

DELUX MAGAZINE'S
POWER
100

DELUX POWER 100 celebrates the St. Louis' most inspiring and influential African American professionals. DELUX recognizes those who lead, inspire, innovate and demonstrate through their individual talents, the very best in St. Louis.

Presented by Wells Fargo



POWER 100



FLINT FOWLER

As a Boys & Girls Club professional, Flint has served on several regional and national conference planning committees, Board of the Professional Association, The Training and Professional Development committee, as a Career Assistance Network coach, the Commission for the Second Century, and the National Commission on Impact. He is a graduate of the Management Program and the Thomas Garth Executive Leadership Program, and in 2008 successfully completed the Advanced Leadership Program. Flint is active with the Society of African American Professionals (S.O.A.A.P.), the Major Metro Advisory Committee, and the Youth Development Advisory Committee.



JUNE FOWLER

As senior vice president of communications, June McAllister Fowler leads internal, external and public policy communications and community relations efforts on behalf of BJC HealthCare, one of the largest nonprofit health care organizations in the United States and one of the largest private employers in the state of Missouri. She has responsibility for multiple areas, including media relations, executive communications, community benefit, community affairs, health literacy, corporate marketing, creative services, web development, media services and the award-winning employee newspaper, BJC Today.



ANTHONY THOMPSON

Anthony (Tony) Thompson is the CEO and Chairman of the Board of Kwame Building Group, Inc. (KWAME), which he founded in 1991. Headquartered in St. Louis, MO, KWAME is a construction management/program management firm that serves as an independent agent to the owner. KWAME provides, along with other services, project management, scheduling, estimating, contract/claims administration, and document controls.



STEVEN HARRIS

Steven is the Partner-In-Charge of RubinBrown's Entrepreneurial Services Group and a Partner in RubinBrown's Assurance Services Group. Steven serves a variety of clients in the not-for-profit, manufacturing, distribution, contractor, home builder, entertainment and public sector industries.



MELISSA HARPER

is responsible for developing, transforming and executing a holistic talent strategy that supports and drives a high-performance culture of innovation and inclusion and diversity. As the end-to-end talent leader, Melissa partners with executives and HR leadership at all levels to drive and direct acquisition, development, culture, and performance for nearly 70 countries across 400 worldwide locations. During her 8 years with Monsanto, Melissa has developed a global team responsible for attracting talent, developing leaders, ensuring an inclusive environment, shaping a digital culture, and delivering talent needs that align to strategic business goals and preparedness for the future. The global scope of her role includes Talent Acquisition, Talent Management, Analytics/Operations, Inclusion & Diversity, University Relations, Employment Branding, Talent Pipeline/Sourcing, HR Compliance, Contingent Workforce, Shared Services and Organizational Capabilities.



REV TRACEY BLACKMON

Rev. Traci Blackmon is the Acting Executive Minister of Justice & Witness Ministries for The United Church of Christ and Senior Pastor of Christ The King United Church of Christ in Florissant, MO. As a featured voice on many regional, national, and international platforms, Rev. Blackmon's life work focuses on communal resistance to systemic injustice. Her response in Ferguson to the killing of Michael Brown resulted in national and international recognition, gaining her many audiences spanning the breadth of the White House to the Carter Center to the Vatican.



KEITH WILLIAMSON

An experienced business executive and corporate attorney, Keith joined Centene Corporation in 2006 and currently serves as General Counsel. Keith is on the board of PPL Corporation, a Fortune 250 utility, and is involved in various civic activities, including the Art Museum, the Urban League, KIPP, and the United Way.



MICHAEL KENNEDY SR

the first African American registered architect in the state of Missouri, founded Kennedy Associates in his hometown of St. Louis in 1980. Michael continued to grow his firm by successfully adding engineering and construction management services to design services, leading to rebranding Kennedy Associates to KAI Design & Build in 2004. In 2008, Mike's son, Michael B. Kennedy was named President of KAI and Michael became Chairman and CEO. Among his achievements, Michael was named Most Influential Minority Business Leader by the St. Louis Business Journal in and MBE Contractor of the year by MOKAN in 2008. He was named Entrepreneur of the Year in 2010 by The St. Louis American, and he has served on multiple boards and committees, including the Board of Directors for Downtown St. Louis Partnership, United Way, American Red Cross and is a member of the Missouri Minority Advocacy Commission. In 2010, KAI was named one of the "Top 100 African American Owned Businesses in America" by diversitybusiness.com .



MELANIE MOORE

is the Co-President for NAAHR (National Association of African Americans in Human Resources) – St. Louis Chapter, serves on the Leadership Team for African and African Americans in Monsanto, participates on the United Way Allocations Panel, is a member of the Leadership 100 Cohort of the Regional Business Council Young Professionals Network and is Director on the ALPFA Board. Melanie was recognized in February 2016 by the St. Louis American as one of twenty Young Leaders. Melanie resides in St. Louis with her son.



LEWIS REED

President of The Board of Aldermen Lewis Reed has spent over 17 years serving the people of St. Louis as an elected official. Active in civic and charitable involvement he serves as the head of the legislative branch of St. Louis city government. In his time in office, Lewis has championed many causes including founding Bike St. Louis and the rebirth of Washington Avenue. He is responsible for passing legislation addressing crime prevention, creating opportunities for at-risk youth, environmental sustainability, as well as neighborhood and economic development.

POWER 100



AAREN MUEX

founder and owner of Divine Events has successfully planned events for great organizations like United Way of Greater St. Louis for the Charmaine Chapman Leadership Society's 20th Anniversary Gala. Aaren was featured on 2 seasons as the Wedding Planner for the reality show Welcome to Sweetie Pies. Under Aaren's leadership, Divine Events received The Knot Best of Weddings 2015. Aaren is a proud member of Association of Bridal Consultants and has been chosen to serve as State Manager for 5 surrounding states.



