

2024 College & Career Village Panel & Presentation Guide



CCV Post-Secondary Planning Presentations

Presentation Title:

ASVAB Career Exploration Program
College Essay Writing - *Session 1 Only*
FAFSA & Financial Aid -
Interviewing Skills
Majoring in Business & Collegiate FBLA
Military Careers [Session 2]
MO S&T Mobile STEM Lab - Room 342
Hands-on, interactive STEM activity
NCAA Eligibility Center - [Session 2]
Resume Writing
~~Selective College Admissions~~ - **CLOSED**
Vocational Rehabilitation - Room 327

Presenter:

Alicia Nance, US Army
Madison Stogsdill, Truman State
Colleen Brown, Columbia College
Brittany Butler, VU
Thad, Anna, Kristyn, Phil - MU Seniors
Henry Neurohr, US Army
Justin Sanders, MO S&T

Andrea Benna, Univ. of Missouri
Amanda Wooden
Sally Moore, University of Tulsa
Jordan Allen, VR Counselor

CCV Career Panels

ARTS & COMMUNICATION

Panel 1 [Session 2]

Jodie Jackson: Editor and Writer, The COMO Companies

I am a lifelong journalist (40+ years), serving mainly as a **newspaper sportswriter, feature writer, and news reporter**, with time spent as editor and assistant editor. Currently I am editor of COMO Magazine and COMO Business Times, with prior experience as editor at Missouri Life magazine. I once owned my own weekly newspaper (2004-2008). My education includes UCM-Warrensburg, Lincoln University, and Mizzou.

Steve Lambson: News Content Manager, KOMU 8 News

I'm a Columbia native (Hickman graduate) and have been in the news business for 17 years, working entirely in mid-Missouri as a **news producer or a news content manager**. I have a bachelor's degree in Journalism and a master's degree in Russian Studies, both from the University of Missouri. My main responsibilities include **managing incoming news stories** and ideas and information, and helping to pass that on to reporters and producers while also helping reporters with their daily assignments.

Lindsey Martin: Lead Trainer, Boone County Joint Communications

I'm Lindsey, and I've had the privilege of working at Boone County Joint Communications for nearly 10 years. I began my journey as an Emergency Telecommunicator (ETC) and have since advanced to the role of Lead Trainer. In this position, I've trained over 50 employees with various backgrounds, teaching them how to handle emergency and non-emergency calls and effectively dispatch them to first responders, in both one-on-one training and leading group sessions. It's rewarding to see new team members grow in their roles and become confident in their abilities. I hold an Associate's Degree from MACC, but much of my growth comes from attending conferences, earning job-specific certifications, and reading leadership books. Learning from mentors has also been instrumental in shaping my approach to training and leadership.

Jessica Robinson: Chief PR Strategist, Rooster Strategy

Jessica has worked in every facet of communications from media to marketing, and crisis response to corporate brand strategy. Throughout her career, she has influenced more than 20,000 news stories as both a spokesperson and PR liaison. She has experience in politics, green energy, tech, and agriculture. She holds a **master's in strategic communications and a bachelor's from Mizzou's top-ranked journalism school**.

Panel 1B [SESSION 2]

Jen Lee: Artistic Director, Columbia Performing Centre

As Competition Director at Columbia Performing Arts Centre, I manage the conceptual design of yearly competition focus including choreography, music, costumes and dancer education. I was a professional dancer in Branson and Las Vegas in my younger years, so I have worked both in front of and behind the scenes.

Chioma Obianinwa: Senior Journalist, BBC

Chioma Obianinwa's experience as a **broadcast journalist** spans more than 16 years in **digital, television, radio and print media**. She and her team built the BBC Igbo language digital service from 0 to more than 1.5 million followers on facebook and hundreds of thousands followers on Instagram. Chioma is currently doing her Master's program at the School of Journalism, the University of Missouri where she has reported for the Columbia Missourian. This Summer, she and her Innovation in Focus team at the Reynold Journalism Institute researched and built a map for visualization of candidates in the Legislative race in South Dakota. Chioma's excellence in her **television anchoring career was rewarded with a "newscaster of the year award"** in 2013. She has mentored more than 500 younger journalists as a trainer.

Trent Rash: Executive Director, The Missouri Symphony

TRENT RASH serves as the **Executive Director of The Missouri Symphony**. In this position, he oversees the day-to-day operations of MOSY, which has been a cultural mainstay of the Columbia community since 1970. He is also an adjunct voice professor at the University of Missouri School of Music. Trent previously was an **Assistant Professor of Music & Musical Theatre** at Stephens College. He serves on the boards of the Quorus (Columbia's LGBTQIA+ community choir) and Landlocked Opera (Columbia's professional opera company), is a co-chair of the Columbia littleChamber of Commerce small business committee, is a Columbia Certified Tourism Ambassador, and is a member of the Columbia ACA Business Club.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Panel 2

Brian Asbury: Marketing Representative, Minuteman Press of Columbia

I have been in sales for over 25 years. I used to be a **Realtor but now a marketing rep**. We do all print, promotional products as well as vinyl and laser engraving servicing all of Mid Missouri.

Nikki Carter: Director, Belonging & Community Impact, MU Health Care

Dr. Nikki Carter is the Director of Belonging and Community Impact at MU Health Care, where she fosters an inclusive environment for employees, patients, and the community. She **manages employee resource groups, oversees career advancement initiatives, and leads youth programs** like Tomorrow's Health Care Experts, which introduces students to healthcare careers. Previously, Dr. Carter was the Executive Director of the Inclusive Impact Institute, a DEI-focused non-profit. She holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Missouri-Columbia, an MBA, a Master of Arts in Human Resources Development from Webster University, and a Bachelor of Science in Business from Columbia College.

Robert Little: Reinsurance Account Executive, Shelter Reinsurance

As a non-traditional college student, obtained a **bachelor's degree in Personal Financial Planning** from the University of Missouri. Upon graduation, secured a position in the Claims Department at Shelter Insurance, where for 14 years advanced career from an Assistant to a Supervisor. For the last 6 years as an Account Executive for Shelter Reinsurance has managed the Western United States and Texas portfolio. During a 20-year career in insurance, Robert has earned many industry designations to include an Associate in Risk Management (ARM), Associate in Reinsurance (Are), and Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU), widely considered the most distinguished designation offered in the insurance industry. The role of a Reinsurance Account Executive allows the opportunity to travel domestically, and abroad, seeking partnerships with insurance carriers to underwrite their risk exposure, either on an individual risk basis, proportionate share basis, or entire portfolio basis.

Brianna Lowe: HR Recruiter, Central Bank of Boone County

I graduated from the University of Missouri in December of 2022. While in college, I worked as a Teller at Central Bank. I left the bank for a HR position at a landscaping company here in Columbia and I was there for 3 years before coming back to the bank as the **HR Recruiter**. I started this position just a few weeks ago and am excited to be back! In my current job position, I recruit for all positions at Central Bank of Boone County.

Ashleigh Meyer: Organizational Development Manager, Warrenton Oil Company (FastLane)

After 16 years in the casino industry (operations, HR, and management), I moved on to WOCO to work as the Organizational Development Manager in Human Resources. My primary focus is developing and facilitating training programs for the company, primarily retail operations leadership. I also **help with recruiting and handling employee relations issues, along with development planning and daily HR tasks**. WOCO owns hotels, FastLane Convenience Stores, transportation trucks, and a DQ, allowing for many career paths.

