services Corporation serving as a Regional Insurance Manager, followed by leadership positions as a Business Development Manager and currently serving as North America Marketing Strategy Manager. His current responsibilities include leading a team of Market Development Consultants and Marketing Support Reps to provide a go-to-market strategy for financing of Caterpillar equipment throughout the US and Canada.

Kason’s career has relocated him and his family to multiple places during his career prior to settling in Nashville in 2019. Locations include but are not limited to Peoria, IL, Houston, TX, Seattle, WA, and Charlotte, NC. Kason served as one of the members on the inaugural PENCIL Emerging Leaders Board and currently serves as chair of the Caterpillar African American Mentor Program. Kason is a native of Albany, GA and currently resides in Brentwood, TN with his wife and two young boys.

# **JOSH DePRIEST**

*Rogers Group International*- Mr. DePriest became Vice President of Finance and Treasurer of Rogers Group Inc. in 2018. Josh’s 21-year career in financial leadership began with Davidson, Golden & Lundy in Brentwood in 1999 where he passed the CPA exam. He joined RGI in 2003 and held multiple Controller roles prior to his promotion to Vice President.

Josh currently serves on the Board of Directors and as Vice President of the Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA). He also volunteers his time as a youth athletics coach.

Josh earned his Bachelor of Science in Accounting with Magna Cum Laude honors and Master of Business Administration from The University of Tennessee at Martin. Josh is a Middle Tennessee native and grew up attending public schools in nearby Robertson County. He and his wife, Stephanie, reside in Brentwood and have two school-age children, Addison, and Patrick.

# **KIRSTEN DODSON**

Kirsten Heikkinen Dodson (pronouns: she/her) is an Associate Professor and the Chair of Mechanical Engineering in the Raymond B. Jones College of Engineering at Lipscomb University. She earned her B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Math from Lipscomb University and her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University before returning to her alma mater. She also serves as the Associate Director for Research and Education for the Peugeot Center as well as a regular team leader for engineering missions projects in Guatemala. Her research interests focus on the connections between humanitarian engineering, engineering education, and equity and inclusion topics. Her teaching spans the disciplines of thermal fluid sciences, humanitarian engineering, and various design courses. Kirsten has served on the Emerging Leaders Board of PENCIL since 2019 with leadership experience in the roles of Nominating Chair in 2020 and Co-Chair in 2021. She is an active member of her community who enjoys supporting local businesses, serving Nashville schools and children, and hitting the best local music venues. She also loves to travel with her husband Stephen, spend time with family and friends, and enjoy the great outdoors with her dog Leia.

# **JOHN DOERGE**

John is a long-time supporter of PENCIL and MNPS with over 25 years of commitment to our schools. He provides local leadership for Deloitte’s Corporate Citizenship initiatives, volunteer programs, internal communications, sustainability, and well-being. Prior to joining Deloitte, John was the Employee Events and Programs Manager for Opryland Hospitality and Attractions. In addition to his work on the PENCIL board, john is active board member or United Way of Greater Nashville, Junior Achievement, and March of Dimes. He is a former commissioner for the Metro Nashville Airport Authority.

# **FLYNNE DOWDY**

Flynne Dowdy is a Labor & Employment Partner in Holland & Knight's Nashville office. An experienced trial attorney, Ms. Dowdy represents employers in litigation and provides day-to-day advice and counseling to management and human resources personnel.

Clients across a wide range of industries rely on Ms. Dowdy to investigate and resolve labor and employment matters, including allegations of harassment, discrimination, retaliation and wrongful discharge. Ms. Dowdy's practice also involves Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and state wage and hour litigation, including collective and class actions.

Additionally, Ms. Dowdy helps clients develop strategies to reduce the likelihood of disruptive litigation. She drafts employment and independent contractor agreements, severance and settlement agreements, and policy manuals and handbooks. Her experience also includes unfair competition and trade secret litigation.

Previously, Ms. Dowdy gained valuable courtroom experience with law firms in Nashville and Miami. She began her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney with the Harris County District Attorney’s Office in Houston.

# **CHRISTINA FEAGINS**

Christina Feagins is a senior manager within Deloitte Technology. She has nearly 15 years of experience in technology and operational excellence and brings a diverse skillset from previous roles in finance, operations, strategic planning and change management. Christina currently leads global IT Service Management with team members across US, Mexico, Canada, UK, and India. In this role, she oversees the strategic approach to designing, delivering, managing, and improving how IT services are utilized within Deloitte Technology. Key functions include governing Incident, Problem, Change and Release Management processes.

As an extension of Deloitte’s presence in the community, Christina has also developed and led various programs for the organization’s local Pencil Partner schools. Christina is an MNPS graduate from East Nashville Magnet High School. She received her Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Hampton University in Virginia and received her MBA from Vanderbilt University Owen Graduate School of Management – Americas Executive Program. Christina is a native of Nashville, TN where she currently resides with her husband and two daughters - ages three and five.

# **JOSE FERREIRA**

Jose is the JLL Finance Director for the State of TN account since October 2020. He has US and international experience of over 20 years mainly in Finance. He has held increased responsibilities at Mayo Clinic, Microsoft, Asurion, Cummins, and Bridgestone Americas. He is a Certified Management Accountant and holds an MBA from Vanderbilt University and a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Universidad del Pacifico. Jose was born in Lima, Peru, he is bilingual in Spanish and English and has a basic understanding of Portuguese.

