

- **Dr. Tiffany Anderson, Superintendent of Topeka Public Schools USD 501**

Dr. Tiffany Anderson, a long-time Kansas resident, has been a public school educator for over 26 years, with the majority of that time as superintendent. She has improved achievement and closed achievement gaps for students of poverty in rural, urban and suburban public school districts. In 2016 Dr. Anderson became the first African-American female superintendent of Topeka Public Schools, in Topeka, Kansas. In 2019, the Governor appointed Dr. Anderson to the Postsecondary Technical Authority as part of the Board of Regents.

Since Dr. Anderson arrived in Topeka, the district has earned three national Magna Awards, one of which is for their work in equity. Dr. Anderson was one of Education Week's 16 leaders to learn from, she was selected a 2020 Kansas Icon in Education by Ingram, and she is one of the 2020 nominees for Kansas Superintendent of the Year.

As a superintendent in Virginia, Dr. Anderson led Montgomery County Public Schools in earning the Virginia Governor's Competence to Excellence Award and after leading as superintendent in Missouri, the Washington Post referred to Dr. Anderson as, "The Woman who made schools work for the poor."

Dr. Anderson also led the turnaround efforts following the Ferguson unrest in Jennings, Missouri, resulting in the establishment of minorities on the police force, new community policing initiatives and improved academic achievement.

As part of her initiatives aimed at addressing equity, Dr. Anderson has led the establishment of a district run homeless shelter in Jennings, Missouri and in Topeka she is partnering with local agencies in support of ending homelessness in Topeka through Impact Avenues.

Dr. Anderson earned her undergraduate degree, and later her doctorate, from Saint Louis University in 2001. She later successfully led one of the highest poverty districts in St. Louis to regain accreditation. Dr. Anderson received her second doctorate, the Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Eden Theological Seminary, for her service to community and society. She is also adjunct faculty for ASCD (Association for Schools and Curriculum Development).

Recognitions Dr. Anderson has received include the Lifetime Achievement Award for volunteerism from President Obama; the Salute to Excellence for Women awarded by the Urban League; the Stellar Performance Award by the St. Louis American and the award for Diversity in Business from the St. Louis Business Journal, among others.

- **Secretary DeAngela Burns-Wallace – Kansas Department of Administration**

Prior to Governor Kelly's appointment, Dr. DeAngela Burns-Wallace served as the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies at the University of Kansas. She serves as a national trainer and curriculum developer for various professional development organizations, non-profits, and higher ed institutions on issues ranging including micro-aggressions, multigenerational workplace differences, diversity and inclusion, change management, professional development pathways, and strategic planning.

Dr. Burns-Wallace holds a dual bachelor's degree in International Relations and African American studies from Stanford University, a master's in Public Affairs from Princeton University, and a doctorate in education from the University of Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on issues of access and success for students of color and low-income students throughout higher education as well as inclusive leadership practices.

- **Judge Monique Centeno, District Court Judge – Division 11 of 18th District Court**

Judge Monique Centeno is the presiding judge of Division 11 of Sedgwick County District Court. Judge Centeno is passionate about fairness and impartial justice for everyone that steps into court. She believes judges must guarantee a level playing field, and not favor those with economic means or socioeconomic status. Judges must serve the whole community and make independent decisions based on the rule of law and the Constitution.

Judge Centeno's passion for fairness and justice is immediately apparent when you step into her Family Law courtroom. She gives each person a reasonable amount of time to make their arguments. She intently listens and takes notes. She calmly enforces the rules of courtroom decorum to ensure that everyone is heard. Her rulings are based on commonsense and the rule of law.

Judge Centeno inherited her zeal for justice from her family. Her father was a non-commissioned soldier in the United States Army. He protected the rights of citizens for twenty-three years. Her mother was a stay-at-home mom that instilled the importance of listening and not pre-judging others. When the family settled in Kansas, Judge Centeno continued those principles.

Judge Centeno attended the University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS. She took part in several equal justice organizations and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science in 2000. She worked for Shook, Hardy & Bacon, a large law firm in Kansas City for two years. She attended Washburn School of Law in Topeka, KS. She graduated with a juris doctorate in 2005.

In 2006, Judge Centeno started her legal career in Wichita, KS. Her career was focused on helping people obtain justice. She fought and won for clients whose civil liberties were at stake in front of state courts and federal courts. She represented clients in employment discrimination, pedestrians hurt by careless drivers, consumers harmed by commercial

businesses, and love ones in wrongful death cases. She successfully tried countless jury trials and bench trials. She was an experienced trial attorney.

Judge Centeno is active in the community. She speaks regularly at elementary and middle schools. She mentors young adults and college students. She is an active member of the Wichita Bar Association, Inns of Courts, Wichita Attorney Women's Association, and the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association. She is a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church.

- **Dr. Brandon Davis, Assistant Professor – University of Kansas**

Brandon R. Davis is a native of Alabama. He earned an M.S.W. from Alabama A&M University and an M.A. in Women's Studies and a Ph.D. in Political Science from The University of Alabama.