Andy Ribaud: Chief Financial Officer, MEM Mutual Insurance Company

I was a Math major in college (UConn!) and began my career as an actuary. After earning my credentials, and working as an actuary for many years, I moved into broader financial roles, and ultimately was appointed CFO of a business unit at my prior employer, working overseas in their London office. After returning to the US, we moved to Columbia for my current role, **CFO at MEM**. I am a Fellow off the Casualty Actuarial Society (FCAS), a Chartered Financial Analyst charterholder (CFA) and a **Certified Public Accountant** (CPA), along with several other insurance designations.

Panel 3 - [SESSION 2]

Abigail Beeler: Program Manager, Missouri Women's Business Center

Abigail joined the Missouri Women's Business Center in 2023. She brings experience in a variety of fields to her role as Program Manager, **including healthcare, the nonprofit sector, social media, small business development, and economic development**. Abigail is also a **small business owner**. The best part of her job is teaching and interacting with the small business clients she sees every day!

Jim Chapdelaine: Senior Vice President/Technical Services, Central Bank

Jim has been an **IT leader** for over 35 years and is currently Sr Vice President of Technical Services at The Central Trust Bank (Central Bank). He leads the IT professionals providing Mainframe, Database, Service Desk, Cybersecurity, Networking, ATM, and Server Administration technical support and services for the bank and branches across 9 states. Previously, he was the **CIO for the City of Columbia** and prior to that was with IBM in various programming, account

management, and executive positions. Jim has a Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and a Master of Public Affairs degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia.

Raynese Deason: Funeral Director/Office Coordinator, Parker-Millard Funeral Service

As the office coordinator I keep the office schedule for arrangements meetings, make sure we have stuff for service, take care of ordering, and coordinate the transportation of human remains for work we do between funeral homes. As a funeral director I plan funeral services in arrangements, work funeral services, get people dressed and placed in their caskets for funerals as well as cosmetics.

Ryan Deason: Preneed, Monument, & Cemetery Specialist, Parker-Millard Funeral Service

Ryan is in charge of preplanning, monuments, and cemetery sales, which is pre planned and prepaying for funeral services. He drafted monuments, benches, plaques, etc. for cemetery property, as well as selling cemetery property for The Historic Columbia Cemetery.

Diamond Scott: Director of Human Resources, The Kroenke Group

Diamond Scott is a graduate of Rock Bridge High School and attended the University of Missouri where she earned her Bachelors in Journalism in 2009. She also attended [law school at Mizzou](#), earning her Juris Doctorate in 2013. She has worked in a variety of fields, ranging from a marketing startup, working in civil rights and Title IX at Mizzou, and now serves as a [human resources professional at one of the nation's leading commercial real estate development firms](#).

Panel 4 - [SESSION 2]

Lisa Driskel Hawxby: Business Development Specialist, Regional Economic Development, Inc

As REDI's Business Development Specialist, Lisa has four main objectives; to serve as a liaison between local government and private industry, recognize and celebrate existing businesses in Boone County, participate in efforts to address workforce development challenges, and to raise awareness of REDI and its mission by educating the public about the positive economic impacts of capital investment and job creation. Lisa is no stranger to small business as she and her husband owned DogMaster Distillery, Central Missouri's first craft distillery, for ten years. In January 2024, she put her creative talents to work and [established a new business, Embellished, focused on custom fashion accessories, luxury goods and gifts, mixed media art, and special occasion design](#).

Jeremy Kiesewetter: Insurance Agency Owner, Goosehead Insurance

I am a Rock Bridge and Mizzou grad, majored in Financial Planning. Upon Graduation I started my career at State Farm, after spending 4 yrs at State Farm I [opened my own insurance agency from scratch](#). My day to day consists of everything from quoting and presenting insurance options, meeting with community and referral partners, leading and managing my team to doing payroll and bookkeeping. This job offers unlimited growth and no two days are the same.

Alycia Lewis: Owner, Shakespeare's Pizza

[Bachelor of Journalism](#) from University of Missouri. Spent some time in graphic design and marketing locally, then moved into the "Family Business" in 2010. Current focus is [marketing, social media](#), frozen pizza fundraising and grocery sales, employee relations, and pizza partying. Working with 170 employees in 4 different departments.

Shand Glenn: Enterprise Architect, Cockroach Labs

20 years of experience in the [IT field](#) starting focusing in Data. Started as a COBOL programmer and moved to Database Administrators, currently a Cloud Enterprise Architecture. I have a passion for ensuring data availability for all of my customers all of the time.

Tiffany Palmero: Recruiter/Talent Acquisition, The Walt Disney Company

Tiffany has a BA in Human Development and Family Studies, and a HR Management Certification. While the first 12 years of her career were in the field of sports management, she later transitioned into **Talent Acquisition/HR**. She has been with The Walt Disney Company for the last 27 years and is currently recruiting for Disney Internships.

Adam Reed: Title/Closing Specialist, Boone Central Title Co

I was born in Columbia and attended Rock Bridge, before going to William Woods University. There I studied **Sports Management and Business**. After college I worked a number of jobs at MBS before taking my current role at Boone-Central Title. My primary role at BCT is as a Closing Agent, **facilitating real estate transactions**. Most real estate deals have lots of parties involved and lots of moving parts so I work to simplify the process as much as possible for our customers.

Panel 5 — [CLOSED]

Panel 6

Darby Christian: Audit Senior, Williams-Keepers, LLC

Darby joined Williams-Keepers LLC (a public accounting firm) in 2023 and serves as an audit senior for a wide range of clients, including insurance, governments, not-for-profits, employee benefit plans, and public employee retirement systems. Darby graduated from the University of Central Missouri with a bachelor's degree and **master's degree in accountancy**.

Abraham Dyer: Assistant Director, Enrollment Management Communications, Univ. of Missouri

Marketing strategy and operations leader, removing barriers to Higher Education, bringing talented students to the University of Missouri, supporting them on their path to become successful adults.

Mizzou alumnus, photojournalism/interdisciplinary studies. Campaign designer. Team developer/process maven.

Jennifer Feltner: Owner/CEO, Superior Blessings, LLC

I have a MBA (HR Emphasis) and a BA Psychology. My expertise is in **Talent Acquisition, Recruitment, and Staffing Solutions** in all industries. In my current job, I focus on workforce development and strategic planning and execution with businesses and organizations statewide.

Robert Flynn: Proprietor & Gemologist, Betz Jewelers

Robert Flynn began his professional journey in the United States Marine Corps, where he developed leadership and discipline. After his **military service**, he spent 7 years in **restaurant management**, building a strong foundation in customer service and business operations. In 2012, Robert joined his father-in-law, L.C. Betz, at Betz Jewelers and pursued further education at the Gemological Institute of America. He is now the only graduate gemologist working in a retail setting in the Columbia area. For the past 8+ years, he and his wife, Rachel, have managed Betz Jewelers together, and in January 2024, they became co-owners of the family business. As a **4th generation jeweler**, Robert continues to uphold the family legacy, combining his gemological expertise with a passion for quality and customer service.

Brandi Herrman: Owner, Brandi Herrman Communications - Marketing

Brandi **owns a marketing and communications agency** where she guides small businesses and nonprofits. Some specialties include social media marketing, content creation, and a holistic approach to marketing strategy.