# **TODD FIGLER**

*AllianceBernstein* -- Todd Figler is a Senior Vice President and Managing Director in the Private Alternatives Group, primarily focused on the business and product development of the firm’s credit-oriented strategies. He joined AB in 2017. Previously, Figler was the head of strategy at Prosiris Capital Management, a multi-sector credit-oriented investment manager, where he focused on the firm’s overall allocation across investment sectors and strategic initiatives. Prior to that, he was vice president at Bank of America Merrill Lynch in the Cross Asset Solutions and Strategies Group, where he was responsible for the structuring and execution of derivative and funded transactions across credit and rates. Figler began his career in the Leveraged Finance Origination Group at Merrill Lynch. He holds a BS in finance from Georgetown University and a JD from the New York University School of Law. Location: Nashville.

# **JESSIE GARCIA KNOWLES**

Jessie Garcia Knowles is the Community Affairs Manager of Clark Construction Group. Her previous experience includes the role of Executive Director of the Tennessee Latin American Chamber of Commerce (TLACC), returning to Nashville in 2019 after six years in California, where she worked in leadership development with area nonprofits and higher education institutions. She is also the pro bono director of Entrepreneur Latina Leaders of America, serving minority women starting new businesses. She had previously served as Assistant Dean of Intercultural Engagement at Lipscomb University and as director of Latino Achievers with the YMCA of Middle Tennessee, where she focused on the matriculation of first generation, low income, minority students to higher education. Prior to this, Jessie was in sales and account management in the corporate sector.

Garcia Knowles serves as Board chair of Aventura Community School and on the board of Salama Ministries. She is fully bilingual, and enjoys building community engagement around effective storytelling and connection. When not at work, Jessie refinishes furniture, helps friends rearrange their homes, and attempts not to kill any living plants in her home and garden.

# **KIA GOODWIN**

Kia Goodwin is a dedicated professional originally from Atlanta who made the move to Nashville in 2018 in pursuit of new opportunities and experiences. She is a graduate of Georgia Southern University with a B.S. in International Business Trade with a minor in Spanish. Kia considers herself a Supply Chain Strategist honing her skills across various industries: Airline (Delta Air Lines), Manufacturing (Georgia Pacific), Retail (The Home Depot), Marketing (The Coca-Cola Company), Tire/Automotive (Bridgestone, LLC).With a background in Supply Chain Management, Kia leverages her expertise in Supply Chain at Brown-Forman (Spirits & Wine Industry), as the Global Senior Manager, Indirect Procurement. In this role, she focuses on navigating complex sourcing strategies, leading contract negotiations, and optimizing processes to support the company's operations efficiently.

Working at Brown-Forman provides her with the opportunity to contribute to a renowned Fortune 500 company while continuously expanding her skill set in Procurement and Supply Chain Management.

Outside of her professional endeavors, Kia remains deeply committed to volunteering. Volunteering has been a fundamental part of her life since childhood, instilled in her by the guidance and example of her parents. From an early age, Kia’s parents emphasized the importance of giving back to others and being actively involved in the community. Whether it was serving meals at homeless shelters, participating in neighborhood clean-up projects, or volunteering at local events, Kia’s parents showed her firsthand the impact that small acts of kindness can have on those in need. Kia has carried her parents’ teachings with her, seeking out opportunities to be effective wherever she goes. Her journey has been shaped by a commitment to growth, both personally and professionally. She is excited to see where the path ahead leads to continuing a legacy of service through her volunteer efforts creating positive change in the world.

# **JEFF GREGG**

Jeff began his career in the entertainment business and spent over three decades guiding the careers of some of the biggest names in show business. He is a dynamic senior executive with over three decades of experience at the highest levels of for-profit and non-profits businesses. He is a visionary leader with proven ability to mentor, connect, and inspire. He left the entertainment industry in 2020 to become the Executive Director of Lantern Farm Counseling Center based in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee.

He earned an undergraduate degree in business from Aquinas College, an MBA from Amberton University, and a Master of Marriage and Family Counseling/Therapy from Trevecca Nazarene University. Jeff spent his career solving problems, first in the music industry, and now as a family counselor. He desires to walk alongside clients and help them identify and deal with emotions and feelings healthily. He is eager to help his clients find solutions and set attainable goals that lead to happiness, success, and healthy relationships. He believes that we all feel emotions such as shame, anxiety, fear, and anger. How we deal with these feelings can often hurt more than help.

He is currently pursuing a Doctoral degree in Business at Liberty University. Jeff has dedicated much of personal time investing in the health, wellness, and the minds of others. Throughout his successful career as a business leader, he has tackled complex issues and led with a result - driven approach. He has served in many leadership roles in Nashville over the past 27 years. Jeff resides in Donelson, where he is very involved in the community.

# **LILA HALL**

Lila Hall co-founded Yazoo Brewing Company with her husband, Linus, in Nashville in 2003. Lila and Linus have been and continue to be involved in the day-to-day operation of the brewery and value the importance of small, locally owned, family businesses to the ever growing Nashville community. In addition to developing her family's business for the last 20 years, Lila has worked in Nashville's visual arts and museum circles and is currently a registrar at the Frist Art Museum.

Lila is the mother of two daughters who have attended MNPS schools since kindergarten. Lila graduated from public high school and is a committed advocate of public education.