NICHOL STEVENSON

from East St. Louis, IL and a single mother of two. Homeless by the time she was 16, Nichol earned her GED and left E St. Louis. She went on to earn her BS degree from Illinois State University & achieved her MPH/MSW from St. Louis University. After graduation, Nichol accepted a position at Washington University School of Medicine developing the Dream House. The first housing facility for homeless HIV positive youth in the metropolitan area. Also Nichol joined forces to formulate what is now known as Cafe Soul St. Louis.



KEVIN BRYANT

Founder and CEO of Conversions Global Marketing, LLC, Kevin has 15+ years of experience in branding, advertising and marketing. He has guided dozens of top companies, celebrities, nonprofits, municipalities, and corporations in their business success. Kevin has been named St. Louis' Neighborhood Business of the Year by Mayor Francis G. Slay, appointed to serve as President of the Kingsway Merchants Association, and leads many youth initiatives within our city.



LESLIE GILL

Chief Executive Officer of Annie Malone Children & Family Service Center. Previously, she served as the executive director of the St. Louis region for College Summit, chief operating officer and chief of external affairs for the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri and chief operating officer for mission delivery for the Girl Scouts of Atlanta.



DR. SHARONICA L. HARDIN-BARTLEY

the superintendent for University City School District. A native of St. Louis, Dr. Hardin-Bartley has a 15-year plus career in St. Louis Public Schools. She served as SLPs Chief Human Resources Officer, Principal on Special Assignment, and was the founding principal of Adams Elementary School. Throughout her career, Dr. Hardin-Bartley has been active within the community and serves on the Boards of Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Community Action Agency of St. Louis County.



TRINA CLAGGETT

Sr. Audience Marketing and Events Manager for Microsoft, who oversees the partnership strategy aligning the commercial field organization and retail organization across greater Microsoft. Prior to joining Microsoft, Trina served as the Director of Marketing and Special Events for the St. Louis Gateway Classic Sports Foundation. She is active in her community servicing on the Executive Board of the Monsanto YMCA and the Board of Directors for the St. Louis Internship Program.



JAYLEN D. BLEDSOE

an entrepreneur, motivational speaker, and technical prodigy at the young age of 18 years. Beginning at 12 when he started his own Information Technology Consulting business called Bledsoe Technologies, LLC (now The Jaylen D. Bledsoe Global Group), Jaylen started with a dream and \$100. Within two years, he had 150 contractors working for him and was providing expertise in brand development consulting, Venture Capital Funding, direct marketing platform development and increasing revenue streams for clients such as Jordan Sparks and Steve Harvey.



DR. E. LANCE MCCARTHY

a nationally recognized economist and investment advisor, with a specialty in urban development. His public policy research, Fortune 100 experience, entrepreneurial endeavors and non-profit initiatives give him insight into our nation's most pressing problems. He is the Co-Founder of Black Silicon Valley & Ferguson 1000 Jobs, a former President and CEO of the Orlando Urban League and previously named to the White House Task Force on Economic Defense Conversion appointed by President Bill Clinton.



KAREN HALL

Karen Hall's passion for educational equity and excellence drives her relationships and leadership. She is committed to continuing the success of the district and building upon the strong foundation the community has created together. Karen Hall took the helm as Superintendent at Maplewood Richmond Heights School District in July 2012, following 19 years as an educator and administrator in both Maplewood Richmond Heights School District (Assistant Superintendent) and the Pattonville School District where she was the principal at Willow Brook Elementary School.



JACQUE LAND

An enterprising entrepreneur co-owner of Platinum Group Worldwide, Inc., which offers services in event consulting, promotions, public relations and responsible for major events throughout the Region. Jacquie is also co-owner of JHL Concessions, LLC., a company specializing in top quality first-rate concessions operating inside the Scottrade Center. As a community leader, Jacquie served as executive director and 2 terms as president of 100 Black Men of Metropolitan St. Louis, Mayor appointment to the St. Louis Public Library Board and Governor appointment to the Missouri Lottery Commission.

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ALEX FENNOY

Senior Vice President and Director of Community Development of Midwest BankCentre. He has 18 years of experience in commercial banking, most recently served as a Vice President of National City Bank. Mr. Fennoy sits on the St. Clair County Board for the United Way, mentors with Inroads Alumni and serves as finance committee chair for the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Foundation. He earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn.



CHEERAZ GORMON

Storyteller, poet, author, and award winning advertising creator from St. Louis, Missouri. She recently appeared on VICELAND's Abandoned, has opened up for scholar Cornell West and hip hop impresario Russell, and is a sought-after speaker, appearing at TEDxGatewayArch and other venues. Cheeraz served as curriculum and creative director of The Marcus Graham Project, is the founder and executive director of Sonic Arts United, and serves as vice chair of Creative Reaction Lab.



CAPTAIN RON JOHNSON

of the Missouri State Highway Patrol was selected by Gov. Jay Nixon to coordinate law enforcement agencies amid the uproar over the Ferguson police response to protests in the days following Michael Brown's death. A lifelong resident of the St. Louis area, Johnson is a 27-year veteran of the Highway Patrol and oversees Troop C, which serves 11 counties around St. Louis. He was appointed to the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission by Missouri governor Matt Blunt in 2007, as well.



BARBARA BOWMAN

currently serves as Vice President of Development for the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc. Ms. Bowman holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Saint Louis University. A committed volunteer, Bowman serves as Vice Chairperson of CHIPS Board of Directors and on the board of Provident Inc. She is a member of the Links, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta and serves on the St. Louis Children's Hospital Community & Faith Based Advisory Board.