Matt Hudson: Relationship Manager, NQM Funding LLC

I do data analysis and loan processing for investor loans in the **real estate industry**.

Panel 7 [SESSION 2]

Rodney Dixon: Recruiter, Equipment Share

I am a Columbia native and Hickman High School Alumni (Class of 2011). After graduating high school, I initially pursued a degree in Nursing before transitioning to **Business Administration**. Since graduating college, I have had experience across various different industries ranging from Banking to Sales and now find myself in the **Human Resources/Talent Acquisition field**. I believe that my versatile experience is one of my greatest strengths as a professional and I look forward to sharing more about my experiences with you!

Derek Kent: Business Owner, Smoothie King, Jersey Mike's, CrossFit Verus

I graduated from Truman State University in 2004 with a business/economics degree. I **own multiple Smoothie King and Jersey Mike's locations across Missouri and I own a CrossFit gym, CrossFit Verus, in South Columbia**. I was in orthopedic/medical device sales for 17 years prior to resigning from Corporate America to run my own business full time.

Jerome Larkins: Recruiter, Blattner Energy

Passionate Renewable Energy Recruiter | Connecting Talent with Sustainable Futures and I thrive on helping candidates find the perfect roles. Unapologetic extrovert, travel fanatic, sneakerhead, and Definitely "in"doorsy.

Yihsiang Liow: Associate Professor of Computer Science, Columbia College

Dr. Liow started software development more than 20 years ago when he was in high school. His first project was a just-in-time scheduling software for a U.S conglomerate. Since then he has worked in the government and public sectors, both in large and small organizations. The roles he has played includes system administration, systems development at all levels and team management. The systems he worked on includes data processing, business applications and production scheduling. He has developed systems for both the mainframes and the Web. He also has done research and development work, including the development of an encryption chip for HP and Motorola. Dr. Liow has a PhD from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Emma McClellan: Sales & Use Tax Manager, EquipmentShare

I am a **tax accountant** that specializes in sales tax for EquipmentShare. I have a **finance & banking degree from Mizzou and went back for a Masters in Accounting from Washington University in St. Louis** a few years into working. I file monthly tax returns all over the county and work with state agencies to ensure our tax collection procedures are in line with state laws. Tax accounting is mostly problem solving with a big focus in data analysis and legal compliance that makes for a challenging and engaging career.

Kyle Reynolds: Portfolio Manager, Commerce Trust

Currently, I work as an investment manager for Commerce Trust where I help individuals and institutions navigate current economic and financial market conditions. As a fiduciary advisor, my daily activities include meeting with clients, trading dollars within their investment portfolios and providing strategic advice to help them achieve their life goals. Prior to being an investment manager, I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Columbia College and earned the designations of CERTIFIED **FINANCIAL PLANNER**™ (CFP®) and Certified Investment Management Analyst® (CIMA®). Additionally, I've fulfilled the role of Research Analyst for a registered independent advisor and various retail banking positions.

Ralph Terwelp: President, Terwelp Upholstery

I graduated from Mizzou in 1980 during a big recession and was not able to find employment. I was fortunate that my wife had a good job. I helped a friend teach an upholstery class at the career center while I was searching for work and when she quit, I took over her teaching position. I taught for 20 years, which allowed me to grow my business. My business grew to 10 employees by being active in the community, and the school system and doing the best work I could do. We upholstered furniture, cars, boats and motorcycle seats for about 20 years and then moved into the county where I could work out of my home. We quit doing all but furniture because that was what I liked to do. I now work part time with 1 employee as I move toward retirement.

Panel 8 [CLOSED]

Panel 9 Business Mgmt & Tech / Health Services [SESSION 2]

Geoff Custer: Pharmacist Consultant Sr: Elevance Health

I graduated from Rock Bridge in 1994, from MIZZOU with a bachelor's in **biochemistry** in 1998, and from UMKC with a PharmD in 2006. After **pharmacy** school, I did an inpatient residency in St. Louis and started my current role in the summer of 2007. My job within an insurance company involves helping insurance members with medication issues related to drug information, side effects, dose/regimen optimization, adherence, and access to medication.

Laura Schemel: Director, Marketing and Communications, MU Health Care

Laura has spent over 20 years in the marketing industry, holding positions in sales, research and strategy functions. Before joining MU Health Care, she led the marketing research practice for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital where she developed brand research tracking systems, led advertising and message testing and served on the brand core team. In her current role at MU Health Care, Laura is responsible for the **marketing and communications** efforts of the health system, leading the brand and marketing strategy, digital, creative, content and event planning teams.

Dr. Adam Wehner: Executive Director, Truman VA Medical Research Foundation

Adam Wehner, DHA, MPH serves as the Executive Director of the Truman VA Medical Research Foundation at the Truman VA Medical Center in Columbia, MO. Before accepting the Executive Director position, Dr. Wehner worked for the American Red Cross **Biomedical Services and as a dental assistant** while in college. The various employment opportunities into different healthcare industries equipped him with advanced knowledge and leadership skills in healthcare management and policy, research, and finance. Dr. Wehner's career includes significant roles in **healthcare administration**, where he has contributed to enhancing organizational effectiveness and public health initiatives with Missouri's Veterans. Dr. Wehner is an alumna of Truman State University (Kirksville, MO; Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science- Pre-Medicine) and A.T. Still University College of Graduate Health Studies (Kirksville, MO; Master of Public Health and Doctor of Health Administration).

Lori Whitesides: Senior Integration Architect, Oracle Center & Tiger Institute

Lori is a twelve-year associate of Oracle Health (previously Cerner Corporation), currently serving as the Program Manager between Oracle Health's Tiger Institute, MU Healthcare, and industry partners. She received a Bachelor of Science in **Industrial Engineering and Master of Business Administration** from the University of Missouri prior to joining Oracle Health. Throughout her career, she has held various roles focusing on IT product optimization, performance improvement, and healthcare value realization. In her current role as Industry Partnerships & Research Program Manager at Tiger Institute, Lori **works closely with MU Healthcare leaders to enable integration with hospital IT systems** and support research teams with integrating technology with the health system.

Panel 10 Business Mgmt & Tech / Industrial & Engineering Tech [SESSION 1]

Suzanne Bond: Director, Supply Chain & Distribution: MU Health Care

I am the director for all supply locations for MU Health Care and our integrated hospital, Capital Regional Medical Center in Jefferson City, MO. I **lead over a team of 85 + employees in different areas of the hospital, warehousing, distribution & logistics and fleet management over couriers**. We supply the hospital supplies and equipment clinicians need to take care of patients. As a director for MU Health Care, I have a **bachelor's in computer information systems and a master's in health administration**.

Thomas Burgess: Training Coordinator, Boilermakers Local 83

I have dedicated 25 years to the boilermaking trade, progressing from an apprentice with limited knowledge of the profession to roles including Journeyman, Foreman, General Foreman, Superintendent, and currently, Training Coordinator. Initially, I entered the trade with only a high school diploma; however, I have since acquired specialized

certifications and training throughout my career. In my current role, I engage in similar responsibilities to those I had as a jobsite Superintendent, such as **developing budgets, planning training improvement projects, scheduling tasks, and evaluating apprentice performance**. Additionally, this position allows me to work closely with a greater number of apprentices, focusing on skill development and enhancement more effectively than I could in a jobsite setting.