# **TANEISHA HARVEY**

# Taneisha Harvey, a proud Nashville native and distinguished graduate of MNPS and UT at Chattanooga, is a trailblazer in the world of entertainment and venue management. With an illustrious career spanning over a decade, Taneisha currently serves as the General Manager of the historic Nashville Municipal Auditorium, a position she has held with unparalleled dedication and expertise for the past five years. Taneisha's journey to the Nashville Municipal Auditorium began at Tennessee State University, where she excelled as the box office manager for six years, honing her skills in ticketing, sales, leadership, and finance. Her passion for live sports and entertainment guided her to the Nashville Municipal Auditorium in 2012, where she quickly rose through the ranks from Box Office Manager to her current role as General Manager.  In her capacity as General Manager, Taneisha has spearheaded transformative initiatives, including the development and implementation of innovative budgeting processes that have significantly enhanced efficiency and accuracy in the Auditorium's reporting. Her strategic leadership was particularly evident in navigating the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, where she implemented creative solutions to ensure the venue's resilience and success. With adept management of a substantial $2.8 million operating budget, Taneisha is steadfast in her commitment to achieving the Auditorium's ultimate goal of becoming a self-sustaining multipurpose venue, free from reliance on taxpayer dollars. Her unwavering dedication to the financial stability and growth of the Nashville Municipal Auditorium has been instrumental in solidifying its reputation as a cornerstone of Nashville's cultural landscape.  Beyond her professional endeavors, Taneisha finds true joy and inspiration in her family. Together with her husband, Alphonso Harvey, and their two sons, Alphonso III and Aaron, she cherishes every moment spent creating memories and nurturing their bond. Family serves as her driving force, propelling her forward and motivating her to continually strive for new heights of excellence. In every aspect of her remarkable journey, Taneisha Harvey exemplifies the pinnacle of leadership, innovation, and dedication. Her unwavering commitment to excellence and her profound impact on the Nashville Municipal Auditorium's success serve as a testament to her exceptional leadership and unwavering dedication.

# **JACQUELINE HAYES**

Jacqueline Hayes, MBA, PCM® is Principal and Chief Marketing Strategist of Crayons & Marketers, a full-service marketing agency in Nashville. Under her leadership, Crayons & Marketers helps companies, nonprofits, and government agencies attract and engage audiences through culturally sensitive content marketing. Jacqueline serves as Treasurer on the National Association of Women Business Owners National Board of Directors and Chair of the Finance Committee, and incoming Chair of the Audit Committee. She also serves as Recording Secretary on the board for the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Metro Nashville Chapter, a decades-old national organization advocating for black women and girls, and past co-chair of the Health Committee and the Economic Empowerment Committee. Jacqueline is the Vice President of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee of the American Marketing Association, Nashville Chapter (AMA Nashville) and member of the Executive Committee and Co-Leader of The Table’s Supplier Diversity Extension Group. She is also a member of the Board of Directors for the You Have Power…Know How to Use It, a nonprofit committed to raising awareness about crime and justice issues through victim advocacy and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Kappa Lambda Omega Chapter, where she serves as the Marketing Committee Chair.

Jacqueline was awarded the 2013 PENCIL Foundation Volunteer of the Year Award and 2014 Community Enrichment Award by NAWBO Nashville. In 2019, she was among a small contingent of dynamic women in business awarded the WBEs Who Rock Award by MBE Magazine. In 2020, Jacqueline was named to the prestigious Marquis Who’s Who in America and honored as a 2020 Women of Influence Awards recipient by the Nashville Business Journal. Jacqueline also received a 2021 Enterprising Women of the Year Award from Enterprising Women Magazine. Jacqueline graduated with a Master of Business Administration from Middle Tennessee State University and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Tennessee State University. She is an alumna of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business Program and certified as a Digital Marketing Professional through the Digital Marketing Institute and Professional Certified Marketer® through the American Marketing Association.

# **HERMAN HICKS**

*First Horizon-*

*BIO COMING SOON*

# **BRANDON HILL**

Brandon Hill is a community development professional with 20+ years of experience working in Nashville communities. At the ripe age of 19, Brandon became Teen Outreach Director at the Martha O’ Bryan Center serving the James A. Cayce Homes, a community he grew up in. He later assumed the same role at the Oasis Center in Nashville, TN before teaming with Grammy-award winning artist Usher Raymond to serve as National Program Director of Usher’s New Look Foundation, a youth-focused organization in Atlanta, GA. In 2011, Brandon returned to Nashville to serve as director of the Mayor’s Youth Council of Nashville/Davidson County which provides ongoing and direct input on government policies affecting youth and acts as the communication link between the metropolitan government and young people of Nashville. In 2019, Brandon signed on as Head of Community Engagement for Nashville SC, the latest expansion team of Major League Soccer.

In addition to local and national consulting work, Brandon has also serves on the boards of the Maddox Charitable Fund and Urban Green Lab. Brandon received the Emerging Leaders Award by the Tennessee Alliance for Progress, and in 2016 he was named one of Nashville’s “30 in their 30s” by the Center for Nonprofit Management. Brandon has a B.S. from Tennessee State University and M.Ed from Vanderbilt University Peabody College.

# **COLLEEN HOY**

Colleen Hoy is the Director of Product Management at ENA by Zayo. In this role, Colleen is responsible for leading a team focused on developing product vision and roadmaps and ensuring each product portfolio aligns with the mission of enabling communities by bridging innovative technology with exemplary customer care. She was previously the director of programs and partnerships at Nashville Technology Council and a consultant for c3/consulting (now Ankura).

Colleen was named 40 Under 40 by the Nashville Business Journal in 2017, awarded Product Manager of the Year by the NTC in 2021, was previously appointed to the MTA Board of Directors, and has served on the Nashville Chamber Report Card Committee, Alignment Nashville Learning Technology Committee, PENCIL Partnership Council, and the Nashville Social Enterprise Alliance Board of Directors. Colleen earned her BA from Dickinson College and her M.Ed. from Vanderbilt University.

# **KAITLYN JONES**

Kaitlyn Jones is the Director of Marketing for R.C. Mathews Contractor, a fourth-generation family business founded in Nashville in 1941. She serves on the Board for PENCIL, NAIOP Nashville, and AEC Power Women. She is an active member of Urban Land Institute (ULI) Nashville Chapter, Associated Builders and Contractors, and the Rotary Club of Nashville. She received the 2017 NAIOP Middle Tennessee Developing Leader of the Year award, a nomination for the 2016 Nashville Athena Young Professional of the year, and served as a Commissioner for the Metropolitan Nashville Historic Zoning Commission from 2017 to 2022.