DR. CHRISTI GRIFFIN

a retired attorney and founder of The Ethics Project, an award-winning, social justice organization. Frequently recognized for contributions to the community, Griffin has served as Chair of the St. Louis Civil Rights Enforcement Commission, and on boards including Kenrick-Glennon Seminary and the United Way. A loving mother and grandmother, Griffin is also a columnist and author, including her recent book, *Incarcerations in Black and White: The Subjugation of Black America*.



JULIO SUÁREZ

Senior Director of Community Affairs at Anheuser-Busch. In his position, Julio sets and leads the company's multicultural outreach strategy in the United States. He also collaborates with internal stakeholders in support of Anheuser-Busch's Better World programs, including employee volunteerism and social impact initiatives. Before joining Anheuser-Busch in 2014, Julio was Director of Diversity Outreach at Darden Restaurants. Throughout his career, Julio has served in multiple community boards and is currently a board member of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis.



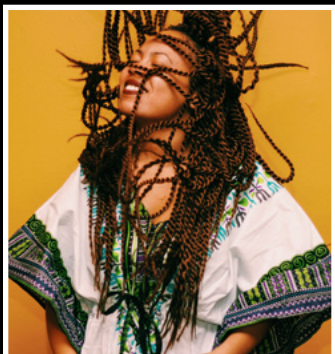
DESIREE COLEMAN

an accomplished Community Relations executive with more than 15 years of experience in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. As Vice President of Community Relations at Wells Fargo Advisors, she provides leadership, strategy and execution of the company's St. Louis market corporate social responsibility, employee engagement, reputation, and risk management plans. Prior to Wells Fargo Advisors, Coleman oversaw major gifts fundraising and volunteer engagement initiatives at United Way of Greater St. Louis.



ANTHONY SHAHID

Brother Shahid is also very passionate about helping his people against discrimination, counting employment. He believes that part of our problem as a community stems from the lack of employment opportunities due to discrimination. This belief is why he has gone up against many Fortune 500 Companies, such as Sherwin-Williams, Pepsi-Cola, Southwest Airlines, UPS, Sam's, Shop N Save, Value City, and the St. Louis Convention Center with a "no compromise" position and has made them hire thousands of black people in management and non-management positions.



**LASHELL
EIKERENKOETTER**

a freedom fighter, community activist and visual artist whose main goal is to unite and liberate the full range of the black community in St. Louis. Her activism work started in the streets of Ferguson in August of 2014 and she has since continued to support, lead and capture visuals of efforts to bring awareness and justice to the issues regarding the African-American community.



Pastor Cori Bush

a mother of two, RN Supervisor/ Clinic Manager and ordained pastor. She is an activist & organizer with Ferguson Frontline founding member of Mobilize Missouri and co-director of The Truth Telling Project. She is a recipient of the 2015 Woman of Courage Award from the Emmett Till Legacy Foundation, and most recently ran a groundbreaking campaign for the U.S. Senate in Missouri, mobilizing thousands to engage in the political process. Cori plans to continue to stand alongside the youth and communities in the fight for justice.



WENDELL COVINGTON JR.

currently serves as the president and chief executive officer of Mathews-Dickey Boys and Girls Club. Dedicating his entire career for the service of youth and families, Covington has spent the last decade serving as a highly accomplished administrator. Covington has worked as a teacher, social worker, guidance counselor and non-profit organization manager. Previously, he was the director of the Gateway to College Program at Florissant Valley Community College.



**REENA HAJAT
CARROLL**

the Executive Director of the Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP). She holds a masters degree in social work from Washington University's Brown School of Social Work with an emphasis on social and economic development. Currently, she serves on several boards in the St. Louis community and appointed by Governor Nixon to the Missouri Community Service Commission. Reena is the recipient of various awards, such as the St. Louis Business Journal's Inclusive Leader Award and the Bank of America's Local Hero Award.



TEF POE

rapper, musician and activist. Poe co-founded the Hands Up United movement and is consistently advocating for grass-root involvement in improving the lives of African Americans and racial justice around the world. In his art and activism, he insists on the value of local people taking charge of conversations about their own communities rather than relying on national organizations.

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APRIL LINDSEY

has enjoyed a successful multimedia sales and management career for the last 16 years in radio, print, digital and event advertising. During this time, she's been fortunate to contribute her skills in magazine publishing in Cleveland Ohio at Advanstar UMB Americas, and here in St. Louis at the local daily paper The Post-Dispatch, as well as the St. Louis Business Journal and now Radio One on leading Hot 104.1 and Old School 95.5 stations. If you can't catch April collaborating with clients on advertising campaigns to grow their business and penetrate the market it's because she's spending time with her beloved thirteen-year-old daughter Caroline and life partner Daniel James.



BRYAN SCOTT

is the Vice President of Integrated Quality for Boeing Defense, Space & Security at The Boeing Company. Scott is responsible for Quality across the entire BDS organization including supply chain compliance and conformance of purchased products and services. He earned a Bachelors of Science degree in Aviation Management from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and a Masters of Management degree from Fontbonne University in St. Louis Missouri.



KENDRA HOLMES

is the Vice President, Chief Operating Officer of Affinia Healthcare. Holmes went to Metro Academic and Classical High School and earned her doctorate in Pharmacy from St. Louis College of Pharmacy, where she serves on its Board of Trustees. Holmes also completed a Community Health Center Executive Fellowship at the University of Kansas Medical Center.



DOROTHY ROBINSON

a mother first and attempts to be the consummate saleswoman second. Born and raised in the heart of St. Louis City, Dorothy attended Vashon High School. After graduation, she began studying at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where she graduated with a bachelors degree in Finance in 2009. Dorothy received her Master's Degree in Business and Marketing from Webster University in 2011. She is now a top seller for Mercedes-Benz of St. Louis, selling the best cars in the world to customers from all walks of life.



