Welcome to the 2023-24 academic year and to the Emerging Women Leaders.

We are glad that you chose to participate in Emerging Women Leaders this year. This nine-month professional development program is designed to provide women who are mid-level managers with networking opportunities, learn about leadership strategies and how to think about their professional trajectory in higher education and beyond.

Each month you will be able to hear from women leaders across campus and in the community about their success and how you can strengthen and hone your professional prowess.

We hope that you will enjoy this program and that it will provide you with invaluable nuggets of knowledge.

Saludos cordiales,

Gioconda Guerra Pérez
Executive Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
EMERGING WOMEN LEADERS 2023-24

CONTENTS

2 PURPOSE

5 EMERGING WOMEN LEADERS
2023–24 MEETING SCHEDULE

6 PARTICIPANTS
PURPOSE
The Emerging Women Leaders Series provides leadership development for mid-level professional women at Illinois who aspire to become organizational leaders. The focus of this program is to equip women with fundamental leadership strategies that will have a positive impact within their work environments and the communities in which they live.

MISSION
Its mission is to empower and equip women who are looking to develop leadership skills for advancement with expert leadership knowledge and practical tools that result in strategic career planning and professional skill building and heightened self-awareness.

FOCUS
Meetings are designed to help women identify and reinforce their strengths while developing proactive strategies and behaviors to make a greater impact within their organizations, their personal networks, and the communities in which they live and serve. Topics will focus on core professional concepts and personal competencies.

OBJECTIVE
The objective is to enhance the participant’s credibility and strengthen their position within the organization; create and sustain effective developmental relationships and alliances that advance careers; maximize personal, professional, and organizational potential through better teamwork and team leadership; think, lead, and manage in ways that celebrate individual attributes and perspectives.

HOW
Meetings will be held once a month from September to May. Presenters are senior level women from the University campus, community leaders from Urbana and Champaign, and professional consultants from various backgrounds, who present on an array of distinctive topics that meet a wide range of leadership development needs.

AUDIENCE
This program is ideal for women who desire to learn more about effective leadership.
“Leadership is not about having the charisma or speaking inspirational words, but about leading with example.”

— Zainab Salbi
# UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Staff Leadership Academy</th>
<th>Human Resources/Supervisors Training</th>
<th>Individual Professional Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illinois Supervisor Competency Model</td>
<td>The Academic Professional Development Fund</td>
<td>The Individual Professional Development Funds (IPDF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty/Staff Assistance Services (FSAS)</td>
<td>University of Illinois Chicago Professional Development/Training</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Emerging Women Leaders 2023 - 24
EMERGING WOMEN LEADERS
2023 – 24 MEETING SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2023
Gioconda Guerra Perez
Executive Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 18, 2023
Sarah Zehr Gantz
Senior Assistant Vice President for Academic Initiatives and Policies, University of Illinois System

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 9, 2023
Medra Roberts-Southerland
Associate Director for Diversity Initiatives, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 13, 2023
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Chancellor’s Holiday Open House

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 17, 2024
No meeting

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 21, 2024
Kimberlee Kidwell
Associate Chancellor for Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives, Office of the Chancellor

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 20, 2024
Kaamilyah Abdullah-Span
Director, Campus Culture & Climate, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 17, 2024
Elizabeth Tsukahara
Associate Director for Communications, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

WEDNESDAY
MAY 22, 2024
Cheryl Hanley-Maxwell
Dean, College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
PARTICIPANTS

KATHY ADAMS
TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
kdecker@illinois.edu
Over the past 25 years, Kathy Adams has developed crucial leadership skills during her enduring professional career on this campus. As a Training & Development Manager with ELOE, she has designed successful campus wide supervisory professional development certification programs. Her ability to tune in to the needs and preferences of stakeholders at all levels throughout large and complex organizations while maintaining high standards of quality, poise under pressure, and her expansive capacity to get things done are qualities that have contributed to her successful career at Illinois. Of course, her most salient identity is being a devoted and loving parent to two amazing kiddos who are growing up way too fast!