Brandon is a former Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Research Associate at Brown University. His research focuses on American Politics and Public Policy, Race and Ethnicity, and Law and Society. Brandon is interested in normative and empirical approaches to institutions, participation, and criminal justice.

- **Ernestor De La Rosa, Dodge City, Assistant City Manager – City of Dodge City**

Ernestor has been the assistant city manager for Dodge City, Kansas since January 2019. He oversees the Public Transportation, Human Resources Department and continues to serve as the City's legislative affairs director. He works diligently with Kansas representatives on legislative affairs issues including immigration, transportation and in areas that impact Dodge City's renewable energy project revenues. He currently facilitates the Complete Count Committee for the Census 2020 efforts in Dodge City and Ford County.

Ernestor was born and raised in Mexico and immigrated to the United States at the age of 13. He is a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient. He graduated from Wichita State University with a Master of Public Administration and a graduate certificate in non-profit management.

- **Mark Dupree, District Attorney – Wyandotte County**

Mark A. Dupree, Sr., is the District Attorney of Wyandotte County, KS, the 4th largest county in the State of Kansas, and the first Black elected District Attorney in the State of Kansas. Mr. Dupree leads an office of over 60 employees and manages a significant budget each fiscal year. The office is focused on equitably charging and prosecuting crime, being proactive, attacking violent crimes and crimes that affect the standard of living in the community. Mr. Dupree was successful in creating the first ever "Conviction Integrity Unit"

in the state of Kansas. This unit is responsible for ensuring that convictions obtained previously still hold integrity today.

Wyandotte community involvement is the bedrock of the Dupree Administration. Community involvement builds community trust, and it is that trust that greatly assists in crime prevention and bringing justice when a crime occurs.

- **David Jordan, President & CEO – United Methodist Health Ministry Fund**

David Jordan is the President of the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, joining the Fund in February 2018. Before joining the Fund, David served as the executive director of the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas, a coalition of over 100 organizations working to improve health and access to health care in Kansas. David oversaw the Alliance's operations and the effort to expand KanCare, Kansas' Medicaid program. David joined the Alliance after spending nearly seven years at Community Catalyst, a leading national consumer health advocacy organization, as the Dental Access Project Director.

David holds a master's in public administration from the University of Kansas and Bachelor of Science in Speech Communication from Emerson College.

- **Dr. Anthony Lewis, Superintendent – USD 497 Lawrence**

Dr. Anthony Lewis received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Alabama State University and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from the University of Missouri. He began his educational career in Montgomery, Alabama as a special education teacher, assistant principal, and principal. Because of his successes in Alabama, he was recruited to work in the Kansas City, Missouri School District where he served as principal, director of elementary schools, and assistant superintendent where he assisted the district in receiving enough points to be fully accredited – which had not happened in over thirty years. In 2017, Dr. Lewis was selected, completed and received certification from the American Association of School Administrators (AASA)/The School Superintendents Association's Urban Superintendents Academy in partnership with Howard University. In January 2018, the Lawrence Public Schools School Board unanimously approved Dr. Lewis to become the Superintendent of Lawrence Public Schools.

In November 2019, Governor Laura Kelly appointed Dr. Lewis to the Kansas African American Affairs Commission. The commission devises strategies to address the public policy concerns of the African American community through partnerships with state agencies, corporations and foundations. It also assists with programs, grants and research.

- **Mark McCormick, Director of Strategic Communications – Kansas ACLU**

Mark McCormick joined the ACLU of Kansas in April 2018 as the Director of Strategic Communications. Previously, he served as the Executive Director of the Kansas African American Museum in Wichita, Kansas.

Mark is a New York Times best-selling author with over 20 years of experience as a reporter, editor, and columnist. He serves as a trustee at the University of Kansas School of Journalism and has served as a professional in residence at the University of Oklahoma. He is the proud recipient of over 20 industry and community awards, including three gold medals from the Kansas City Press Club. In 2015, Mark co-authored African Americans of Wichita and in 2017, he published Some Were Paupers, Some Were Kings: Dispatches from Kansas.

- **John Nave, Executive Vice President – Kansas AFL-CIO**

John Nave has been the executive vice president of the Kansas AFL-CIO since January 2018. John comes from the United Steel Workers Local 307 where he served as Goodyear union rep for the past six years and as COPE chairman for the past three years. John was also a Teamster member from 1978 to 1983 when he worked for United Parcel Service. John's extensive political history began in the early nineties working on local and state campaigns for public servants still serving at the local, and state level. Soon after expanding on his own political experience, John served as district four councilman for the City of Topeka from 2003-2007.

John Nave currently sits on the Topeka Police Department Citizen's Advisory Council. The purpose of the Council is to meet with Topeka Police Chief Bill Cochran to discuss changes, new programs, and initiatives within the Topeka Police Department. It is also an opportunity for members to give feedback, whether it is good or bad, about the direction the department is headed. When John Nave was on the City Council, he was also on the Law Enforcement Partnership panel.