Kaitlyn holds degrees in Political Science (International Relations) and Spanish with summa cum laude honors from Middle Tennessee State University. Kaitlyn grew up attending public schools, and her mother is a retired 35-year teacher of Metro Nashville Public Schools.

# **MEREDITH JONES LONG**

Meredith Jones is a Music Agent at leading entertainment and sports agency Creative Artists Agency (CAA). Based in CAA’s Nashville office, Jones also leads the college and university bookings team on behalf of the entire global music department. She represents successful artists like Maren Morris, Whiskey Myers, Little Big Town, Lori McKenna, Lindsay Ell, Hailey Whitters, and Filmore, among others. Jones strategically helped navigate Maren Morris’ cross-genre success and has been instrumental in booking her performances amongst the multi-genre festival circuit.

Jones, who just celebrated 15 years at CAA, began her career at the agency in 2007. She was promoted to Agent in 2012. She graduated magna cum laude from Belmont University, receiving a Bachelor of Business Administration with an emphasis on Music Business. Jones’ dedication to inclusiveness is evident throughout her work, both externally and within CAA. She has led the team that created THE HUBB, a networking and professional development summit that was designed to provide diverse internship- and career-ready college students with the tools and resources needed to successfully enter the music business. She has also served as the acting Board Secretary of the PENCIL Foundation, an organization that connects the local business community and Metro Nashville Public Schools through partnerships and programs.

# **NICOLE KEEFE**

Ms. Keefe is an attorney with Burr & Forman LLP, a southeastern regional law firm, where she represents clients in a variety of transactions and general business matters, with a focus on mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, and financial transactions. Nicole is involved with various professional and community organizations, including the Harry Phillips American Inn of Court, the Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville, and the Associate Board of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville; she has also participated in the Young Leaders Council and the Nashville Emerging Leaders programs. A native of Toronto, Canada, she earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Arizona in Philosophy, Politics, Economics and Law, and her juris doctorate from Vanderbilt University Law School.

# **MINH LEE**

Minh has been with FINN Partners for over ten years and brings a unique business perspective to integrated marketing campaigns. His blend of creativity and analytical capacity prove invaluable as he leads client teams including Jack Daniel’s, Google Fiber, Nashville International Airport, and more.

Minh specializes in developing strategic launch programs for products and services for international brands in consumer products, technology, healthcare, B2B, and other industries. He Develops and executes internal and external communications, marketing and advertising campaigns, community engagement programs, and PR and media programs to achieve clients’ objectives.

Minh is part of the 2024 class of Leadership Nashville, one of the oldest community and executive leadership programs in the country. He was named to the Nashville Post’s In Charge: Risers list in 2023 and honored as one of the Nashville Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 in 2022. He was elected to the class of 2021 and the Board of Directors of Nashville Emerging Leaders, a program designed to recognize and foster the growth of the city’s next wave of business and community leaders. He received the Mercury Award from PRSA Nashville in 2017, which recognizes Nashville’s best and brightest young public relations professionals in the industry. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Adventure Science Center and is Past President of PRSA Nashville where he ahs been an active member of the leadership team since 2014.

# **EMMANUEL LeGRAIR**

A native of Akron, Ohio, Emmanuel has been a Nashville resident for 10 years since receiving his M.Ed. from Vanderbilt University. A former educator, non-profit leader, and consultant, he is now the Creative Director at R.H. Boyd and is the founder of *The Commonwealth*, where he curates events and experiences for the men's style community of Nashville. He currently serves a member of the Board of Directors of the Arts and Business Council of Greater Nashville, the Kindling Arts Festival, the Community Advisory Board for Nashville Public Radio and has served and volunteered on committees and boards in organizations such as the Frist Art Museum, the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, Nashville Design Week and more.

His other interests and experiences include singing (professionally trained), education, and he has a great love and respect for art, markers, creativity of all kinds, and always looks to support and partner in any way that he can.

# **DEVIN LINTZENICH**

As the Director of Professional Development & Retention at Bass, Berry & Sims, Devin Lintzenich leads integration, training, evaluations and development for more than 350 attorneys. She aims to help attorneys advance toward their goals. Outside of work, Devin is an advocate for strong public schools and safe communities. She and her husband, Jeff, have two children: Patrick (6) and Lucy (4).

# **JOHARI MATTHEWS**

Johari Matthews currently serves as the Vice President and Executive Director of the Tennessee Titans Foundation and Community Impact with the Tennessee Titans, overseeing the restructuring and advancement of the Titans Foundation while supporting the club’s community initiatives. A role that was recently established by the Titans to grow the breadth and depth of community impact efforts, this role serves as the primary liaison for the Titans Foundation community partnerships, including neighborhood and community stakeholders. In addition, this role focuses heavily on all efforts surrounding the development of more statewide community programs, as well as neighborhood initiatives across Nashville. Prior to joining the Titans in May 2022, Johari served in various leadership roles with the YMCA of Middle Tennessee with her most recent being Executive Director of the Northwest Family YMCA. In this role, she was committed to leading the center’s efforts to foster healthy living, youth development and social responsibility by providing key strategic direction and oversight to develop community outreach programs for individuals and families throughout Bordeaux and North Nashville. During her tenure, she was recognized for her collaborative work with The BlueCross BlueShield Foundation and the YMCA of Middle Tennessee as they opened a new $6.5M state of the art, inclusive BlueCross BlueShield Healthy Place Park on the grounds of the Northwest Family YMCA located in the heart of the Bordeaux and North Nashville community.