Tad King: Branch Manager, MHC Kenworth Columbia

Tad King - Branch Manager of MHC Kenworth Columbia truck dealership. Earned Bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Missouri and a **Masters of Business Administration** from Baker University. I have been with MHC Kenworth for 20 years and have held positions previously as Management Trainee, Outside Salesperson, Parts Manager, prior to the current Branch Manager role. I am responsible for all personnel and the full day to day operations of the dealership which consists of New and Used sales, Parts, and Service departments which service the heavy duty truck industry.

Sara Snodderley: Director of Workforce Development and Recruitment

Beginning her career in the **Marketing** arena to now **developing, recruiting and retaining company talent**; Sara currently works for **Emery Sapp & Sons one of the largest heavy civil contractors in the Midwest** headquartered in Columbia, Missouri. Giving 10 years toward building a first class Marketing department for a well known non-for-profit associated with the Masonic Order, to now turning her attention to the field of Recruitment and Employee Retention & Development for a large scale Heavy Civil Construction Contractor for the past 11 years, in which she was able to be on the ground level to assist in the development of the newly created non-for-profit, the ESS Foundation. Sara prides herself for her honesty and her ability to implement ideas and plans in order to achieve short and long term objectives.

Steven Torres: Project Executive-Field Operations Manager, Coil Construction

I am a 45 year construction professional with both extensive field and management experience in Technology, Biotech, Pharma, and commercial construction on projects up to \$1 billion. I have held **management positions in construction including Vice-President , Director of Sales, Senior Superintendent, and Senior Project Manager**. California State University - Fresno , Business Administration, American Welding Society Certified Welder and Inspector, International Society of Pharmaceutical Engineers.

Panel 11

Dorrie Crawford: Claim Specialist, State Farm

I have been with State Farm for 17 years. I investigate auto accidents to determine fault. I have a BSBA.

Jerrell Jackson: Owner, API Elite

Hi, I'm Jerrell Jackson and I graduated from Mizzou with a bachelor's degree in health science, **previously played in the NFL**, and now own and operate a gym named API Elite. In my current role, I **combine my health expertise with your sports industry** background to lead a top-tier fitness/sports facility, focusing on elite training programs that push clients to achieve their peak performance.

Kevin James: Communications Officer, United States Air Force

For 25 years I served as a **Communications / Cyberspace Operations officer** in the US Air Force. I received a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Colorado State University and was commissioned through the AF ROTC program. Throughout my career I worked in various positions in the "IT" field. This included software and database development, network and infrastructure management, program management, and cyber security. While my experience was in a military setting, we partnered closely with commercial IT companies. I was fortunate to work with several of the largest commercial technology companies as we applied their solutions to our Air Force needs. In concert with my IT experience, I held various leadership / management roles, received two Masters Degrees, and helped develop organizational policy and strategies. I culminated my career in a position that was like the "city manager" of an Air Force Base. I oversaw our police, fire, roads, building maintenance, base IT, outsourcing, human resources, recreation, food services, and more ... everything that made the base like a "small city."

Liz Lea: VP Software Engineering, Veterans United Home Loans

Liz is originally from the Chicagoland area and moved to Columbia after being **recruited to play volleyball at Columbia College**. She graduated with a BS in Business with emphasis in Marketing and Management and a Minor in Computer Information Systems. She started her career in Software Business Analysis, Testing and Project Management, and then grew into a variety of management roles. She is **currently the Vice President of Software Engineering at Veterans United**, leading a department of about 200 people delivering solutions that improve the home buying experience for our veterans

Mark Riebe: Chief Financial Officer, CTI Gas

Mark Riebe is the CFO of a manufacturing and service company, Calibration Technologies, here in town. He **manages the accounting, compliance and IT teams** for the company. He recently moved there from Orscheln Farm & Home, where he was the CFO and CIO, leading the company through the sale of the business to Tractor Supply. Mark has consulted with small businesses for over 20 years and has held roles in FP&A, treasury, budgeting and forecasting for companies ranging from \$30 million in sales to multi-billion dollar retail organizations. Mark has his **BBA Finance** from Iowa State University, and MBA from Benedictine University.

Panel 12 [SESSION 2]**Khesha Duncan: Columbia Regional Director, Better Business Bureau**

Khesha Duncan is currently a Regional Director for the Better Business Bureau. She holds an earned **Master's Degree in Public Administration**, with an emphasis in Public Policy, and a Bachelor's Degree in **Public Communications and Human Relations, with a minor in Journalism**. Prior to working for the BBB, she worked across four different areas in higher education at the University of Missouri. As the BBB's Columbia Regional Director, she does educational presentations for high school students, civic organizations, public libraries, etc.; media interviews on current scam and fraud alerts, and general consumer tips; and overseeing the annual TORCH Awards process for businesses who have displayed exceptional ethical behavior in the marketplace.

Kristen Lux: Co-Founder + Director of Systems Design and Coaching, For the Love of Systems

Kristen Lux co-owns For the Love of Systems (FTLOS), a **business coaching and consulting firm** focused on people, processes, and performance. With over two decades of experience in small business operations, Kristen brings unparalleled insight and expertise to her role at FTLOS. Her diverse operations background spans hospitality, commercial real estate, and solar industries, offering a comprehensive perspective on team experience, client experience and operational efficiency. As a Certified Director of Operations and Habit Story coach, Kristen masterfully combines cutting-edge systems design with a deep understanding of human behavior. Her approach, rooted in time-tested hospitality principles, ensures meticulous attention to every detail, resulting in seamless and elevated experiences for both teams and clients

Emily Miller: Owner and Interior Designer, Miller Interiors

Emily Miller is the Owner and Lead **Interior Designer** of Miller Interiors, an interior design firm focused on commercial environments. She graduated from the University of Missouri with a Bachelor of Science in Human Environmental Sciences, Architectural Studies, Emphasis: Interior Design. Before launching her firm in 2023, she spent the majority of her career in interior design and project management roles first with the University of Missouri and then MU Health Care. She received her NCIDQ certification in 2016 and became a registered Interior Designer with the State of Missouri in 2018.

Kourtney Pickel: Property Manager, McCarty Property Investments, LLC

With a **bachelor's degree in marketing**, my career has been down many roads leading me to my current role for the last 6 years as a full-time property manager & I also **manage 3 real estate agents social media accounts**, which allows me a creative outlet outside of my job

Allyson Small: Recruiter, Veterans United Home Loans

Hi there! I'm Allyson and I'm a **Recruiter** at Veterans United Home Loans. In my current role, I lead our team's Campus Recruitment initiatives. That includes **interviewing and hiring**, and repping VU at a variety of career fairs across Missouri. I'm lucky to work with a lot of people across many college campuses to bring great interns to VU! Before VU, I studied Hospitality Management at Mizzou and graduated with a Bachelor of Science and a Minor in Business in August of 2020. Before I was a Recruiter, I **was in Event Management and planned a variety of events for a few different organizations**. My events career led me to Veterans United, where I worked on our Events Team for 4 years, before transferring to my current role as a Recruiter.

HEALTH SERVICES

Panel 13 [CLOSED]

Amy Bentingnan: Occupational Therapist, Columbia Public Schools

My name is Amy Bentingnan and I am an Occupational Therapist for Columbia Public Schools. I graduated from Southeast Mo State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, and from the University of Indianapolis with a Master of Science degree in Occupational Therapy. Over the years, I have worked in a variety of healthcare and community settings which include: inpatient acute care and rehabilitation, outpatient pediatric clinic, home health, long-term care, and day program rehabilitation.