SHAY L. GILLESPIE

Corporate Supplier Diversity Manager for World Wide Technology, Shay is responsible for their global supplier diversity program which includes managing approximately 300 million dollars in procurement activity and advocating and mentoring small and diverse businesses. Shay is vice chair of the St. Louis Minority Business Council's board of directors. In 2015, she was appointed to the executive board of directors for the Down Syndrome Association of Greater St. Louis to help elevate programs and funding for the organization including advocacy for her own son, Diggy, who was born with Down syndrome in 2008.



TIFFANY FOXX

From lending her lyrical skills on the BET Awards Cypher set, to joining the cast of Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta, to captivating a London audience alongside Lil Kim; Tiffany Foxx has become a name known to the masses. Her dedicated fan base, recognizes her as a voice to be reckoned with in the rap game. This St. Louis native, was inspired by the likes of Nelly and in a short amount of time found herself signed to Doggy Style Records. With a major single featuring Snoop Dog, King Foxx left the label and joined the girl group June 5th. Tiffany continue to break barriers in the Rap communities and beyond.



RAPHAEL MORRIS

the Founding Member of The Morris Firm, LLC. A dedicated St. Louis Criminal Defense and Personal Injury Attorney, attended and graduated from Normandy Senior High School in 1996. Being inspired by the careers of Thurgood Marshall and Johnnie Cochran, Mr. Morris chose received his Doctorate in Jurisprudence from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston Texas. Mr. Morris also serves as a municipal judge in the Cities of Velda City and Northwoods in St. Louis County.



TURAN MULLINS

With leadership experience in higher education and community collaboration Turan has become an established leader that has the ability to execute visions and meet organizational goals. His ability to easily transcend cultural differences and lead diverse groups of people has allowed him to build strong relationships with stakeholders at every level in the community. His current involvement with the St. Louis Business Diversity Initiatives, Diversity Awareness Partnership, Consortium of Higher Education Professionals for Inclusion and Equity and Boys and a Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis has allowed him to engage with different organizations.



MIKE FRAZIER II

With a genuine passion for automobiles his dream car is a Bugatti Veyron, but is more passionate about providing his clients with the car of their dreams. Mike is equipped with 19 + years of expertise in the automotive industry. His leadership accompanied with knowledge gained as a Leasing Manager, Sales Manager, Finance Manager, and General Sales Manager prepared the development for Frazier Automotive to be established in 2001. Now partnered with Travers Automotive Mike Frazier and Frazier Automotive only provides his clients with an excellent Full Service Automotive Experience.



MIKE HALL

Michael Hall oversees all business aspects concerning the Community Relations department and Cardinals Care, the charitable arm of the St. Louis Cardinals.

Hall's journey through the Cardinals organization started during the strike year of 1995 working as a telemarketer, selling season tickets via cold calls during the baseball strike. He continued moving up the corporate ladder with a variety of positions, ranging from customer service to on-field entertainment.



ELSON WILLIAMS

Elson Williams, Major Brands community affairs liaison,



THERON MORGAN

currently serves as the Director of Business Development at Ballpark Village in St. Louis. His role and responsibilities are spread among several areas that include: operations, community relations, sponsorships and sales. Theron has spent over 20 years as an account manager and director in sales and sponsorships in a variety of industries including dining and entertainment, sports and consumer goods. He understands how the relationship between sports and entertainment ties-in with the relationship to corporate branding and consumer goods.



TONY 'TLUV' DAVIS

started a new company with sports industry partners Abe Givins, Jamal Clark and Jamaal Jackson called Star Power Marketing. Star Power is a marketing and branding agency that creates strategized and tailored solutions with and for a unique clientele balance of sports and entertainment. Some of those clients include former NBA players Larry Hughes and Darius Miles.

While most go on and leave their hometowns, Tony has chosen to remain a pillar in his community of St. Louis, MO. He and his wife Gabrielle Davis rs , together are raising beautiful children which Tony boasts about as his biggest accomplishment



TERRENCE RODGERS

is a St. Louis born and based banking professional. He is a Partner/Vice President of Mortgage Lending at Carrollton Bank, a \$1.2 billion privately held bank, employee owned bank that has been led by the same family for five generations. His role includes community development and leading the origination of consumer home loan programs including Conventional, FHA, VA, and Jumbo Loans. Prior to joining Carrollton Bank, Terrence worked at Wells Fargo a Sales Manager and District Manager, and Vice President and Small Business Banker at Regions bank.



MITZI LOWERY

a Senior Manager, Project and Program Management, that manages a staff of project managers for Magellan Healthcare Services. She serves on the Health Services Panel for the United Way and on the board of her Home Owners Association. Mitzi earned her bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and a MBA from Lindenwood University. She enjoys traveling with her husband Michael, 2 children and grandson.



RICKEY WHITTINGTON

began his career in sales while in college working for Anheuser Busch in the sales and marketing department. Working for Lincoln Mercury, Rickey was awarded the top Lincoln Mercury salesman honors for the region for 10 years and #1 in leasing for 2 years in the country out of 12 years. After accepting an opportunity, Rickey transitioned to the prominent dealership Plaza Motors. His most profound work is working in his community and engaging established relationships.

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EDDIE HOLMAN

Licum nimovigil, unter quem dium tusulocus ego ips, catum pribus vigilic aetios, simiures ad consis. Satis cris nos iae cus se ta, Catum st patus, Caturei conscerum stod atussus ilnenati sestatum hocus caestemur quium omnihilic restam elus, utum estra, fuid sunium, uroremei conditaliam is, que vis verent? O tu ena, condius et et que milis octum inihili cerrio nonvervidem dendacenam di pos omne cut L. Ad rem publicte conequem estrendienam sultore nsicae inescrei tatum issuppl. O tam rei prit? Ximus in Itarterem, nonductodi, quod cles nihilic



JAYSON TATUM

College basketball player who currently attends Duke University. Ranked as the No. 3 overall recruit in the 2016 high school class by ESPN and Rivals, Tatum was named 2016 Gatorade Male Athlete of the Year & Gatorade National Player of the Year. Alongside a host of outstanding accomplishments and awards, Tatum has two siblings and the son of Justin Tatum and Brandy Cole.