DOMONIQUE ARNOLD
LIBRARIAN
darnold2@illinois.edu
My name is DoMonique Arnold, and I’m currently the librarian at the University of Illinois Laboratory High School. I work with 8th-12th grade, and I also team-teach a couple of classes at the school. Originally, I am from the west suburbs of Chicago, but I have lived in Champaign-Urbana for the past 18 years. I love reading (an occupational hazard), dancing, and film. I absolutely adore my 9-year old daughter and our cat, Lola. Looking forward to getting to know everyone in the group!

WENDY BALTHAZOR
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
balthazr@illinois.edu
Wendy Balthazor is the Associate Director of Finance and Administration in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering (ChBE), where she oversees the department’s operations including financial and academic policies and procedures. Balthazor earned an MBA from Eastern Illinois University, and a bachelor’s degree in Japanese Language and Culture from the University of Illinois. She has more than two decades of experience in business and budgeting, both on campus and in the corporate arena. Prior to joining ChBE in 2021, Balthazor worked at the College of Veterinary Medicine and the University Library, where she held roles that included administration, business services, accounting, and grants and contracts.

BROOKE BEAR
ASSOCIATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR
bibeear@illinois.edu
Brooke Bear is an Associate Program Director for the M.S. in Strategic Brand Communication online degree program within the Department of Advertising and has been with the program for 6 years. Her role includes all aspects of program management from recruitment through alumni engagement. Prior to her current role, she worked in the Office of University Counsel, the Department of History and has eight years of hotel and apartment management experience. She is a 2004 graduate of Purdue University with a B.S. in Hospitality and Tourism Management and a 2017 graduate of Southern Illinois University with an M.B.A. In her spare time, Brooke loves to travel (she even owns her own travel agency!), bake, read, and spend quality time with her husband.
AMANDA CHRISTENSON
VISITING EXTENSION OUTREACH ASSOCIATE
achriste@illinois.edu
Amanda began her career at Illinois Extension in 2014 as a college student in Eureka with a passion for the environment and the local food movement. Starting as Extra Help in Bloomington, she grew to a full-time coordinator in Galesburg, then Champaign Urbana. This year, she moved onto campus to work as an Outreach Associate on the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. She spends her time coordinating meetings with the aim of improving our water resources from her office in the National Soybean Research Lab. She lives in Urbana with her husband and daughter and enjoys gardening, hiking, photography, and music. Amanda also volunteers for the Central Illinois Young Farmers Coalition, Champaign County Climate Coalition, and Girl Scouts.

KATHERINE DALPIAZ
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM SUPPORT
kdalpiaz@illinois.edu
Katie Dalpiaz is the Assistant Director of Program Support at the Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning (CITL). In this role, she supports units across campus as they develop online programs and courses. She also leads the project management team within CITL. Katie is a proud two-time alumna of the University of Illinois with a BS in Statistics and an MEd in Education Policy, Organization & Leadership. She first became passionate about online education while working as an undergraduate on the team that developed and launched Illinois’ first Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), and never looked back! Outside of work, Katie enjoys spending time with her husband, reading, cocktail mixing, and watching figure skating.

KERI DEAN
Grants & Contract Associate
keridean@illinois.edu
Keri Dean has served the College of Veterinary Medicine since 2015. In her current role as Grants & Contract Associate at the college, she leads and oversees all aspects of the Grants & Contracts Service Center by providing oversight, guidance and training to Veterinary Medicine faculty and staff. Her expertise in the provision of administrative and reporting support to college faculty, staff and administration have helped develop the College of Veterinary Medicine’s translational research across campus and the nation. Keri is twice an Illinois Alum, earning her master’s in Education and Business Management. Outside of work, Keri spends her time at her daughters’ college volleyball games.