A graduate of The Tennessee State University receiving her bachelor’s in psychology, she has spent 18+ years in the nonprofit sector with a committed devotion for community engagement, influential leadership, and capacity building. Serving as a change agent and advocate for diversity and inclusion, her work continues to have an emphasis on empowering and uplifting BIPOC communities, an advocate for issues that directly impact women and girls, and the promotion of equitable public policy and private sector practices. With a background rooted in philanthropy, in her personal endeavors she serves on various boards and committees currently including Corner to Corner as the Board Chair, YMCA of Middle TN HBCU Alliance, The Community Foundation’s Women’s Fund and PENCIL. She is a member of Junior League of Nashville, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and the Rotary Club of Nashville. In 2020, she was named by the Nashville Business Journal as one of Nashville’s Top 40 Under 40 emerging leaders. A believer in continuous learning, she has participated in leadership programs such as New Leaders Council and CEO Connect at Lipscomb University. A Nashville native, she and her husband, Juvenile Court Clerk Lonnell Matthews, Jr. reside in the historic Bordeaux community and are proud parents to two amazing kids.

# **BLAKE MCDANIEL**

Blake McDaniel, grew up in Alabama playing music including piano and drums, eventually earning a band scholarship to the University of North Alabama where he received a BA in Music Business and went on to earn an MBA there as well.

He was hired in 2000 by the Nashville office of Creative Artists Agency (CAA), widely considered the world’s leading entertainment and sports agency, representing many of the most successful professionals working in film, television, music, sports, video games, theatre, and the Internet, and provides a range of strategic marketing and consulting services to corporate clients. In January of 2024 Blake established his own agency called Daps Landing Media, continuing to represent the Nashville talent community.

Some highlights of Blake’s work have been representing the most successful group in country music history, ALABAMA, relaunching them into the marketplace and building them back into arena headliners. He also represents Jerry Lee Lewis, the first person inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and one of the fathers of the genre. Blake represents the iconic rap group RUN DMC as well. He has represented Universal Records artist, CMA and ACM winner Lauren Alaina since she was 15.

His sense for brand development led Blake to sign National Public Radio, the nation’s largest and most trusted radio/digital news network, as a client to assist with new business development and expanding the reach of NPR’s programming.

Blake is a member of the Country Music Association, the Academy of Country Music, sits on the boards of the Nashville Association of Talent Directors, and oversees the Nashville Municipal Auditorium as the commission chairperson. He is an alum of Leadership Music and now serves as an advisor for the Live Music curriculum. Blake also enjoys returning to his alma mater and regularly guest lectures at UNA.

Blake’s philanthropic activities include advising CAA’s Nashville LGBTQ+ committee, Oasis Center of Nashville, Nashville’s “Just Us” program, Leukemia Lymphoma Society, St. Jude’s Hospital, Nashville’s Second Harvest Food Bank, and Movember for Men’s Health. Blake recently launched his own charity, Clean Clothes for Kids, an initiative to put washers and dryers in Nashville schools, so that kids who do not have access to washers and dryers at home can have clean clothes to wear to school. To date, Clean Clothes for Kids with Blake’s guidance, has placed 17 sets of washers and dryers in Nashville Metro Schools, impacting an estimated 12,000 children.

Above all, Blake enjoys spending as much time as possible with his three daughters; Evie, Ruby and Hazel who he contends are the “world’s greatest,” and whom he credits with inspiring and motivating him to be the best human he can be.

# **JAMES McINTYRE**

# Dr. James P. McIntyre, Jr. is the Dean of the College of Education and Assistant Provost for Academic Excellence. Prior to his appointment as Dean, he served as Director of the Center for Educational Leadership and Assistant Professor of Practice at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. In this role, Dr. McIntyre managed the University’s Leadership Academy for aspiring school principals, facilitated the Tennessee Rural Principals Network, and provided targeted support and leadership coaching to school and district leaders across Tennessee and around the country.

Before transitioning to the University of Tennessee in 2016, Jim served for eight years as Superintendent of the Knox County Schools, the 60,000 student public school district of Knoxville, Tennessee. Under his leadership, the school district saw extraordinary growth in student learning and success. The district’s four-year high school graduation rate increased from 79.3% in 2008 to 90.3% for the class of 2016, and the Knox County Schools was named by the Tennessee Department of Education as one of only twelve "Exemplary” School Districts state-wide, and the only large metropolitan school system to ever earn this distinction in the Volunteer State.

Preceding his appointment as Superintendent in Knoxville, Dr. McIntyre served as the Chief Operating Officer for the Boston Public Schools, where he was responsible for the day to day operations of the school district. Jim had also previously served as the Budget Director for the Boston Public Schools for several years. During Dr. McIntyre’s tenure, the Boston Public Schools was named one of the top performing urban school systems in the nation. As a teacher at Vincent Grey Alternative High School in East St. Louis, Illinois early in his career, McIntyre taught English, anatomy, and physical education to a diverse group of at-risk students between the ages of 16-21. He began his career in higher education, serving in various administrative roles at Boston University and at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York.

McIntyre has served on numerous state-level and national working groups aimed at enhancing public education, and participated as a fellow in the prestigious Broad Foundation Superintendent’s Academy, an intensive fellowship in the urban public school superintendency. He is also a proud graduate of the Aspen Institute’s Pahara Fellowship in Entrepreneurial Education. Jim has provided advice on education policy to two successful candidates for governor: one a progressive Democrat in Massachusetts, the other a conservative Republican in Tennessee. In 2010, Governor Phil Bredesen invited Dr. McIntyre and three others to join him in presenting Tennessee’s Race to the Top proposal to the United States Department of Education. Tennessee was one of only two states in the country to be selected in the first round of this national competition, and was awarded $501 million for school reform and improvement.