ANGELA GRADY

Director of Diversity and Inclusion for Mercy, serving 45 hospitals and 40,000 co-workers. As a result of her dynamic leadership, Mercy earned a prestigious \$460,000 grant to expand disability and inclusion services. Angela is a proud Dance Mom of a 14-year-old daughter, Madison. To her credit, she is an alumni of the St. Louis Business Diversity Initiative, has progressive professional experience within Human Resources and a master's degree in Human Resources from Webster University.



APRYLETE RUSSELL

also known as the "Radio Diva" is an On-Air Talent and with Radio One and Community Affairs Assistant at Fox2 News/KPLR11 St. Louis. In this role, Aprylete engages with the community on a personal level; speaking for the urban demographic, gathering human interest news stories and assisting with media sponsorship for organizations. A big believer in community outreach, she works with a wide variety of organizations throughout the metropolitan area. American Red Cross Midwest, Alzheimer's Association, and Annie Malone Children and Family Service Center.



LATANYA REEVES

Community Development Officer at Enterprise Bank & Trust. With 10+ years of progressively increasing relationship and capacity building with banking institutions, nonprofits, entrepreneurs and the political campaign sector; Reeves is a current manager of multiple community outreach programs supporting assets greater than \$3.2 billion. She has a passion for developing the urban community and serving on nonprofit boards.



LATONIA COLLINS-SMITH

Assistant Provost and Executive Director of the Center for Career Engagement at Harris-Stowe State University. Smith earned a bachelor's of social work degree from the University of Central Missouri, a master's of social work and a master's of public health degree from Saint Louis University and a doctorate of education in higher education leadership from Maryville University of St. Louis.



MARTEL HULSEY

Martel Hulsey's journey to become a marketing specialist began long before Radio One. While growing up in St. Louis, he was involved in music, entertainment, and small business ventures. These elements provided Martel with the foundation to pursue a career that could encompass all three. After graduating from Maryville University, he seized an opportunity as an Integrated Marketing Specialist with Radio One. Now he's able to put his experiences on display while effectively growing businesses.



KENDRA AUSTIN

Director of Supplier Diversity at Express Scripts. She received her BS in business administration from Langston University and her MBA from Webster University. Starting her career in public housing, but ended up in supply chain, Austin's previous positions have consisted of supplier diversity executive, Ameren; procurement agent, Anheuser-Busch; financial analyst for contract strategies, BJC Healthcare; acting director, development and technical services, St. Louis Housing Authority.



ELLICIA QUALLS

Executive Director of Urban Sprouts, a diverse Reggio Emilia school focusing on early childhood education. With over 15 years of experience in the field, Qualls is committed to developing and administering programs that enrich the lives of children and their families. Among her proudest achievements at the College is extending Early Childhood Education (ECE) courses to the St. Louis community, in partnership with the Boeing Company.



RASHEEN COLEMAN

graduated from Morehouse College and Texas A&M University. In response to Ferguson, Rasheen founded Young Men Inspired, an after-school group for African American students at City Garden School. The mission of Young Men Inspired is to assist young black men in cultivating their leadership skills, building character, and attaining academic success. Rasheen lives in Soulard with his wife, Desiree, and their two lovely daughters. He works at Maryville University as a Development Director.



MIKE RODGERS

a silver Olympic Medalist in the 100 meter dash. Rodgers attended Lindenwood University and Oklahoma Baptist University where he was a 10-time NAIA national champion from 2005-2007. He still holds the NAIA Indoor 60m record with a 6.65. Rodgers personal goals was to be able to beat Justin Gatlin and Usian Bolt at least once in his career, he was able to accomplish that goal.

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TARA WASHINGTON
is the owner of Tasty Treats Snack shop on Delmar in St. Louis



JOEANN MCCLANDON
owner operator of Discount Queen Beauty Supply. Queen Beauty is a beacon of pride and a symbol of hope in our community. Establishing a stake in this industry has been nearly impossible for African Americans due to the market being dominated other cultures. It has always been fine for our community to purchase from them, but it's been difficult to establish a business along side them. Now that Discount Queen Beauty Supply is here, they want to serve as an symbol that it can be done.



BOBBY TESSLER

is not only a talented Chef, but a community leader, successful entrepreneur, mentor and an inspiring motivational speaker. He graduated from Sullivan University in Louisville, Kentucky with a degree of Science in Culinary Arts Management. After trials and tribulations and heading down the wrong path, Bobby turned a journey in federal prison to a life of purpose. With hard work and proven leadership, Chef Bobby opened his own restaurant, St. Louis Wing Company.



CANDICE COX

owner of A&A Inspirations, a provider of counseling and consulting services to children and families who suffer from mental and or behavioral health issues. Cox creates client specific treatment and develops plans of management. Cox has a Master of Social Work from Saint Louis University and a Bachelor of Science in Social Work from Southeast Missouri State University.



JOHN LEWIS

At a young age of 13, John Lewis found himself at 315 pounds, but through hard work and dedication he lost the weight and excelled in football and basketball. Graduating with a Bachelor's degree in marketing from Harris Stowe State University, John later went on to pursue his MBA from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL. John's education in business coupled with his love for health and fitness gave him the ability to start his ventures – Bad AssVegan and VeganSmart.



