

PROJECT LEAD

LEADERSHIP EFFECTIVENESS AND DIVERSITY

— *Class II* —



UNITED WAY
Emerald Coast

WHAT IS PROJECT LEAD?

This unique program prepared our graduates to serve as effective leaders on non-profit and public sector boards and committees. Designed to strengthen local boards of directors, it focused on cultivating a diverse pipeline of future board members.

Through six workshops led by local experts, participants gained practical knowledge in areas like strategic planning, marketing, financial oversight, and governance. Graduates have the skills, tools, and connections to be engaged and impactful volunteers across Okaloosa and Walton counties.

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS III! WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT YOU ACCOMPLISH FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

If you would like to be connected with any of our graduates, please contact UWEC President & CEO Kelly Jasen at kelly@united-way.org or 850-812-3382.

**Thank you to our Project LEAD
sponsors and in-kind supporters:**



Best Gurl, Inc. | Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida | Caring & Sharing of South Walton | Carr, Riggs & Ingram | City of Crestview
Civetta Solutions | Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce | Destin Chamber of Commerce | Emerald Coast Science Center
Early Learning Coalition of the Emerald Coast | Elder Services | Emerald Coast Vibe | Fisher House of the Emerald Coast | Florida Power & Light
Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce | Home2Suites by Hilton | LEADERSHIPTEN | Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce
NextHome Cornerstone Realty | Publix | TB Speaks | Walton Area Chamber of Commerce | Walton County Sheriff's Office
Dee & Bo Photography | 3rd Planet Brewing Co.

MEET OUR GRADUATES



Alyssa Riley

CARR, RIGGS & INGRAM
AUDIT MANAGER

Skills: Finance or Accounting, General Business, Risk Management

Community Issues: Animals, Arts & Culture, Children & Youth, Financial Literacy, Mentoring & Coaching



Ashley Saba

FLORIDA BLUE
MARKET DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Skills: Event Planning, Healthcare, Marketing, Public Relations, Strategic Planning

Community Issues: Community Improvement, Early Childhood Education, Health & Disabilities, Mental Health, Mentoring & Coaching



Bethe Manning

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF THE EMERALD COAST
PRESIDENT 2025-2026

Skills: Event Planning, Fundraising, Governance, Volunteer Management

Community Issues: Animals, Children & Youth, Community Improvement, Senior Services

MEET OUR GRADUATES



Brenda Robinson

**NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE
COORDINATOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND LEADERSHIP OKALOOSA**

Skills: Education (k-12 or higher ed),
Event Planning, Fundraising, Volunteer
Management

Community Issues: Adult Education,
Early Childhood Education, Parenting &
Caregiver Support, Senior Services,
Veterans & Military



Briley Kennedy

**UNITED WAY EMERALD COAST
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

Skills: Event Planning, Fundraising,
Marketing, Public Relations, Volunteer
Management

Community Issues: Children & Youth,
Community Improvement, Early
Childhood Education, Mental Health,
Substance Abuse



Brittnee Orr

**OKALOOSA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
HOUSING PROGRAM MANAGER**

Skills: Finance or Accounting, General
Business, Government, Volunteer
Management, Strategic Planning

Community Issues: Arts & Culture,
Children & Youth, Community
Improvement, Employment & Job
Training, Housing

CLASS



Bron Ringstad

**EGLIN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
VP BRANCH OPERATIONS**

Skills: Finance or Accounting, General Business, Volunteer Management, Risk Management, Strategic Planning

Community Issues: Children & Youth, Community Improvement, Financial Literacy, Mentoring & Coaching, Veterans & Military



Damien McNeil

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS FLORIDA
REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

Skills: Fundraising, General Business, Marketing, Risk Management, Strategic Planning

Community Issues: Arts & Culture, Children & Youth, Community Improvement, Domestic Violence, Mentoring & Coaching



Deborah Lawson

**UNITED WAY EMERALD COAST
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT**

Skills: Event Planning, Fundraising, Volunteer Management

Community Issues: Animals, Mental Health, Mentoring & Coaching

MEET OUR GRADUATES



Donna Williamson

FLORIDA BLUE
SALES EXECUTIVE

Skills: Fundraising, General Business, Healthcare, Policy or Advocacy, Volunteer Management

Community Issues: Domestic Violence, Hunger, Mental Health, Mentoring & Coaching, Substance Abuse



Emily Criddle

COMMUNITY BANK OF MS
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT

Skills: Event Planning, General Business, Marketing, Public Relations

Community Issues: Animals, Children & Youth, Hunger, Parenting & Caregiver Support, Senior Services



Emily Tash Pickens

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN
OKALOOSA COUNTY, COMMUNITY HEALTH
IMPROVEMENT PLANNING BRANCH DIRECTOR

Skills: Event Planning, Government, Healthcare, Policy or Advocacy, Strategic Planning

Community Issues: Community Improvement, Health & Disabilities, Housing, Mental Health, Substance Abuse

CLASS ||



Emmy Epperson

**CAREERSOURCE OKALOOSA & WALTON
PROGRAM MANAGER - BUSINESS SERVICES**

Skills: Event Planning, General Business, Marketing, Public Relations, Strategic Planning

Community Issues: Adult Education, Arts & Culture, Employment & Job Training, Mentoring & Coaching, Veterans & Military