As a parent of two graduates of the Knox County Schools, Dr. McIntyre is incredibly honored that the state-wide Parent Teacher Association (PTA) named him the Tennessee Outstanding Superintendent of the Year in four of his eight years (2009, 2010, 2011, and 2014) at the helm of the Knox County Schools. He has also been honored with the Life Achievement Award from the National PTA, the Excellence in Educational Leadership Award from the University Council for Educational Administration, and the John H. Tunstall Outstanding Faculty Award. Dr. McIntyre holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Boston College, a Master of Science degree in Education Administration from Canisius College, a Master of Urban Affairs from Boston University, and a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the University of Massachusetts.

# **NORMAN L. MERRIFIELD**

*808Education LLC* – Mr. Merrifield is Principal at 808Education LLC, a consulting firm specializing in professional development training experiences.

A Bloomington Indiana native, he holds a bachelor’s degree in K12 Education from Tennessee State University and a master’s from Peabody College of Education and Human Development. Norman founded 808Education based on his passion for delivering professional development services that focus on assets and strengths of educational communities that have been historically underserved. Prior to that, he served as a teacher, instructional designer, and educational consultant. Norman serves as Co-Chair of the educational counsel for the National Museum of African American Music and youth soccer coach for Nashville Sporting Travel Soccer through East Nashville Athletics. He and his wife Christal have two children, Blake, and Kylan, who are enrolled in Metro Public Schools.

# **HASINA MOHYUDDIN**

Hasina is the Assistant Dean of the Peabody Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, as well as a Research Associate and Lecturer in the Department of Human and Organizational Development at Vanderbilt University. She received her PhD in Community Research and Action (CRA) program at Vanderbilt University. Prior to joining the program, she received a BA in Economics from Yale University and an MBA from Vanderbilt University. Her dissertation research explores the religious identity development for Muslim American youth in the context of widespread negative stereotypes of Islam and Islamophobia.

As a Research Associate, Hasina most recently served as the Principal Investigator on a study on Digital Inclusion and Equity in Nashville. She is also an active member of the Nashville Muslim community, and currently serves on the boards of the Maddox Foundation and PENCIL and is in the 2023 cohort of Leadership Nashville. Hasina has been married for over 25 years to her husband Shuaib and has three sons – Ibrahim, Mohammed, and Isa.

# **P. DANIELLE NELLIS**

P. Danielle Nellis is a multi-generational Nashville native, with a deep passion for effecting systems-level change through education, advocacy, and creating connections. Danielle lives out her passion in both the personal and professional spheres. She is the Deputy General Counsel for the Tennessee State Board of Education. Prior to that, Nellis served as Counsel at Klein Solomon Mills, PLLC where she helped clients create and grow diverse, equitable and inclusive workplaces, free from discrimination and healthy for everyone through training, education, coaching, and facilitation. Danielle is also an active member of the community, where she serves on several boards and committees. She is a Nashville Bar Foundation and MOSAIC Fellow.

Danielle, an MNPS graduate, holds degrees from Spelman College and Boston University School of Law. When she is not working, she enjoys (loves) reading, walking the many primitive trails in Nashville and Middle Tennessee, and spending time with her family. She is married to her bestie, Eric Insignares, and they have one very smart, very handsome son.

# **WILL PARROTT**

Will is based out of Nashville, TN and currently works in Bank of America’s commercial banking department as a Jr. Client Manager. He is responsible for prospecting new clients, enhancing existing relationships, and identifying new opportunities within a ~$180mm revenue portfolio.

Prior to current role, Will worked as a fixed income analyst at Unum Group, a Fortune 300 life and disability insurer, where he was responsible for credit coverage of 27 US private placement issuers (totaling ~$700mm of exposure) across a variety of industries. Will earned his B.S.B.A. in Finance from the University of Tennessee in 2012. When not in the office, you can find Will on the golf course or desperately rooting for the Tennessee Volunteers.

# **SAM REED**

# Along with his two partners, Sam Reed founded Jigsaw in 2018 after a long career navigating the intersection of government, law, and messaging strategy. Sam has worked as a strategic consultant since 2012, after starting his career as an attorney and serving on U.S. Congressman Jim Cooper’s staff in Washington D.C. Most recently, Sam served as Director of Government Relations for Bird Rides, helping shape the company’s state and local policy nationwide. In addition to his role with Jigsaw, Sam is a husband, a father, and owns Sinema, an upscale restaurant, and 8th & Roast, a series of trendy coffee shops, in Nashville.

# **KENDRICK ROBINSON**

Kendrick is the Sr. ERG & Inclusion Specialist for Bridgestone Americas, headquartered in Nashville, TN, where he supports advancing Bridgestone’s DE&I strategy with oversight for the company’s Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) and enterprise DE&I education. An Alabama native, he holds a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from The University of Alabama in Huntsville, a Master of Public Administration from Tennessee State University and is a MBTI® Certified Practitioner.

Prior to joining Bridgestone, Kendrick led Community Engagement at Cummins Inc. His professional experience includes learning and development roles across a few industries, including quick service retail, health care and manufacturing.

Kendrick is passionate about community service and helping others. He is an active supporter and volunteer for United Way, Second Harvest Food Bank, YMCA Achievers and Metro Nashville Public Schools. In addition to his PENCIL board membership, he currently serves as a member of both the Academies of Nashville Alignment Team and the MNPS Partnership Council. Childhood literacy is a priority area for Kendrick’s advocacy. When time permits, he enjoys reading to pre-school children with the United Way Read to Succeed Project.