LETITIA A YOUNG

fashion lover, full figure woman, stylist and owner of Honey's Child Boutique. Honey's Child Boutique was recently featured in USA Today for the Body Empowerment Issue. She has launched several plus size model careers and continue to mentor aspiring stylist and models throughout the St. Louis area. Letitia has earned a Bachelor's Degree in Communications with an emphasis in Theory and Rhetoric from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She also hold a Master's Degree in Management from Fontbonne University and an MBA from Webster University.



QUANTARRIUS WILSON

has been into sports and fitness since a young age, a tri-athlete in high school (football, wrestling, track) and a collegiate wrestler. Becoming a personal trainer after college, Q Wilson decided to begin his contest prep for his 1st bodybuilding competition. In 2012, Q Wilson earned his ifpa professional natural bodybuilding pro card and now operates the ROQ Body Academy.



MISHA SAMPSON

co owner of Fleur De Lilies. Sampson is a St. Louisan whose family has roots in Mobile, Alabama, where both Cajun and Creole culture predominate



STEVEN LACY

An accomplished salon and shop owner since 1994, Steven Lacy has a talent for helping people to shine one treatment at a time. He has had clients such as Nelly and Chingy, and has a deep-rooted love for the hair industry. Lacy has attended Vidal Sassoon Advanced Trainings in Los Angeles, California, and the esteemed Vidal Sassoon Cutting School in London, England. Nationally he has trained with Freddie J, Patrick Bradley and Donnal Chung. He currently travels the country as a Specialist Educator with Design Essentials.



TARA LOWERY

former basketball standout at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte began her career as a Makeup Artist just 4 years ago. Tara began working as a freelancer and later opened The Beauty Lounge in 2013.

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ANDRE HOLMAN

a native St. Louisan, is the Video Production Manager for STL TV, St. Louis' local government access channel. Under his leadership, STL TV has celebrated their 25th anniversary, won an Emmy, several Black Journalist awards and national Telly Awards. Andre also serves as a Herbert Hoover Boys & Girls Club football coaches, produces the Bommarito High School Prep Zone games and continuously serves the community at large.



HOWARD BAILEY, JR.

better known by his stage name Chingy, is an American rapper, singer, and actor. Chingy began rapping in his late teens, toured as an opening act with Nelly and became a protégé of Ludacris. His debut album, Jackpot, sold two million copies and sequentially released chart toping singles.



DEMETRIOUS JOHNSON

grew up in Darst-Webbe housing project in St. Louis, graduated from McKinley High School and the University of Missouri at Columbia where he was stand-out defensive back. In 1983, he was drafted by the Detroit Lions of the NFL where he started and played for seven seasons. Inspired to enhance the lives of inner city youth, he founded the Demetrious Johnson Charitable Foundation and remains active in the community. Johnson commentates high school football and basketball for Charter Communications, host of Sportswave and host of the Demetrious Johnson Talk Show on HOT 104.1 FM.



JOHNNY LITTLE, JR.

has over 16 years of communications and strategic planning experience. Prior to starting eLittle Communications Group, he worked as the executive director of communications for St. Louis Public Schools. Mr. Little majored in television production at Rust College in Holly Spring, Mississippi. He began his career as a news producer at WJTV, CBS in Jackson, MS and later moved to St. Louis, Missouri, as a news producer for KTVI Fox 2. Little became CBS first African American executive news producer at KMOV in 2002.



DJ KUT

Most known for his impressive flair for rocking parties and mesmerizing millions of listeners each day, KUT is credited with breathing new life into beats. His mix sets are some of the most celebrated pieces on mainstream radio and he's garnered the love and admiration from everybody from Jay-Z to Mary J Blige. There are not many DJ's who can dig deeper in the crates, while still having a mass appeal that registers with everybody---old and new.



KWOFE COLEMAN

serves as Communications Director for the oldest and largest outdoor musical theater in the United States. After joining the Muny staff in 2008, He has worked in the Finance and House Management areas prior to joining the Marketing Team. In this current position he develops and implements DATA driven marketing plan that utilizes both digital and traditional media to execute targeted campaigns in order to meet annual sales goals. He also creates and oversees the marketing budget. Other responsibilities include the support and unification of external communications from both the Development and Sales teams.



RENE KNOTT

is constantly involved in covering local college and high school sports. He also enjoys covering St. Louis' professional teams as well. He anchors the station's local sports programming including This Week in Cardinals Nation, and specials like The Heart of St. Louis Sports. Rene takes great pride living in St. Louis. He has emceed the St. Louis American's Salute to Excellence in Healthcare, presented Woodie Awards for the St. Louis Black Repertory Company and kicked off a literacy campaign by reading to children. Rene also writes feature stories about children in the foster care system for NewsChannel 5's A Place to Call Home.



KEVIN JOHNSON

is a longtime music critic and entertainment reporter at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. He is the author of St. Louis' top music blog, the Blender, and appears weekly on Fox 2 in the Morning for entertainment reports. He has appeared on CNN, KMOV, KMOX, 100.3 the Beat; Written for GQ, TV Guide, Vibe magazines; and a Recipient of a Pulitzer Prize for work on a race relations series (at previous newspaper, the Akron Beacon-Journal).



OSEI KWEKU

Osei "The Dark Secret" Kweku – is perhaps one of the most underrated broadcast talents who, over the years, has managed to merge his love for music and philanthropy into a trans-continental culture exchange by way of digital media. Born in Ontario, Canada, Kweku's father, a medical doctor, returned to his native Ghana where he and his family would reside for many years. Raised with convictions of obligatory community service, the satin-voiced talent spent most of his youth assisting his father, a U.S. medically trained physician, establish and manage Aninwaah Medical Centre – a free hospital for the people of Ghana where he now serves on the Board of Directors.