NORMA GARCIA
ILLINOIS SCHOLARS PROGRAM COORDINATOR
ntellez@illinois.edu
Norma Garcia is the Illinois Scholars Program Coordinator in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Norma coordinates early access experiences for Illinois Scholars and provides year-round support. She is a dog mom, and her favorite color is pink.
PARTICIPANTS

ELIZABETH GOOD
COORDINATOR FOR INSTRUCTION/INSTRUCTOR
blinstru@illinois.edu
Elizabeth works in the Instructional Program of the School of Molecular and Cellular Biology. She coordinates large lecture courses as well as is the instructor for one of the undergraduate cell biology teaching labs. She also runs the MCB Learning Center and supervises graduate and undergraduate staff. Elizabeth strives for excellence in education and course administration for her students!

SHAWNA GRADDY
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION
sgraddy@illinois.edu
As the Associate Director for Administration, Shawna Graddy provides leadership to the Beckman Institute’s core administrative functions (finance, grants & contracts, human resources, information technology services, café, and facilities & operations) and acts as its Chief Financial Officer. Overall, she has been at the University for 9 years. Before the University, she spent 3 years at Booz Allen Hamilton and 6.5 years as a Captain in the United States Air Force. She earned her bachelor’s degree from the United States Air Force Academy, where she met her husband and played Division I basketball. Her master’s degree is from Trident University. In her free time, she enjoys being outside, reading, and attending her children’s many activities.

CHELSEA HAMILTON
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND STRATEGY
chamil@illinois.edu
Chelsea currently works as the Director of Marketing and Strategy at The Grainger College of Engineering. Before that, she served in marketing and communication leadership roles at University Housing and the UI Alumni Association. Troubleshooting and problem-solving are her passions, love identifying system efficiencies and helping others reach their full potential, professionally and personally. Chelsea now bleeds orange and blue, but also bleed blue and gray as a two-time graduate from EIU. She lives in Charleston, IL, with her husband, Nathan, and a 7-year-old, spunky daughter, Fallon; and also have two stepchildren who are grown and off to college.

EMILY HARRISON
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL CONSTITUENT ENGAGEMENT
emilyh@illinois.edu
As a member of the university’s Global Advancement team, Emily engages alumni and friends outside of the US, highlighting the importance of philanthropy and the impact of our global community. Emily came to the U of I as a student, graduated with an International Studies degree, and decided to stay. She’s since held event planning roles at the Illini Union and Grainger Engineering, followed by a project management role with SHIELD Illinois. Growing up in Taiwan as a third culture kid, Emily describes her current role as a great melding of her upbringing and professional experience. Emily lives in the country with her husband and two sons and can often be found cooking, reading, at church activities, or spending time with family and friends.
PARTICIPANTS

KATHERINE JOHNSTON
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
kjohnst4@illinois.edu

Katherine Johnston currently serves as the Associate Director of Operations for the Gies Office of Undergraduate Programs. She has worked at the University of Illinois for 5 years, with previous professional experience in banking and local government. She is a two-time alumna of the Gies College of Business, earning her Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management in 2010 and her MBA in 2017. Outside of work, she enjoys travelling, volunteering, and spending time with family and friends.

ELIZABETH ASAKO KINASE-LEGGETT
PROGRAM COORDINATOR
eakl@illinois.edu

(Elizabeth) Asako Kinase-Leggett is a Program Coordinator for the Illini Union Board, where students create programs for other students. She enjoys her role advising student leaders and providing opportunities for them to grow. She has worked in various areas of higher education: residential life, teaching, advising, diversity education, program administration, and student activities. She has three degrees from UIUC: a BA in Geography, a BS in Chemistry, and a MEd in Higher Education Administration. She is from Urbana, but has lived in Brighton, England; Chicago, IL; Santa Barbara, CA; Yokohama, Japan; and Santa Cruz, CA (go, Banana Slugs!). She enjoys eating good food, learning new things, and spending time with family and friends.