# **NICOLE ROBINSON-HAMILTON**

Nicole Robinson-Hamilton is a livelong book nerd who strategically landed a position in a bookstore in 1996 and has been in the book business ever since. For the last 24 years, she held a variety of positions at Ingram Content Group. She started as buyer for HarperCollins and the Perseus Book Group focusing on backlist and title research, operations and logistic before moving on to Content Manager, managing all buying and the business relationship between Ingram Book Group and several small/mid-sized publishers. Her love of books moved her into learning various other aspects of the book business. As a Business Process Manager, she focused on creation of new business and strategic processes from inception, research, business planning, team collaboration and contracts. As a Merchandising Manager, she pivoted to metadata optimalization, researching, analyzing, and creating products and technology to improve searchability and the ability to curate custom title lists. Currently, she is a Lead Content Manager for Ingram Content Group in Lavergne TN, managing a team of 7 people who collectively manage and buy for over 200 client partnerships including Penguin Random House, DK and Simon & Schuster.

When she’s not buying books, reading them, or buying more bookcases to house them, she is also an ESL teacher as well as a certified yoga and meditation teacher.

# **YANET RODRIGUEZ**

My name is Yanet Rodriguez. I'm from Mexico. I been in Nashville for 19 yrs. I’m a mom, 24/7, of 2 wonderful boys. We work together as Family Business at JJJService/Mobile Mechanic. I love help to the community. I love to Volunteer. I like to do crafts where I can teach and share my culture like piñatas or dress up as Catrina. I am also a good cook. I love to make tamales for my family.

# **RACHAEL TERRELL**

*CMT* -- Rachael Terrell is the director of public affairs at CMT where she is charged with the network’s corporate social responsibility, including oversight of CMT ONE COUNTRY, the channel’s national call to volunteerism that promotes civic participation and inspires CMT viewers to take action and bring about important change in their communities.  Wall also leads CMT EMPOWERING EDUCATION, a national campaign to inspire viewers to further their education and arm them with the tools to do so. Prior to joining CMT in 2017, she produced several large-scale live television events including the 2016 Super Bowl Half Time Show and the 2016 Democratic National Convention. Wall has a background in public policy and campaigns, starting her career working for Al Franken’s campaign for Senate after spending time on Capitol Hill interning for Congressman Jim Ramstad. She is a native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Wall serves as a board member of Southern Word and on the capital campaign committee for Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition.

# **JENNIFER WADE**

After graduating from Thomas Cooley Law School, Magistrate Wade worked as an Appeals Hearing Officer with the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice. She later became the Managing Attorney at a small Nashville-based law firm, before becoming a solo practitioner at the Law Office of Jennifer Wade. During this time, she practiced primarily in juvenile court where she focused on serving as guardian ad litem on neglect and dependency cases and counsel for students involved in truancy court.

Prior to her appointment as a Magistrate, Wade served as the Employee Relations Manager at Nashville General Hospital, where she conducted HR-related functions, including resolving workplace conflict, overseeing employee disciplinary hearings, and facilitating customer service and HR trainings. At Juvenile Court, Mrs. Wade served as the Director of the Metro Student Attendance Center (MSAC), where she led the dedicated staff to provide support services for students who have been truant or chronically absent from school. Wade then became a divisional magistrate handling issues of neglect, delinquency, and the GRIP/GANG Court.

While at Juvenile Court, Wade has been committed to community service as she co-chaired the Alignment Nashville Change Team on Attendance and was a member of Positive and Safe Schools Achieving Greater Equity (PASSAGE) Nashville to reduce discipline disparities and promote educational equity within Nashville schools. She is a board member of Communities in Schools and PENCIL, both of which bring resources and services to meet the needs of students and educators in Nashville and across our state.

Wade is a strong advocate for improving the lives of children and enjoys educating the public about the role of juvenile courts in Tennessee. She was a presenter at the Tennessee Bar Association Juvenile and Children’s Law 2021: The Effects COVID -19 had on Education, America’s Youth, and the Courts that Protect Them and a presenter at the 2019 Metro Nashville Public Schools Equity & Diversity Summit, Through the Cracks: Saving Youth from the School-to-Prison Pipeline. She was also a co-presenter at the Tennessee School Board Association Summer Law Institute, Working Together for Children in June 2018.

# **JUAN WILLIAMS**

Juan Williams is the Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources for the State of Tennessee, appointed by the Governor in January 2019. Serving on the Governor’s Cabinet with overall responsibility for statewide Human Resources initiatives and services for over 42,000 state employees serving almost 7 million Tennesseans. With over 20 years of human resources experience and 13 years of operations experience, Juan is an active member of the community and serves on the Board of Directors of PENCIL, Vice-President - National Associate of State Personnel Executives, and the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence.

Juan earned a Bachelor of Science - Business Administration degree from North Carolina Wesleyan College and a Master of Business Administration from Queens University in Charlotte, NC.

# **ROBYN WILLIAMS**

Robyn Williams graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering in 1996 and received an MBA from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2001. She worked for Dow Corning in Manufacturing Engineering before her love of cars led her to a 20-year career in the automotive industry at Toyota and Nissan in EV product planning, telematics, and various strategy roles. Robyn is currently leading corporate strategy efforts for Bridgestone Americas’ Mobility Solutions team. A passionate supporter of education, Robyn has served on a number of non-profit boards in the Nashville area.

**Ex Officio Board**

# **SUE SPICKARD**

Ms. Spickard is a founding member of PENCIL. A former elementary teacher, Sue has continuously served on the board since 1982, serving as chair in 2002-2003. She has chaired the boards of the Junior League of Nashville, Cumberland Valley Girl Scout Council, Martha O’Bryan Community Center, YWCA, and Renewal House. She is on the board of the Alliance for Public Education. Sue is an inductee into the YW Academy of Women of Achievement. She was presented the 1997 E. Bronson Ingram Award for her dedication to public education.