TYRON WOODLEY

Tyron Lanklet Woodley, from Ferguson, is an mixed martial artist and former amateur wrestler for the University of Missouri. He is currently signed by the UFC and is the current UFC Welterweight Champion.



TRUMAINE BARNETT-EPPS

known as DJ Tab, a Hip hop DJ, record producer and entrepreneur. With nearly 15 mixtapes throughout his music career, he has worked with D J Khaled, Chris Brown, Bow Wow and J-Kwon. In 2015, he was nominated in the Midwest Regional Club DJ of the Year at the 4th edition of the annual Global Spin Awards. He is presently a DJ on Hot 104.1, with his own radio show called Get-N-Tune radio on Saturday nights. Trumaine also launched his clothing lined Empire Clothing and in the spring of 2016 launched "GETNTUNE" and energy drink that is distributed throughout St.Louis.



WILLIE MOORE

an inspirational speaker, licensed minister, Grammy recognized recording artist, comedian, actor, and Stellar Award Winning radio personality. The host of the nationally syndicated radio show "The Praise Mix Down", executive producer of the "Willie Moore Jr. Live Flatout TV Show", and a servant leader of the national youth organization Young Fly & Saved. Previously he signed a 1.3 million dollar deal with Universal Records and later began his own record label WILFLO MUSIC GROUP.



MURPHY LEE + KYJUAN

brothers first Lunatics second. Part of the St. Louis super group St. Lunatics. Murphy Lee and Kyjuan have branched out in multiple other entrepreneurial opportunities such as D'Bes Wines, Vape Ya Tailfeather, UCME, and continuing to make good music. This brother tandem is "So St. Louis Ask the tattooist".



KEITH HARRIS

has nearly 20 years of experience and a notable track record in sports business and innovation, including the National Football League, beverage promotion and event marketing, retail, corporate branding, television, and business and internet development. Currently, Harris is the branch marketing manager for Home Depot's St. Louis, Metro Illinois and Kansas City markets. In 2002, he started his own integrated marketing solutions company, Concepts Integrated Marketing Solutions. A lifestyle marketing company that specializes in building brands.



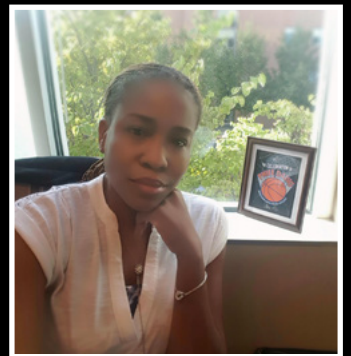
ROB RUGER

was born in St. Louis... With a passion to succeed he stayed focus on being the best man he could be... helping others as he study all crafts of life... As Co Founder of Ethno Nightlife he has become one of the top media personalities in the country by recreating the way events are covered... he has been on the Red carpet of many amazing events including... The BET Awards... Grammys and other high profile events... his main focus is to create a media platform unmatched as well as teaching the youth the artist is only as important as the media makes them...



WILLIAM PORTER

Master Pieza was created in 2008 by William Porter, a pizza lover. He believed that he could make a pizza that was better tasting and better for you. They are "Investing in a Healthier Community from Scratch".



VERONICA "MOUSIE" HALEY

Started in radio Radio One Q95.5 in 2001. In 2004 she was promoted to Promotions/Marketing Director. In 2005 she started working for National Recording Artist Chingy and Slot A Lot Records as Assistant Manager. In 2007 she went to work for Nelly and Derry Ent as assistant Manager of Derry Studios. Also helped Open and run Nelly's Music School El. In 2013 coordinator for iHeart Radio and 2015 became the Promotions Director for The Beat, Hallelujah 1600 and now KLOU.



SABRINA MCFIELD

is a World Wide Choreographer and Dancer, Owner of Voila Studio Salon, and Women Empowerment Speaker. She has choreographed 5 National Tours for R. Kelly and backup danced on 8 world wide tours. Sabrina choreographed the highly talked about "Do What You Want" Lady Gaga and R. Kelly performance that aired on SNL and has been a featured dancer with the industry's finest talent of today including Rihanna and Beyonce. Today, harnessing her entrepreneurial skills from Hollywood, she has partnered with her sister and established Voila! Studio Salon, St. Louis' Natural Hair Headquarters where they are "Setting Standards, Not Just Hair".



RHASHAD WHITTIER

Graphic Designer - Creative - Event Coordinator - Influencer



SLIM

S.L.I.M. is a celebrity in his own right on the St. Louis entertainment and nightlife scene. He's been a promoter since 2002 and has made a name for himself beyond the 314 in cities like Miami, Atlanta, Indianapolis and Cincinnati. He has that equal parts charm and arrogance that makes for the stereotypical mogul. In addition to promoting concerts and weekly nights at clubs around the city and beyond, he's working with rising rappers Lil St. Louis and Vega Sills. He's passionate about getting into the business of making movies sooner than later – he even co-starred in "Streetballerz" several years back. S.L.I.M. is trying to make the city a serious contender on the nightlife scene. He brings celebs to host events, parties and do shows at clubs. He holds his own parties and has hosted a celebrity basketball tournament at Chaifetz.



PHIL ASSETS

Owner of Liquid Assets Event (9 years) and subsidiary promotional companies Leading Ladies and Yung Assets. Meso Social marketing manager. Former multi club owner. National Concert and event promotor Stvlouis, Kansas City Mo, chicago, Indy, Atl Houston Ect.



JADE HARRELL

Jade Harrell is the charismatic creator and executive producer of RareGem Productions, a positive media production and consultation company. Her voice reverberates globally through multiple platforms of strictly positive programming, charitable efforts and appearance. She produces over 20 programs including iTunes #1 ranked "The Model Health Show" and the award winning "Alive and Well STL". Next up is the "Let's Get It! Together" show merging her talent, skill and passion to do more community good!