ANNE MARSHALL
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF BUDGET OPERATIONS
marshal@illinois.edu

Anne is the Associate Director of Budget Operations in the Office of the Provost - Budget and Resource Planning. In her role, she performs functions related to budget operations and maintenance for the University, reporting and analysis of the financial condition of campus units, and prepares tuition, fee, and miscellaneous revenue forecasts. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Franklin University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Illinois Springfield. Anne lives in Savoy with her husband and daughter. They also have a young Australian Cattle Dog who makes sure no day is ever boring. Anne enjoys traveling, cooking, and spending time with family and friends.

KALA MATURI
LEAD QUALITY ASSURANCE ANALYST
cmaturi@illinois.edu

Kala Maturi is a Lead Quality Assurance Analyst and Certified Accessibility Specialist at Technology Services. Her team at Technology Services perform functional testing and accessibility testing on all in-house developed software products. They also handle usability evaluation requests across campus. Kala started her career as a web developer, developing web applications using php and MySql. After a few years in development, she shifted to Quality Assurance. Prior to coming to University, Kala worked as a Senior Quality Assurance Analyst at Health Alliance Insurance company. Kala has been living in Champaign for the past 23 years with her husband and two daughters. Kala enjoys cooking Indian food, watching movies, and running.
PARTICIPANTS

MEGAN NICKRENT
RESEARCH LABORATORY COORDINATOR
nickrent@illinois.edu
Megan Nickrent is the Research Laboratory Coordinator for the Human Factors and Aging Laboratory in the Department of Kinesiology and Community Health. Megan manages the personnel in the lab, coordinates budgets and research, and is the go-to person whenever someone has a question. She grew up in Mahomet and earned her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Kinesiology at the University of Illinois. Megan spent several years as a stay-at-home-mom before returning to campus in her current position. Outside of work, Megan can be found spending time with her husband and four children.

MOIRA NOLAN
SENIOR BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL COORDINATOR/
SPECIAL PROJECTS
menolan@illinois.edu
Moira joined the OCR in June 2013 and takes care of all business office-related needs for the OCR. She is also responsible for coordinating the OCR Research Park Internship Program and special projects including international partnerships. Prior to joining the OCR, Moira worked in the banking industry. Moira earned her B.A. in Political Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is from Champaign, IL. Moira has two cats named Zilla and Moth, and they stare at her while she works on her art which includes mixed media and cosplay.

KJELLRUN OLSON
PROGRAM MANAGER
kjellrun@illinois.edu
Kjellrun Olson is a program manager at NCSA. She joined the University in 2005 and has spent more than 10 years as the lead project manager for the Blue Waters project. She currently focuses her effort on two newly launched programs – the New Frontiers Initiative and Illinois Computes. Prior to joining the University, she worked for high-tech start-up companies in marketing and business development. Her name is Norwegian, with an American pronunciation “Chell-run”. When not working, she is usually watching her 13 year old son play baseball and soccer, her 16 year old daughter run cross country and track, or walking her English Setter, Elmer.

AUDREY RAMSEY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES
awegman@illinois.edu
Audrey Ramsey is an Assistant Director of Human Resources with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, where she started as an Office Support Associate in 2012. She is also a full-time mom, wife, and homeowner. Audrey is the third of four sisters and a townie who loves the Champaign community (for better or worse). She enjoys reading and spending time outside. Her favorite form of therapy is listening to way too loud music alone in the car.
PARTICIPANTS

LAURA REITER
GRADUATE PROGRAMS COORDINATOR
lreite2@illinois.edu

Laura Reiter works with the Graduate, Professional and Online Programs office at The Grainger College of Engineering as a Graduate Programs Coordinator. She collaborates with colleagues to support prospective, new, and current graduate students across the college, coordinates admissions processes for several MEng programs, works with Mavis Future Faculty Fellows students, the Diversity Ambassadors, and the Engineering Graduate Student Advisory Committee. Laura’s home state is Illinois – she grew up in Oak Park – before living and working on the East Coast and in Spain. She is happy to be back in Illinois and enjoys listening to podcasts and 1930s music, gardening and spending time with friends and neighbors, and shopping at thrift stores.