In the school setting, I collaborate regularly with teachers and learning specialists to support students to participate in school routines and access the curriculum. More specifically, I work closely with teachers to adjust presentation of instruction, embed learning opportunities, alter positioning, or modify materials to support the student's participation in specialized instruction.

Tammy Connolly: Registered Nurse, University Hospital

My name is Tammy Connolly. I've been a RN for 30 years. I worked in the pediatric ICU for 10 years and was the night supervisor for 5 years. I work in staff health, occupational med, and work injury for 20 years and urgent care for 1 year. When I worked in the ICU I cared for critically ill children and their families. During my years in clinic I gave flu shots, covid shots, completed all new hires and provided support for patients exposed to blood, body fluids and infectious diseases.

Jeff Galen: Program Director Nuclear Medicine, University of Missouri

I currently run the Mizzou Nuclear Medicine training program, I am a former Director of Radiology. Nuc Med is one of the most exciting 4 year degrees available with a pathway straight to Med School

Johnathan Mallott: Dentist, Keen Dental Care

I graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a BS in Biology and the University of Missouri-Kansas City with a DDS. I served in the U.S. Army as a Brigade Dental Surgeon with the 101st Airborne before moving to private practice in Columbia. I am currently the only Dentist at Keen Dental Care.

Panel 14 [CLOSED]

Jennifer Bean: Registered Dietitian, Associate Teaching Professor & Interim Director Accelerated Master's Program in Dietetics

Jennifer Bean is a dedicated professional who is passionate about helping people understand and apply healthy eating principles. She is currently working as an Associate Teaching Professor and Interim Program Director for the Master's Coordinated Program in Dietetics at the University of Missouri—Columbia. Jennifer is also a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and Licensed Dietitian, which means she has special training to help people with their nutrition needs. She is working on her Doctor of Philosophy degree, focusing on how our bodies absorb and use Vitamin D, which is an important nutrient for strong bones and overall health. Jennifer has received several awards for her teaching and

research, and she is actively involved in various professional organizations related to nutrition and dietetics. She is also a member of the Missouri Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and has been recognized for her leadership and mentorship in the field. Jennifer's commitment to education and her innovative approach to teaching make her a role model for students interested in pursuing a career in nutrition and health sciences.

Betsy Borsheski: Emergency Medicine Physician, University of Missouri Hospital

I am an emergency medicine physician and have been in my current position in the University of Missouri ER for 13 years. I went to undergrad at the University of Missouri and studied biology. I went to medical school in Kansas City. From there I did my residency in emergency medicine in Columbus, OH. My first job as an attending physician was in Chicago, IL. I spent 3 years practicing medicine in Chicago before moving to my current position at the University. My job consists of taking care of any injured, ill (mentally or physically), or dying patient that comes into the emergency room seeking care.

Shannon Gillespie: Senior Respiratory Therapy Student, University of Missouri Health Care

Shannon is a senior respiratory therapy student from Chicago in the University of Missouri's Respiratory Therapy program. She is also a student assistant in the RT department at University of Missouri Health Care. Previous work experiences at a home care company specializing in respiratory care needs and as a safety monitor for MU Health Care have helped prepare her for a career in respiratory therapy.

Aneesh Tosh: Pediatrician, MU Health Care

Dr. Aneesh Tosh is a pediatrician specializing in adolescent health at MU Health Care. He went to medical school at the University of Missouri and did his pediatric training at the Mayo Clinic. In addition to seeing adolescent patients, he is the pediatric residency program director at Mizzou and advises and teaches medical students and pediatric residents.

Rachael Wittenberger: Physical Therapist/Owner of Wellness Center, Mindful Movement Wellness Center

Graduated with a BHS in health science and also obtained an MBA. I've been practicing physical therapy for 25 years and have had my own clinic for 8 years. I specialize in osteopathic manipulation, biomechanics and functional nutrition and wellness.

Panel 15 [SESSION 1]

Virginia Boomershine: Director, Ambulatory Pharmacy, MU Health Care

A representative from MU Health Care, Department of Pharmacy will be attending this event to speak to pharmacy technician and pharmacist career opportunities. Once the individual is identified a bio can be shared.

Alisha Johnson: Nurse (PhD, RN), University of Missouri

Alisha Johnson has been a nurse for 16 years, starting in the critical care department of a trauma Level I hospital in Texas. She has gone on to teach nurses for 12 years, earned a masters in nursing administration and a doctorate in nursing research and now investigates how to improve care for older adults at the University of Missouri. Dr Johnson loves being a nurse and loves to share and educate others about this unique and vital healthcare role.

Suzanne Patton: Hematologist Oncologist Physician: Delta Locum Tenens- Southwell Regional Hospital, Tifton, GA

4yrs for AB in Biochemistry at Dartmouth College, 5 yrs for PHD at Duke University, 2yr post doc fellowship at NIEHS, 3yr med school at Duke University, 3yr Internal Medicine Residency at John's Hopkins Hospital, 3yrs Hematology Oncology Fellowship at Duke University + 1 extra year. I started post graduate education seeking a PhD in Pharmacology at Duke University, then did a post-doc at NIEHS. There, I decided my initial goal of finding a cure for cancer was unattainable, so I switched career direction to treating cancer patients. I then went to Medical School at Duke Univ, did a residency in Internal Medicine at John's Hopkins, then a Fellowship in Heme-Onc at Duke. I went into private practice for 5 years, then tried academic medicine for a couple years, then back to private practice. At the end

of my career, I worked at the VA Hospital here in Columbia for 7 years, retired a year, then started part-time Locum Tenens, traveling to other states 1 week/month for a little over a year now.

Amy Wexler: Clinical Medical Physicist, University of Missouri - Ellis Fischel Cancer Center

I have a **BS in Physics and a PhD in Nuclear Engineering**. My degree focus was in Medical Physics and I am employed as a Clinical Medical Physicist at University of Missouri Hospital – Ellis Fischel Cancer Center Department of Radiation Oncology. **I am responsible for the accurate measurement of therapeutic radiation** from medical linear accelerators and radioisotopes. I am also involved in the planning of the radiation treatments for cancer patients using either external high energy radiation beams or internal radioactive materials.

Panel 16 [CLOSED]

Tanya Bolte: Pharmacy Director, University of Missouri Health

I deal drugs. As a pharmacist, I started in hospital pharmacy working with various patient populations including psychiatry, palliative care and women's health. I attended pharmacy school and attained a PharmD at the University of Washington. Following years of practice in both the inpatient and outpatient space, I completed an MBA at Mizzou and went into leadership roles including supervising pharmacies, managing and now directing. As a director I ensure that the department meets regulatory requirements as well as ensuring that our team is well equipped to meet the challenges of our ever-evolving patient populations at MU Health.

April Church: Physical Therapist, University of Missouri, Ability Network (First Steps and Schools), RxFunction

April received her bachelor's degree in **Rehabilitation Psychology** from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her Doctor of Physical Therapy from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She **has worked as a Physical Therapist for 44 years** in many settings including outpatient, acute inpatient, inpatient rehab, skilled nursing, early intervention, and schools. She currently works part-time as an outpatient PT for Mizzou Therapy Services in Jefferson City, provides in-home therapy for children ages 0-3 through Missouri First Steps, is the therapist for a few local school districts, and works for RXFunction providing training to veterans on Walkasins, a wearable medical device to assist with their walking and balance.