# **DR. ADRIENNE BATTLE**

Dr. Adrienne Battle currently serves as the Interim Director of Schools for Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS). MNPS is a diverse urban school district that serves approximately 86,000 students. Prior to her appointment to Interim Director of Schools, she served as the Southeast Quadrant Community Superintendent. Her primary responsibility was supporting all PreK-12 schools in the Southeast Quadrant and all MNPS high schools. During her tenure in MNPS, Dr. Battle served in many capacities as a professional educator. Her tenure includes serving as an Executive Lead Principal, Executive Principal, Network Lead Principal, Curriculum Principal, Teacher, Adjunct Professor at Tennessee State University and University of Phoenix.

Dr. Battle has a proven track record of facilitating quality learning experiences for students and families across Davidson County. One of her most recent successes as a professional administrator was as the Executive Principal of Antioch High School. During her tenure at AHS the school experienced significant increases in student academic performance, ACT composite growth, graduation rate and attendance rates. Additionally, school overall growth performance consistently increased. According to the Tennessee Value Added Assessment System (TVAAS), student performance made substantially more progress than the standard for academic growth in the state with level 5 ratings for literacy, numeracy and overall composite over the last three years. Dr. Battle transformed what was designated a low performing school in 2010 to a high performing school as the Executive Principal. Through her commitment to academic excellence, Antioch High School was designated a 2014 Tennessee Reward School which acknowledges the top 5% of schools for progress in the state for year-to-year progress. This designation was the first recognition for a zoned MNPS high school. Through Battle’ s leadership, the Academies of Antioch obtained National Model Academy Accreditation. Antioch High School was also named a 2015 Model School by the International Center for Leadership in Education, an International Baccalaureate School, and AVID National Demonstration School. Additionally, Antioch High School was among the first schools in MNPS to become a Community Achieves School in the district to ensure support for providing wrap around services for students and families as well as creating strategic business and community alignment to address key areas related to health & wellness, college & career readiness, parent & engagement, and social services to improve academic outcomes for all students.

Adrienne is an alum of Metro Schools, graduating from John Overton High School. After graduating she accepted an athletic scholarship to attend Missouri State University where she later received her Bachelor of Science degree in Education. She later continued her advanced studies at Tennessee State University where she obtained her Master’s, Educational Specialist and Doctoral degrees. As a doctoral student and Adjunct Professor at Tennessee State University, she had the distinguished honor of being nominated and awarded a Barbara Jackson Scholar through the University Council of Educational Leadership and American Educational Research Association. Additionally, she previously served on the Board of Directors for the YMCA by volunteering, fundraising, and serving as a mentor. She has also received the Civic Award for her community service through MNPD and MNPS, she was the recipient of the 2015 William J. & Lucille H. Field Award for Excellence in Tennessee Secondary School Leadership by the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and named the 2015 Academies of Nashville Executive Principal of the Year.

Through Dr. Battle’s many professional experiences, she has a unique perspective on how to be a transformational leader within education and the community. As a result of her hard work and dedication in the field of education and in the community, she has earned the respect of those around her. Adrienne’s hobbies include running, reading, and traveling with her family. She strives to be a role model for youth and the students that she serves.

# **PATRICK DOOLEY**

*YLC Intern -* I was raised in Franklin, TN prior to attending the University of Tennessee to receive a bachelors and master's in accounting and information systems. I currently work in the risk consulting practice at RSM performing internal audit and IT audit outsourcing. I recently participated in the YLC fall cohort which allowed me the opportunity to join the PENCIL Board. Through RSM, I have also been able to lead the partnership and volunteer efforts with PENCIL for the last two years making me familiar with the initiatives.

# **ERICA GRIFFITH**

*YLC Intern -* Erica Griffith currently leads the Marketing Design team at Wistia, a Boston-based video software company. She has worked as a designer in the tech and nonprofit industries, and formerly ran her own design studio. She credits her career to an inspirational teacher in high school. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Erica earned her bachelor’s degree in Journalism and Interactive Media Studies from Miami University. She’s a recent graduate of Nashville’s Young Leaders Council and balances her design work by staying active with sand volleyball, Spartan races, and summiting mountains.

# **CHRIS HENSON**

Mr. Henson is Chief Operating Officer for Metro Nashville Public Schools and has recently served as Interim Schools Director prior to the hiring of Dr. Shawn Joseph. Chris joined MNPS in 2002, previously serving as Associate Director of Schools, Finance & Administration for Franklin Special School District and Budget & Finance Director for Sumner County Schools.

# **WILL PARROTT**

Will is based out of Nashville, TN and currently works in Bank of America’s commercial banking department as a Jr. Client Manager. He is responsible for prospecting new clients, enhancing existing relationships, and identifying new opportunities within a ~$180mm revenue portfolio.

Prior to current role, Will worked as a fixed income analyst at Unum Group, a Fortune 300 life and disability insurer, where he was responsible for credit coverage of 27 US private placement issuers (totaling ~$700mm of exposure) across a variety of industries. Will earned his B.S.B.A. in Finance from the University of Tennessee in 2012. When not in the office, you can find Will on the golf course or desperately rooting for the Tennessee Volunteers.

# **JAIMIE SWANN**

*Vanderbilt University MBA Candidate, Owens Intern –* Jaimie is a current MBA student at Vanderbilt - Owen with a focus in Strategy, Operations & Analytics, and Human & Organizational Performance. Previously, Jaimie worked in the federal government for seven years, mainly focused on HR and training. She earned a B.A. in Writing, Rhetoric, and Technical Communication from James Madison University.

# **OBINNA UDEH**

*Vanderbilt University MBA Candidate, Owens Intern –* Obinna Udeh is a Business School student at Vanderbilt University. Prior to business school, he had his career in Commercial banking, particularly as a Treasury Professional. He volunteers often, and even co-founded an NGO in the past aimed at promoting readership among young people in Nigeria.