AUGUST SCHIESS
DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT
aschiess@illinois.edu

As the director of digital strategy and development, August Schieß leads the social media, digital marketing, web, and design teams for the university in the Office of Strategic Communications and Marketing. She enjoys working with colleagues to develop and execute digital content to tell the Illinois story effectively and strategically—and helping others do the same. Outside of work, she is a member of the Junior League of Champaign-Urbana and a CU 1-1 mentor. In her free time, she can often be found reading, running, or finding her next piece of chocolate.

SARAH SHEELEY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CHEMISTRY LEARNING CENTER
sheeley@illinois.edu

Sarah Sheeley is the Assistant Director of the Chemistry Learning Center (CLC), a support center for students enrolled in gateway general chemistry courses. She received her BA in Chemistry from Grinnell College, and her PhD in Chemistry from the University of Illinois. Sarah joined the CLC staff in 2008, where her role has grown along with the center. In addition to providing one-on-one help to students, she is responsible for the daily operations of the center, mentoring CLC staff, and program development.

JYOTIKA SIROHI
SR. PROJECT MANAGER
jsirohi@illinois.edu

Jyotika Sirohi is a Sr. Project Manager at Technology Services, UIUC. She is originally from India but migrated to US in 2007. She is married and have two beautiful children. Her boy is in 5th grade and daughter in Kindergarten. Her hobbies include creative writing, dreaming and planning, creating recipes from left overs, exploring new places, listening to self-development audio books and podcasts, watching food and travel documentaries.
PARTICIPANTS

HANNAH STITES
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
hstites2@illinois.edu

Hannah Stites is the Office Administrator for the Illinois Quantum Information Science and Technology (IQUIST) Center within the Materials Research Laboratory. Hannah received her B.S. and M.S. in Crop Sciences, focusing on Plant Breeding and Genetics, from UIUC. She has been a member of Illinois Administrative Professionals since 2018. She has served the organization in various capacities as President, President-Elect, and chair of the Membership & Mentoring, Social, and 75th Anniversary committees. She also participated in the Emerging Community Leaders at Illinois program in 2023. In her spare time, she works for her family’s deer processing business and enjoys baking, reading, and spending time with her dog, Peanut.

DANA TEMPEL
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CARE
tempel1@illinois.edu

My name is Dana Tempel and I am currently serving as the Assistant Director for the Center for Academic Resources in Engineering (CARE). I have been in the Grainger College of Engineering for 17 years and am passionate about student success. In my 17 years, I have worked with wonderful colleagues across campus and met amazing students. I graduated from Urbana High School and currently live in Tolono, IL with my husband Mick and 2 beautiful kids. My daughter is a sophomore in HS and my son 6th grade and they both keep us very busy with sports, school, and friends.

GABRIELLE VENATTA
SENIOR ELEARNING PROFESSIONAL
gvenatta@illinois.edu

Gaby Venatta is a Senior eLearning Professional at Technology Services, where she has worked for more than 16 years. Gaby supports faculty who teach using the learning management system on campus, as well as creates most of the how-to documentation and communication for her group. Gaby earned her master of arts in professional writing from Carnegie Mellon University, and her bachelor of arts in English and bachelor of science in Psychology from Bradley University. Gaby is the proud mother of three children, ages 13, 11, and 8, and she and her husband have been married for 16 years.

GEETANJALI VERMA
SENIOR CLOUD INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEER
gashok@illinois.edu

Geet is originally from India and moved to the US to pursue her MBA in 2009. Before joining the university in 2015 she worked in industry as a data engineer for AT&T and several other companies. She currently works as a Senior Cloud Infrastructure Engineer for Technology Services, and supports cloud platforms including Google Cloud, Microsoft Azure, and Amazon Web Services. During her time at university, she has worked on health data analytics and optimization on several projects including Shield, Rokwire etc. Geet is passionate about Zumba and gardening, enjoys reading and experimenting with technology.
“If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader.”

— Dolly Parton