Skylar King: Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Missouri School of Medicine

Dr. Skylar King is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Surgery at the University of Missouri School of Medicine in Dr. Shi You Chen's **Cardiovascular Biology research lab**. She earned her B.A. in Biology at the University of North Texas (UNT) in December 2014 and her Ph.D. in Biology with a focus in Genetics and Cell Biology under the supervision of Dr. Pamela Padilla at UNT in August 2019. Her current interests include the role of surfactant protein A (SPA) in cardiovascular diseases. Dr. King plans to continue her career in academia by obtaining her own independent research lab with a research focus in translational cardiovascular biology and teaching and mentoring students at the university level.

Lezlie Norris: Physician Assistant, Columbia Ortho Group/Stephens College

Lezlie Norris has been a **licensed physician assistant** in Missouri since 2000, practicing in various specialties within orthopedics. Norris earned a Bachelor of Health Science with emphasis in Radiologic Sciences from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She is a graduate of A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Health Sciences with a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies. Prior to pursuing her career as a physician assistant, Norris **was a registered radiologic technologist** at University Hospital and Clinics in Columbia. Currently, she is the Director of Didactic Education at the Stephens College PA Program and continues to work in surgery with the Columbia Orthopaedic Group.

Panel 17 [SESSION 2]

MaryAnne Dunson Winn: BSN Program Director, Central Methodist University

I am currently the **nursing program director** in Fayette, Missouri. I received my BSN from CMU and started a career as an ICU nurse. My ICU experience led me to serve in the US Army where I was able to do critical care evacuation flights and serve overseas. My current role allows me to help others pursue their dreams and see where nursing will lead them.

Margaret Goodrich: Emergency Medicine Physician, University of Missouri

Margaret Goodrich obtained a Bachelor of Science in Biology prior to entering Medical School. After Medical School, she completed her Residency Training in Emergency Medicine and a Fellowship in Medical Education. In her current role, she works in the Emergency Department, evaluating and managing patients, performing any needed procedures and determining if they need to be admitted to the hospital or are safe to return home. She is also involved in the education of medical students and residents, through both lectures and bedside education while working in the Emergency Department.

Cydney Mayfield: Clinical Research Strategic Initiatives & Project Manager, University of Missouri School of Medicine Office of Research

A 2000 graduate from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a 2003 graduate from the University of Iowa College of Law, MPH and PhD candidate in public health and translational bioscience, Cydney brings a wealth of legislative, advocacy, entrepreneurial, finance, management, compliance, and legal knowledge to the teams she works with. As of December 2023, Cydney is a **registered pharmacy technician** within the state of Missouri assisting investigational pharmacies with DEA and state regulatory requirements. As the Clinical Research Project Manager for Mizzou's School of Medicine CRTSO, Cydney oversees the implementation and set up of all privately funded pharmaceutical clinical trials within the University, as well as oversight for all multisite clinical trials developed within the University.

Keri Salvatore: Audiologist, Oticon Inc

I obtained a Doctorate of Audiology which is 4 years of undergraduate study, 3 years of graduate study, and a 1 year residency. As an audiologist, I test patients' hearing and fit them with hearing protection, hearing aids, and assistive listening devices. I now work for a hearing aid manufacturer where I train audiologists in the field on fitting our hearing aids.

Panel 18 [SESSION 2]

Amy Marrero: Speech Pathologist, Columbia Public Schools

I attended undergraduate and graduate school in Speech/Language Pathology at Texas Christian University. With my degree in Speech Pathology, I have been able to work with children across a variety of settings (in a hospital setting, in-home setting, and school setting). I am currently employed with CPS, and I work with preschool children aged 3-5 years. I provide therapy for articulation (speech), language, fluency (stuttering), and also work with students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing. I have the best job EVER!!!

Eric Pectol: Registered Nurse, Boone Health

I have had my associates degree in nursing and have worked as a nurse in the operating room since 2019. Prior to that I was a surgical technologist from 1994-2019 which is a position that sets up the sterile field and provides the surgeons with needed equipment. I work on the cardio thoracic team performing heart surgery, both open and Endo vascular methods. I am also team lead for peripheral vascular surgery, working as a liaison with staff and surgeons to provide correct instruments, supplies, and maintain surgeon preference cards. I love my job, I've been in the OR 30 years.

Dominick Salvatore: Clinical Pharmacist, UMKC School of Pharmacy at MU

I obtained my Doctor of Pharmacy Degree (PharmD), then completed 2 years of residency to work in clinical pharmacy. I round in the hospital with a medical team and make recommendations on medication therapy for the patients on our service. I also teach PharmD students in the classroom and on clinical rotations. Most of my teaching focuses on antibiotics and infectious diseases.

Dawn Sublette: Occupational Therapist and Faculty, Central Methodist University

I have over 30 years of experience as an Occupational Therapist, working in various settings, including my most recent endeavor of teaching in higher education. I received my bachelor's degree from Mizzou and am completing the last few credits of my master's in public health. CMU has a bachelor's degree program for OT assistants and my passion is to educate others on what OT is, think outside the box to maximize one's recovery and rehabilitation, and ensure I have done the best job at promoting strong therapists transitioning into the healthcare workforce.

Alese Thompson: Medical Laboratory Scientist/Professor, University of Missouri

I am the coordinator for our Clinical Laboratory Science Program at Mizzou. Both my bachelors and masters degrees are in Medical Laboratory Science. I have previously been a program director for a 2-year laboratory program, coordinator for a phlebotomy program and a working Medical Laboratory Scientist in the mid-Missouri area. Medical Laboratory Scientists encompass the behind the scenes patient care team as a "detective" trying to solve what's "right and wrong" with the patient specimens by performing laboratory tests and procedures on patient body fluids and releasing valuable diagnostic information to providers to make a diagnosis.

HUMAN SERVICES

Panel 19

Noel Aloysius: Assistant Professor, University of Missouri

~~I started my career as a construction and structural designs engineer~~ after graduating college with a degree in Engineering. Later, I transitioned into water resources engineering with interests in agricultural water management. After several years in the private sector, I decided to go to graduate school and completed my MS and PhD in Earth Sciences and Environmental Studies at the University of North Dakota and Yale University, respectively. I am now a faculty member at the Department of **Chemical and Biomedical Engineering** at the University of Missouri. Prior to joining Mizzou, I worked as a research scientist at the Ohio State University.

Kevin Barrett: Police Officer/School Resource Officer, Columbia Police Dept.

I am a college grad with a **criminal justice degree**. Before law, I worked with finding kids foster homes. Currently, I work at Rock Bridge HS as a School Resource Officer.

Joy Jackson: Chief Executive Officer/ Attorney, Faber & Brand, LLC

In 2001, I obtained my **B.S. in Political Science from Truman State University**. Then I went on to graduate from University of Missouri, School of Law. I'm licensed to practice law in Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas. I've been a **practicing attorney** with my firm since 2005. I became a partner in the firm in 2010 and I became the CEO in 2021. In my current position I manage a company of approximately 120 employees, including 10 attorneys. We **practice law across nine different states and represent a variety of clients including several large nationwide companies**. My typical day varies, however it may include attending a court hearing, meeting with a client, leading a company team meeting, and often lots of problem-solving.