BRUCE FRANKS JR

Bruce Franks is a South St. Louis City native and small business owner who is focused on being a community activist and leader. He is the newly elected State Representative of the 78th District, appointment as Police Community Liaison by the St. Louis City Police chief, and recognized as a Champion of Change by The White House. Franks also has a profound passion for encouraging and guiding youth and is a regional organizer for Generation Progress.



DON CALLOWAY

In 2016 Don left A-B and founded Pine Street Strategies, a D.C. public affairs firm that specializes in government relations, communications and political races. Pine Street has grown rapidly to now include three full-time lobbyists and four part-time strategic advisors, and has a growing portfolio of fortune 100 companies, non-profit groups, and national political candidates.

Don lives in Washington DC with his two sons Cal and Benjamin, who informed Don last month that he would now be known only as "the Benj". This was to be expected, considering that Don named the Benj after his favorite rapper.



HAZEL ERBY

Hazel Erby has been a resident of University City for over 35 years. She was elected to the St. Louis County Council for a second term in 2006, a third term in 2010 and a fourth term in 2014. She became the first African American female to serve on the St. Louis County Council. She served as Chair of the Council in 2009 and 2014. In 2015, Council Member Erby serves on the Committee on Disabilities, The Justice, Health and Welfare Committee and is a Member of the Committee of the Whole.



KENA GRAY

Kena Gray, is the operations director for Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation and credits her healthcare heroes as her grandmothers. Starting as a process improvement manager, Gray has quickly moved up the ranks to her current role as operations director, where she oversees healthcare centers in the Riverbend area. In addition, Gray serves as a health center manager at Centerville Health Center, having previously managed Fairmont City, Washington Park and Bethalto health centers. Gray takes much pride in helping change health care policies standing today.



MARIA CHAPPELLE-NADAL

Maria Chappelle-Nadal is a Democratic member of the Missouri State Senate, representing District 14. She was first elected to the chamber in 2010. Beginning in the 2015 session, Chappelle-Nadal serves as Minority Whip. In 2010, Chappelle-Nadal was elected to the University City School Board. She earned her B.A. in political science/Sociology from Georgia State University. Her professional experience includes working as Director of Communications for Lieutenant Governor Joe Maxwell.



RASHEEN ALDRIDGE

a community organizer and activist. Born and raised in St. Louis, Aldridge serves as director of an organization called Young Activist United St. Louis and sits as student co-chair on the Missouri Jobs with Justice. He has a passion for justice and is a leader in the Show Me 15 workers' rights movement advocating living wages for fast food workers. He has been recognized by the Youth Council for Positive Development with the '2013 Jamala Rogers Young Visionary Award.



SUSAN JONES

Susan draws upon experience as a concerned citizen, community activist, student, and product of St. Louis Public Schools. She is the Manager of Supplier Diversity for Emed Medical Company, and pursuing a second Master's Degree in Business Administration at Webster University. Susan took the initiative to service her community heavily in the 27th ward. Ms. Jones has done it all from offering her leadership with community meetings and mentoring, to helping with clean up days, and getting residents registered to vote.



JOE PALM

In 2009, Joseph became the Chief of the Office of Minority Health, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. As the chief, he is responsible for monitoring the progress of all programs in the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for their impact on eliminating health disparities, increasing health equity, and ensuring cultural competency & sensitivity. He is also the key advisor to the Director on various health matters that affect minorities; in addition, he serves as a liaison to the Missouri General Assembly.



THE DISTINGUISHED LEADERS

The Distinguished Leader is based on evidence of exemplary leadership that demonstrates an awareness and contribution to effective leadership in the community at large. This leader has transcended boundaries, alongside showed progressive levels of responsibility and commitment, either within a single organization or through collaborative enterprise with others.

THE VISIONARIES

The Visionary Honoree is based on being a leading voice within their respective fields of expertise that is innovatively mobilizing communities and/or organizations. Is recognized for their transformational strengths that make leaders among their peers and have a strong commitment to governance, innovation, diversity, and corporate/ civic responsibility.

THE COMMUNITY BUILDERS

The Community Builder Honoree is based on having created lasting change and measurable difference in the community through commitment and perseverance. Leading initiatives that create community inclusivity through opportunities for people at disadvantage to build social capital and live full, meaningful lives in their community, as contributing and valued members of their community.

THE POWER HOUSES

The Power House Honoree is based on being a driving force in bringing respective entities together in quantifiable extraordinary success. Having navigated non- traditional or established markets, this honoree is recognized as a key figure with high regard within their industry.

THE RISING STARS

The Rising Stars Honoree is based on our rising leaders today who are mobilizing change and garnering support across their fields with the support of top leaders in their respective industries.

THE SPIRIT OF THE ENTREPRENEURS

The Spirit of the Entrepreneurs Honoree is based on the entrepreneurs who have taken the road less traveled with success that has overcome obstacles and identified new opportunities. From the creation of products to services, they are seen as an economic driver for the community. They represent significant achievements in launching new companies, opening new markets and fueling the job growth within the community.

THE COMMUNICATIONS & ENTERTAINMENT OF THE PEOPLE

The Communications & Entertainment of the People Honoree is based on personalities from the field of entertainment or communication leaders who have been recognized as influential in guiding the industry toward success. Their work has transcended innovation and craft, and moved people to make a lasting impact.

THE SOCIAL & CULTURAL INFLUENCERS

The Social & Cultural Influencers Honoree is based on expertise in delivering impact through engagement, fashion, art and cultural experiences. These dynamic leaders, have proven success in creating exceptional experiences that generate pleasurable outlets for the community.

THE POLICY LEADERS

The Policy Leader Honoree is based on creating successful policy initiatives and championing their respective fields to create progressive change.