He developed a program for the Shawnee County juvenile jail and all Corrections officers. He taught from a safety mindset that police protect the public using deadly force if necessary, and if all options are gone including de-escalation techniques. Once an officer put cuffs on an individual, you then are to protect them from all harm and perform a mental and physical assessment immediately.

- **Dr. Shannon Portillo, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs KU Edwards Campus & School of Professional Studies**

Shannon Portillo, Ph.D. serves as associate dean of the University of Kansas Edwards Campus and the School of Professional Studies and as an associate professor in the School of Public Affairs and Administration at the University of Kansas. After graduating from

KU, she served as a faculty member in the Criminology, Law & Society Department at George Mason University just outside of Washington D.C.

Dr. Portillo's scholarship explores how formal policies and rules and informal social norms and societal hierarchies shape the work of public organizations. She is specifically interested in how racism and sexism impact organizations and workers' experiences both historically and currently. Her work helps scholars and practitioners understand how inequities have been institutionalized in public organizations, including courts, policing, city management, higher education, and the military. Her work has appeared in a broad array of academic and popular outlets, and she is currently working on her second book.

- **Chief Gordon Ramsay, Chief of Police – Wichita Police Department**

Chief Gordon Ramsay was appointed as the Wichita Police Chief in January 2016. Prior to coming to Wichita, he worked his way up the ranks at Duluth Minnesota Police Department. In Duluth he was appointed as chief in 2006 at the age of 34 and was the youngest chief in the city's history. Chief Ramsay began his career at the age of 20 and has been committed to the community policing philosophy since the beginning. As Wichita Police Department Chief, he has focused on pushing officers closer to the communities they serve, building relationships, increasing the use of technology, and reducing crime.

Currently, Chief Ramsay is on the Board of Directors for the Wichita area YMCA's, a board member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Central Kansas and is a board member of the Council of State Governments Justice Center.

- **Elyse Towey, Tribal Treasurer – Executive Committee of the Iowa Tribe**

Elyse Towey is an enrolled member of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska. She is also Otoe and Menominee. Towey graduated from Haskell Indian Nations University in 1995, received her bachelor's in elementary education from University of Kansas in 1999, and her master's degree focusing in Tribal Government and Tribal Law from University of Kansas in 2009. Towey was elected to the Executive Committee of the Iowa Tribe in 2019 and will serve a four-year term as the tribal treasurer. Her company, Independently Indigenous, is a woman owned business and she has been working for over 20 years to assist Tribal Nations and communities in building tribal sovereignty through expansion of tribal vision, design, and capacity. She has experience in Indigenous environmental and regenerative Nation building movements to re-develop ecologically, culturally, and economically thriving and resilient Native Nations.

- **Catalina Velarde, Overland Park, Attorney and Adjunct Professor – UMKC School of Law, Johnson County**

Catalina Velarde is an attorney in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Her primary areas of practice are immigration and family law. She is also a certified civil and family law mediator and guardian ad litem. An immigrant and native of Mexico who became a U.S. citizen in high school, Catalina is uniquely poised to understand the perspective of the noncitizen, Latinx community. With her fluency in Spanish, she strives to guide persons unfamiliar with U.S. law enforcement and justice systems through the challenges these systems present. She is often seen working with community groups and giving presentations to immigrant and nonimmigrant communities alike.

Since 2012, Catalina has brought her insight back to her alma mater. As an Adjunct Professor at UMKC School of Law, she teaches Multicultural Lawyering and Spanish for Lawyers, a course focused on teaching prospective attorneys the cross-linguistic and cross-cultural nuances of serving Spanish-speaking clientele. Through the law school's Continuing Legal Education department, she serves as an annual speaker at one of the law school's popular CLE programs. Since 2015, Catalina has served on the Overland Park Police Department Independent Citizen Advisory Board for Racial Profiling and Nonbiased Policing. The board, which meets quarterly, reviews the findings of the investigations of OPPD's Professional Standards Unit pursuant to citizen complaints of racial profiling or biased policing. Since 2018, Catalina has been a board member at El Centro, Inc., a non-profit corporation whose mission is to strengthen communities and improve the lives of Latinos and others through educational, social, and economic opportunities.

- **Jackson Winsett, Assistant Vice President – Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City**

Jackson Winsett is the assistant vice president and community affairs officer for the seven states of the Tenth Federal Reserve District which includes Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Colorado, northern New Mexico, and western Missouri. Jackson is responsible for overseeing research, resource development and outreach initiatives that promote community development and fair and impartial access to credit. He develops the Bank's community and economic development strategy, leads the execution of programs, and manages the Community Development Advisory Council.

Mr. Winsett joined the Bank in 2015 after holding various leadership positions at Navy Federal Credit Union and the IBM Corporation. For more than 20 years, Jackson has utilized his blend of business and technical knowledge across a broad range of industries by defining and implementing technology, business and operational improvement solutions that aligned with business strategies and objectives to grow revenue and strengthen performance.