

Board of Directors



Benjamin Akande, Ph.D., Director of the Africa Initiative at Washington University in St. Louis

Benjamin Akande is Senior Adviser to the Chancellor and Director of the Africa Initiative at Washington University in St. Louis. As a Nigerian born American, he was appointed by Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton in March 2018 to strengthen and expand the University's efforts in Africa. He assists in developing and implementing strategy in bringing people together to identify ways to expand and enhance activities that will be rewarding to students and faculty, and build on initiatives in Africa.



Keaira Caldwell-Anderson, Executive Director, Cornerstone Corporation

Keaira Caldwell-Anderson joined Cornerstone in 2016. Mrs. Anderson is the first Cornerstone Executive Director to possess a Master's in Social Work, which provides it with a more complete picture of the needs of emerging communities. In 2017, Mrs. Anderson became a licensed realtor in Missouri, as a part of a multi-prong approach to understanding real estate practices. She is currently participating in "Black Leaders Advancing Community Change" (BLACC) which provides professional development for a select number of non-profit professionals who work in predominantly

Black communities. She also recently graduated as part of the 11th Cohort of the St. Louis Regional Chamber's St. Louis Business Diversity Initiative Fellows Program.



Dedric Carter, Ph.D., MBA, Vice Chancellor for Operations and Technology Transfer, Washington University in St. Louis

Dedric A. Carter, PhD, MBA serves as vice chancellor for operations and technology transfer and professor of engineering practice at Washington University in St. Louis. In this role, Carter serves as the senior executive officer for many key operations functions including dining and food services, campus card services, Whittemore House, parking and transportation, summer programs and conferences, procurement and resource management, and environmental health and safety. Carter is additionally responsible for the Office of Technology Management. Carter teaches courses in systems applications to technical, business, and policy

issues with an emphasis on the entrepreneurial process and new venture creation.



Maxine Clark, Chief Inspirator of the Delmar DiviNE

Maxine Clark is one of the true innovators in the retail industry. During her career, her ability to spot emerging retail and merchandising trends and her insight into the desires of the American consumer have generated growth for retail leaders, including department store, discount and specialty stores. In 1997, she founded Build-A-Bear Workshop®, a teddy-bear themed retail-entertainment experience. Today there are more than 500 Build-A-Bear Workshop stores worldwide. Cumulative sales have exceeded \$8 billion and over 190 million stuffed animals have been sold world-wide. In June 2013, Maxine stepped down from her Chief Executive Bear role to apply her entrepreneurial skills to her passion for improving

K-12 public education and encouraging and investing in women and minority entrepreneurs.



Adrienne Davis, Ph.D., Vice Provost, Washington University in St. Louis

Adrienne Davis holds a dual appointment as William M. Van Cleave Professor of Law and Vice Provost of the University. As Vice Provost, Davis focuses on faculty diversity and development, consulting and collaborating closely with the University's schools; managing a suite of programs from the Office of the Provost; and chairing key searches for the next generation of university leaders. From 2015 until 2017 she chaired the University's Commission on Diversity and Inclusion, which was charged with designing a university-wide plan for diversity.



Justin Idleburg, Community Catalyst of Equity & Innovation, Idleburg Consultants; Board Member, Forward Through Ferguson

Justin Idleburg is a racial equity strategist who works with governmental leaders and grassroots, faith-based nonprofit organizations. He contributes guidance in health, education, workforce development, and equitable community development to create an understanding of what a racial equity lens applied looks like on the journey to dismantling disparities.

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Edward F. Lawlor, Ph.D., Special Assistant to the Provost, Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis

Edward F. Lawlor served as dean of the Brown School from 2004 to 2016. His teaching and research focus on public policy and aging, health policy, and social services. Lawlor's book "Redesigning the Medicare Contract: Politics, Markets, and Agency" treats Medicare reform as an exercise in writing a good social contract. He is currently writing a book on the social services industry, and he writes a blog on social policy.



Mary M. McKay, Ph.D., Neidorff Family and Centene Corporation Dean of the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis

Mary M. McKay joined the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis as dean in 2016, continuing the School's legacy of creating vital knowledge, initiating social change, and preparing leaders to address social and health challenges both locally and globally. Dean McKay's academic experience connects deeply to both social work and public health. She has received substantial federal funding for research focused on meeting the mental health and health prevention needs of youth and families impacted by poverty.



April Mickens Jolly, VP of Patient Services, Planned Parenthood of St. Louis

April Mickens Jolly leads and efforts that advance health equity. Currently, April serves as the Vice President of Patient Services for Planned Parenthood of St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri and as a Managing Partner/Consultant for the Jolly Advisory Group. Prior to her work at Planned Parenthood, she served as the Director of Strategic Planning at the St. Louis Regional Health Commission and a Clinical Program Manager at Barnes-Jewish Hospital.

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Sandra Moore, Managing Director, Advantage Capital

With over three decades of experience in urban planning, economic development and community revitalization efforts, Sandra M. Moore joins the Advantage Capital team as chief impact officer to guide the design of our investments and investment strategies to maximize community impact, to assist our investment team in growing and sharing our community impact results and to also study our results to ensure we are producing as we hope and project.



Geetha Rao Sant, JD, Adjunct Professor, School of Law, Washington University in St. Louis

Sant has over 25 years of experience in corporate law with a focus on for-profit and nonprofit organizations. Her expertise includes corporate governance and compliance; employment management; executive compensation programs; and a wide variety of corporate transactional matters, including intellectual property licensure. Previously, Sant was in private practice, where she provided legal services to clients of varying sizes — from entrepreneurial startups to well-established Fortune 50 companies and national nonprofit organizations.



Travis Sheridan, President, CIC Venture Café Global Institute

Travis Sheridan is President of CIC's Venture Café Global Institute (VSGI) where he is responsible for growth and expansion of the organization. Sheridan was also the founding Executive Director of Venture Café ST. Louis- the first expansion city outside of Cambridge, MA. Travis grew the St. Louis program to become one of the largest weekly events for innovators and entrepreneurs in the U.S. Travis on the board of directors of Prosper Women Entrepreneurs, the Missouri Venture Forum, the Old North St. Louis Restoration Group, and serves as an advisor for the Balsa Foundation and Pipeline Entrepreneurs.

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Cynthia Williams, Assistant Dean of Community Partnerships,
Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis

As assistant dean for Community Partnerships and co-chair of the Steering Committee for Community-Based Partnerships, Cynthia co-leads efforts to advance the Brown School's mission to partner with organizations and communities in the School's priority areas, to improve the quality of service to community members and enhance opportunities through use of best evidence. She works to advance a community-based partnership model in St. Louis and the surrounding community to transform and increase community participation at the Brown School through research, teaching, and volunteerism.