Terra Nuzum: Tourism Sales Specialist, Columbia Convention & Visitors Bureau

Terra Nuzum, a native of Columbia, Missouri, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Religious Studies from the University of Missouri. She began her career with the City of Columbia over 23 years ago, serving in a variety of roles across different departments. Currently, Terra is the Tourism Sales Specialist at the Columbia Convention & Visitors Bureau, where she leverages her extensive experience to collaborate with meeting planners in attracting conferences and events to Columbia. Her role also involves close **coordination with tourism industry organizations and local hospitality partners** to enhance the city's tourism initiatives.

Sara Parks: Industry Relations Specialist, City of Columbia Convention & Visitors Bureau

Hi! I'm a Columbia native and a former Kewpie ;) I have degrees from Mizzou and Stephens College. I spent 13 years as an elementary teacher, but decided I needed a change of pace last year. Now I help connect the tourism industry in Columbia with the city departments and my job is to be "in the know" about anything a visitor might be interested in when they come to Columbia!

Amy Wilson: Director Early Childhood Special Education, Columbia Public Schools

This is my 30th year in education and my 24th as the **Director of Early Childhood Special Education** for Columbia Public Schools. We provide services for children ages 3-5 who have developmental delays. Early Childhood Special Education is a unique and specialized program where learning is fun!

Panel 20

Austin Clardy: Recruiting Section Chief, Missouri National Guard

With a diverse **background in law enforcement, military service, human resources, supply and logistics, marketing, and sales**, I bring a wealth of experience to my current role as a Recruiter. My educational background includes ongoing studies in criminal justice. In my role, I focus on helping individuals find the right opportunities that align with their skills and goals, while utilizing my varied expertise to guide them toward success.

Andrea Follett: General Counsel (Lawyer), MO Dept. of Labor & Industrial Relations

Andrea Follett is General Counsel for the MO Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. In that role, Follett **provides legal advice and support** to the state agency that oversees unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, and labor standards. She received her BA and JD from the University of MO. In her professional career, Follett has **also worked for the MO Attorney General's Office**, Columbia Public Schools, and MU School of Law.

Tracy Huang: Professor, Director Early Childhood Program, MACC

I have been working in **early childhood education** for 32 years and have worked in various capacities in this field. I have been a teacher, business owner/director in Asia, a trainer, Head of School of a language immersion school in Virginia, and currently, I lead the early childhood programs at MACC and teach the next generation of early childhood teachers. I completed my bachelor's and master's programs in Psychology and Child and Family Development respectively from the Ateneo de Manila University. I also have a masters degree in early childhood special education from the University of Virginia and a doctorate in educational leadership and policy from the University of Missouri.

Jennifer Sykes: Psychologist, MU Thompson Center

Jennifer Sykes, Ph.D. is the Director of Therapeutic and Intervention Services and a **licensed psychologist providing psychological services** at the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment (TC). Her primary responsibilities include autism diagnostic evaluation across the pediatric age range and student supervision and training. She frequently leads training for community members and other professionals on autism, neurodiversity, acceptance, and inclusion and related topics.

Trish Stagg: Social Worker, Boone Hospital

I am a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) with over 20 years of professional experience helping people. My career has been in various settings and I have enjoyed working in areas such as Community and Program Development; Program Management; Leadership; Consulting; Grant Writing; Health Clinics; Hospitals; Hospice; College Instructor; and School Social Work. I am currently working at Boone Hospital as the Emergency Department Social Worker and as a Case Manager for the medical units.

Panel 21 [SESSION 2]

Kerri Graham: Russell Blvd Elementary Principal, Columbia Public Schools

As **principal**, Kerri's primary role is to ensure that Russell Boulevard is a safe, inclusive learning community for all, so everyone is learning, growing, and having fun together. Every day is focused on building relationships and trust, creating and managing systems that support learning, and serving students, staff, and families to help them do and be their best. Kerri has been an educator in Columbia Public Schools her entire career. She "grew up" as a science

teacher at Rock Bridge High School, teaching Biology (General, Honors, and AP) along with a few other classes for 17 years. She then served as Assistant Principal at Jefferson Middle School for 3 years before joining Russell. She earned her BA in Science and Theatre Secondary Education from Marquette University, MEd in School Administration from William Woods, and EdD from the University of Missouri.

Christina Jones: Clinical Case Manager / Licenced Professional Counselor, FACE of Boone County

I joined Family Access Center of Excellence FACE of Boone County in 2019 as a Clinical Case Manager; after earning my Masters degree from Stephen's College. I am obsessed with leveling the playing field and helping families along their journey and supporting the community in hope and healing. As a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) providing people with tools and information is the guiding purpose in my life. I am excited about the commitment that FACE has made to Boone County.

Jonathan Kersha: Investigator, Boone County Prosecuting Attorney

As an **Investigator**, I help to complete investigations on cases for filing, resolution and trial. I gather and distribute existing evidence to prosecution and defense, interview witnesses, collect new evidence and work with Prosecutors to prepare and conduct trials.

Mike Malone: Trooper, Missouri State Highway Patrol

A Missouri State Highway Patrol Trooper is a **law enforcement officer**. Our primary role is to enforce state laws and ensure public safety on highways and rural roads. This includes patrolling roads, responding to accidents, conducting traffic stops, and investigating criminal activities. They also provide assistance during emergencies, enforce regulations related to commercial vehicles, and work on community outreach and education programs to promote safe driving practices. In addition to their road duties, troopers may assist with criminal investigations and collaborate with other law enforcement agencies as needed.

Tyson Mutrux: Chief Executive Officer, Trial Attorney - Lawyer

Tyson Mutrux is an award-winning personal injury attorney and the founder of Mutrux Firm Injury Lawyers, celebrated for his legal advocacy and commitment to innovation in the legal field. He co-hosts The Maximum Lawyer Podcast, where he shares business growth insights with fellow attorneys nationwide.

Don Thalhuber: Missouri State Senate Policy Director for the Minority Caucus, Missouri State Senate

Don began his career as a non-partisan Research Analyst for the Missouri State Senate in 2001. From 2001 to 2007, Don staffed the Education Committee and was responsible for drafting all Education-related legislation for the State Senate. In 2005, the General Assembly passed a new public school funding formula (SB 287) that Don helped develop and was responsible for writing into law. The SB 287 formula is still in operation today, distributing \$4 Billion annually to Missouri's public schools. In 2007, Don was named Policy Director for the Missouri Senate Democrats, a position he still holds. Don has an undergraduate degree in History from The University of Missouri - Columbia and a Masters Degree in Public Affairs from The LBJ School at the University of Texas - Austin.

Panel 22 [SESSION 2]

Tiffany Borst: Mental Health Therapist & Holistic Mental Health Provider, Tiffany Yoga & Psychology

Tiffany Borst has been a **psychotherapist** for 30 years treating the most severe anxiety disorders. She is also a **Yoga instructor, meditation coach and breathwork specialist**, with a passion for helping people heal. Tiffany is the author of the recently published book "Becoming Your Highest Self: A Guided Journal" and the owner of Tiffany Yoga & Psychology. Using her unique blend of movement, meditation and self study she has developed a holistic approach to healing that is bringing about powerful results. Tiffany is on a mission to help people uplift their mood, calm their anxiety, heal from their past and create a life they love.

