

PROJECT LEAD



LEADERSHIP EFFECTIVENESS AND DIVERSITY

Class of 2024

PRESENTED BY

Florida Blue
Foundation



United Way
Emerald Coast

WHAT IS PROJECT LEAD?

This unique program prepared our graduates for leadership roles on non-profit and public sector boards and committees. Our goal was to build better non-profit boards with a focus on creating a pipeline of diverse board candidates. It is important that we take a stand to ensure our community's boards are representative of the communities we serve, that all voices have an equal seat at the table, and are included in the decision-making process.

Our introduction to board leadership gave our graduates the opportunity to sharpen their skills by learning from local experts who demystified the process of becoming a board member. This program offered six workshops ranging from strategic planning, marketing, finances, and governance responsibilities. We helped them build the tools and connections to become key volunteers within our community partners and other non-profit and public sector organizations in Okaloosa or Walton counties.

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

Florida Blue 
Foundation

 **TheFirst**

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CLASS OF 2024



EMPOWERING YOU TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS
NON-PROFIT BOARD LEADERSHIP

MEET OUR GRADUATES



Carrie Brewer

**TIDWELL HOMES
OPERATION MANAGER**

Skills: Construction, Entrepreneurship, Fundraising, Military, & Volunteer Management

Community Issues: Animals, Children & Youth, Early Childhood Education, Mentoring & Coaching, Veterans & Military



Chelsea Hermon

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
CURRENT OPERATIONS MANAGER**

Skills: Fundraising, Military, & Volunteer Management

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



CJ Davis

**1SHOTCREATIONS
CO-OWNER**

Skills: Entrepreneurship, Marketing

Community Issues: Arts & Culture, Children & Youth, Community Improvement, Mental Health



Clay Rikard

**CCB COMMUNITY BANK
COMMERCIAL LENDER**

Skills: Entrepreneurship,
Finance or Accounting, General
Business, & Strategic Planning

Community Issues: Children & Youth,
Community Improvement, Financial
Literacy, Health & Disabilities, Senior
Services



D. Rose Baldwin

**THE FIRST BANK
VICE PRESIDENT CONSUMER LENDER**

Skills: Construction, Finance or
Accounting, General Business, Policy
or Advocacy, & Risk Management

Community Issues: Community
Improvement, Employment & Job
Training, Financial Literacy, Housing,
Mental Health



Dakota Scott

**CHILDREN IN CRISIS, INC.
VOLUNTEER AND EVENT COORDINATOR**

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

Community Issues: Animals, Arts &
Culture, Children & Youth, Domestic
Violence, Veterans & Military



Dana Lee Kane

**COMMUNITY BANK
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT**

Skills: Finance or Accounting,
Marketing, Risk Management

Community Issues: Children & Youth,
Community Improvement, Early
Childhood Education, Financial
Literacy, Mentoring & Coaching



Danica LaFaire

**FISH WINDOW CLEANING
INVESTOR**

Skills: Entrepreneurship, General
Business, Marketing, Strategic
Planning

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



Denise Creech

**ELITE SIGNINGS AND EVENTS
OWNER: REMOTE NOTARY, & WEDDING OFFICIANT SERVICES**

Skills: General Business,
Technology/IT/Cyber

Community Issues: Arts & Culture,
Children & Youth, Employment & Job
Training, Mental Health, Mentoring &
Coaching



Dustin T. Cosson

**WALTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
BUREAU CHIEF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS**

Skills: Event Planning, Government Relations, Policy or Advocacy, Public Relations, Risk Management

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



Ella Payne

**REALTY ONE GROUP EMERALD COAST
AGENT**

Skills: Event Planning, Finance or Accounting, Fundraising, General Business, Marketing

Community Issues: Animals, Children & Youth, Financial Literacy, Housing, Senior Services



Erika Vasquez

**COMMUNITY AID ORGANIZATION INC
PRESIDENT**

Skills: Education (K-12 or higher ed), General Business, Legal and Compliance

Community Issues: Adult Education, Community Improvement, Employment & Job Training, Financial Literacy



Joshua Bugby

**CHILDREN IN CRISIS
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

Skills: Entrepreneurship, Fundraising, Marketing, Public Relations, Grant Writing

Community Issues: Children & Youth, Housing, Hunger, Mentoring & Coaching, Parenting & Caregiver Support



Laura Triana

**COMMUNITY AID ORGANIZATION INC
VICE PRESIDENT**

Skills: Entrepreneurship, Fundraising, Public Relations, Volunteer Management

Community Issues: Adult Education, Animals, Community Improvement, Health & Disabilities, Hunger



Mady Scott

**CAN COMMUNITY HEALTH
PRACTICE ADMINISTRATOR**

Skills: Healthcare, Clinical Operations, Laboratory Operations

Community Issues: Children & Youth, Community Improvement, Health & Disabilities, Housing, Hunger



Nicole Malley

**FRANCES ROY AGENCY
DIGITAL MEDIA SPECIALIST**

Skills: Event Planning, Marketing

Community Issues: Animals, Arts & Culture, Children & Youth, Community Improvement, Early Childhood Education



Rebecca Picnic

**COMMUNITY BANK OF MS
TELLER & CSR**

Skills: Entrepreneurship, Event Planning, General Business, Legal and Compliance, Marketing

Community Issues: Arts & Culture, Domestic Violence, Financial Literacy, Mental Health, Parenting & Caregiver Support



Regina Y Samy

**HAMPTON INN AND SUITES & HOME2 SUITES
BY HILTON DUAL GENERAL MANAGER**

Skills: Event Planning, Finance or Accounting, General Business, Human Resources, Volunteer Management

Community Issues: Arts & Culture, Community Improvement, Financial Literacy, Housing, Mentoring & Coaching



Sherry Jones

**ONE HOPEFUL PLACE
COMMUNITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR**

Skills: Entrepreneurship, Event Planning, Fundraising, Marketing, Public Relations

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



Sierra Marie Elliott

**1ST SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING
SEXUAL ASSAULT & HARASSMENT SPECIALIST**

Skills: Government Relations, Military, Policy or Advocacy, Volunteer Management, Strategic Planning

Community Issues: Community Improvement, Domestic Violence, Mental Health, Veterans & Military



Stefanie Fontaine

**BRIDGEWAY CENTER, INC.
DIRECTOR OF GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT & CCBHC PROJECT
DIRECTOR**

Skills: Governance, Healthcare, Legal and Compliance, Risk Management, Strategic Planning

Community Issues: Children & Youth, Early Childhood Education, Health & Disabilities, Mental Health, Parenting & Caregiver Support



Susan Sharpe

**EXIT REALTY ANCHOR SOUTH
BROKER**

Skills: Education (K-12 or higher ed),
Entrepreneurship, General Business,
Healthcare

Community Issues: Children & Youth,
Early Childhood Education, Housing,
Mental Health, Parenting & Caregiver
Support



VaTema Ivy

**AIR FORCE ENLISTED VILLAGE
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

Skills: Event Planning, Fundraising,
Marketing, Military, Volunteer
Management

Community Issues: Children & Youth,
Community Improvement, Domestic
Violence, Senior Services, Veterans &
Military



Wendy Stevens

**UNITED FIDELITY BANK
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

Skills: Education (K-12 or higher ed),
Finance or Accounting, General
Business

Community Issues: Employment & Job
Training, Financial Literacy, Housing,
Mental Health

THANK YOU!



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Destin Chamber of Commerce | Emerald Coast Vibe | Florida Power & Light | Florida SBDC at UWF
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