Jamie Pasour

**RETIRED & EMERALD COAST SCIENCE CENTER
BOARD MEMBER**

Skills: Event Planning, Fundraising, Human Resources, Military, Volunteer Management

Community Issues: Animals, Arts & Culture, Community Improvement, Health & Disabilities, Housing, Hunger, Senior Services, Veterans & Military



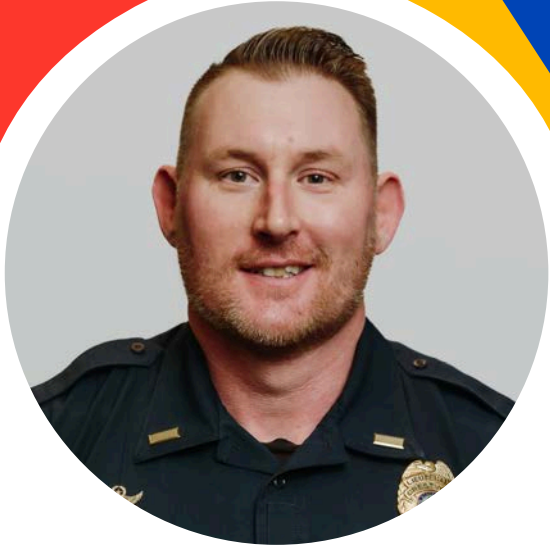
Jordan Davis

**CITY OF CRESTVIEW
PERMITTING SPECIALIST**

Skills: Construction, Education (k-12 or higher ed)

Community Issues: Children & Youth, Mental Health, Mentoring & Coaching, Parenting & Caregiver Support, Senior Services

MEET OUR GRADUATES



Joshua Grace

CRESTVIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT
MAJOR

Skills: Government, Human Resources, Legal & Compliance, Policy or Advocacy, Risk Management

Community Issues: Animals, Community Improvement, Employment & Job Training, Mental Health, Mentoring & Coaching



Kameko McGuire

NEW HOPE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS
CEO

Skills: Education (k-12 or higher ed), Event Planning, General Business, Healthcare

Community Issues: Adult Education, Children & Youth, Health & Disabilities, Mental Health, Senior Services



Kelsey Segalini

THE HONOR FOUNDATION | EGLIN
DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE

Skills: Education (k-12 or higher ed), Event Planning, Fundraising, General Business, Military

Community Issues: Children & Youth, Community Improvement, Employment & Job Training, Mentoring & Coaching, Veterans & Military

CLASS



Lee Bolton

**FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT
SR. CUSTOMER ADVISOR**

Skills: Event Planning, General Business, Marketing

Community Issues: Animals, Children & Youth, Community Improvement, Senior Services



Lynn Fehr

**MIDSOUTH BANK
MANAGER**

Skills: Event Planning, Fundraising, Marketing, Policy or Advocacy, Public Relations

Community Issues: Animals, Children & Youth, Community Improvement, Hunger, Veterans & Military



Mariah Reynolds

**HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING ALLIANCE OF
OKALOOSA & WALTON COUNTIES
COORDINATED ENTRY SPECIALIST**

Skills: Education (k-12 or higher ed), Event Planning, Public Relations, Strategic Planning, Technology/IT/Cyber

Community Issues: Arts & Culture, Children & Youth, Community Improvement, Mentoring & Coaching, Support for first responders and their families

MEET OUR GRADUATES



Marlayna Goosby

**GROW YOUR GIFT CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC
FOUNDER**

Skills: Education (k-12 or higher ed),
Strategic Planning

Community Issues: Arts & Culture,
Children & Youth, Domestic Violence,
Mentoring & Coaching



Megan Serafin

**CHILDREN IN CRISIS, INC.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER**

Skills: Event Planning, Fundraising,
Marketing, Public Relations, Volunteer
Management

Community Issues: Arts & Culture,
Children & Youth, Domestic Violence,
Housing, Mental Health



Melissa Garza

**EMERALD COAST ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIRECTOR**

Skills: Fundraising, Governance,
Government, Policy or Advocacy, Public
Relations

Community Issues: Community
Improvement, Employment & Job
Training, Financial Literacy, Housing,
Mentoring & Coaching

CLASS ||



Robbie Truax

**ONE FAMILY PROPERTY SERVICES
PROPERTY MANAGER**

Skills: Event Planning, Marketing, Military, Volunteer Management

Community Issues: Community Improvement, Employment & Job Training, Housing, Mentoring & Coaching, Veterans & Military



Sean Devlin

**SEAN DEVLIN HOME + DESIGN
OWNER**

Skills: Construction, Event Planning, Fundraising, General Business, Marketing

Community Issues: Construction; Arts & Culture, Community Improvement, Employment & Job Training, Housing, Mentoring & Coaching



Teddie Yellow Bear-Baskin

**EGLIN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
FINANCIAL EDUCATION SPECIALIST**

Skills: Education (k-12 or higher ed), Human Resources, Military, Strategic Planning

Community Issues: Adult Education, Children & Youth, Employment & Job Training, Financial Literacy, Mentoring & Coaching



UNITED WAY
Emerald Coast

THANK YOU!

Florida Blue 
Foundation

 **RENASANT**
BANK

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Light Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce | Home2Suites by Hilton | LEADERSHIPTEN | Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of
Commerce NextHome Cornerstone Realty | Publix | TB Speaks | Walton Area Chamber of Commerce | Walton County Sheriff's Office
Dee & Bo Photography | 3rd Planet Brewing Co.