Terri Foulkes: Executive Director, Missouri AfterSchool Network (MU fiscal agent)

Terri Foulkes is the Executive Director of the Missouri AfterSchool Network. She **leads a team of professionals supporting the afterschool and summer enrichment staff that work directly with children and youth across the**

state. As the ED, she is responsible for the direction and success of the organization. For the past 13 years, she has facilitated the Afterschool Leadership Team (board), written grants to support and expand the services offered by MASN, and hired excellent staff to implement the plan of work. Prior to joining the Network, Terri taught elementary school for three years, facilitated career awareness experiences for middle and high school youth for five years, and was a coordinator for the state's early childhood and school-age/afterschool workforce registry system for eight years.

Amelia Howser: Assistant Professor of Professional Practice - School Counselor, Mizzou Academy

I have a BS degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Women's Studies from Loyola University Chicago, and an M.Ed. in Counseling Psychology with an emphasis on **Secondary School Counseling** from the University of Missouri. I have more than a decade of experience as a school counselor in a variety of settings, and recent experience working in human resources, primarily focused on recruitment and talent acquisition at both public and private organizations. I am passionate about people and social justice, and enjoy applying those passions in my work. I currently support almost 7,000 students in an online K-12 learning environment. Come connect with me!

Betsy Jones: Math Mentor Program Coordinator, Columbia STEM Alliance

I was a Spanish teacher for 13 years and a counselor 18 years, becoming a high school director and district coordinator. I currently support mathematics with the Columbia STEM Alliance at 2 CPS middle schools and sponsor a club at one. I have a passion for working with students to access education and a means to achieve success.

Allie Linder: Hair Stylist

I graduated RB in 2013, graduated MACC in 2015 and graduated cosmetology school in 2016. I worked for 2 years as a commission stylist, then 5 years doing booth rental and for the last year I've been in a private studio. I specialize in blondes and lived-in colors and recently started doing extensions.

Melissa Kinkade: Cosmetic Tattoo Artist and Cosmetologist (1st Session Only)

I am a college graduate turned tattoo artist and hair stylist as well as an RBHS alumni. After attending William Woods University for a degree in Graphic Design and minor in Communications, I attended cosmetology school. After 7 years as a cosmetologist, I completed an apprenticeship to obtain my tattoo license, specializing in cosmetic tattoo. I now own my own business and love to tattoo eyebrows, eyeliner, lips, as well as tattoos for breast cancer survivors.

Panel 23

Angie Azzanni: Co-Director/Co-Founder, Cor Columbia

Angie went to Mizzou and earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Masters degree in Human Development and Family Studies. Following college, Angie worked for ten years as the Program Coordinator for an inner city ministry in Columbia called "Granny's House" and in 2013 started Cor, a non-profit for high school male student athletes, with Travis Craig.

Julia Coggins: Elementary Principal, Columbia Public Schools

I began my career in education as a fourth-grade teacher at Blue Ridge Elementary School here in Columbia. I have also taught at Grant Elementary School and Centralia Intermediate School. Before joining the LSE team, I was the assistant principal at Eliot Battle Elementary School for three years. Prior to my role at Battle Elementary, I was an administrator at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School for two years. My undergraduate education degree is from Evangel University and I hold graduate degrees from the University of Missouri and William Woods. I have three wonderful children Caylee, Clayton, and Clara. My husband and I have known each other our entire lives and have been married for 15 years

Sheri Phillips: Paralegal, Evans & Dixon

I have been a **paralegal** for approximately 25 years. I have worked in personal injury **law** and family law. I have been working in family law for the last 14 years. I love my job and the opportunity to help others through difficult situations.

Victor Price: Associate Registrar, University of Missouri

My name is Victor Price, and I have worked at the University of Missouri for 28 years in the Office of the University Registrar. As an Associate Registrar I am responsible for managing a team of employees who provide expertise for specific functional areas of our office. Over my long career as a higher education administrator, I have held several different positions in the University Registrar's office and prior to coming to Mizzou at a couple other universities. My educational experience includes a Bachelor of Science degree from Missouri State, a Master of Education degree from Drury University and an Educational Specialist degree from the University of Arkansas.

Tyler Reyes: Military and Veteran Recruitment Program Manager, EquipmentShare

Tyler Reyes oversees the EquipmentShare Military and Veteran Recruitment Program, which is one of the top military recruitment programs in the country. Prior to joining EquipmentShare, Tyler worked as the Director of Career Services at the Mizzou College of Engineering. Before his time at Mizzou, Tyler worked in Enrollment Management at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, MO.

Panel 24 [CLOSED]

Panel 25

Mallory Compas: Health Professional Advisor, Central Methodist University (Session 1 Only)

I advise college students who are going into health professions programs. This includes preparation for college courses, college planning, and career planning. (I would love to participate in any career planning if at all possible, as well as the college fair)

Jared Torbet: Owner/Clinical Director/Therapist, Anxiety & Depression Clinic of Columbia

I am the owner of Anxiety & Depression Clinic of Columbia, a [private counseling and psychiatry practice](#) in South Columbia. I have 14 years of experience as a licensed mental health professional, with several years experience as a state supervisor for provisionally licensed professional counselors working to obtain full licensure, so I know the process well. You can visit our website at Comoclinic.com for more info. Let me know if you are still in need of panel members, and if you feel sharing my experience could be of value. I'm happy to help.

Shavon Walls-Taylor: Outreach Counselor, FACE of Boone County

I have a B.A. in Health Sciences . I have worked as a Certified Medical Assistant& Medical Receptionist prior to becoming an Outreach Coordinator at FACE of Boone County . I have been in my current role for 7.5 years. In my role I help family and youth 0-19 , find resources for Mental health services as well as basic needs.

Stacey Weidemann: Constituent Services & Legislative Affairs Administrator, City of Columbia

Stacey Weidemann joined the City of Columbia, MO in 2018. She started as a City Management Fellow after receiving her MPA from Indiana University in Bloomington. After her fellowship, she stayed with the City, joining the Finance Department as a Sr. Budget Analyst until November 2023. She currently serves as the City's first Constituent Services & Legislative Affairs Administrator in the City Manager's Office.

Eric Wilson: Director of External Affairs & Government Relations, Veterans United Home Loans

As Director of External Affairs & Government Relations, Eric is responsible for local, state, and federal regulatory affairs and public policy initiatives for Veterans United, as well as engagement with industry associations and trade organizations. He is a licensed attorney with 19 years of experience, having served as a [litigator both in private practice and the Missouri Attorney General's Office](#), as well as government relations counsel for The Missouri Bar. Eric joined Veterans United in 2018. He [graduated from the University of Missouri – Columbia School of Law](#) in 2005.

Jessica Wolfe: Teacher, Columbia Public Schools

As a first-generation high school and college graduate, I have dedicated my career to the fields in brain development, psychology, and education. With a diverse educational background including a bachelor's in **music education, psychology, and elementary education**, as well as a master's in educational psychology, I am currently pursuing my second master's degree in education administration. Holding certificates in early childhood education and gifted education, I am a firm believer in lifelong learning and strive to constantly innovate myself. Balancing personal aspirations with a career that spans multiple disciplines, I am a dedicated educator and parent of five children.

Panel 26 [SESSION 2]

Ashley Givens: Associate Professor & BSW Program Director, University of Missouri School of Social Work

Dr. Givens is a research faculty member and the current director of the undergraduate social work program at Mizzou. Her research focuses on the criminal legal system and supporting efforts to address trauma and mental health within this system. Dr. Givens holds a B.S. in psychology and sociology, and MSW, and a PhD in social work.

Myia McKenna: Attorney/Owner, McKenna Family Law

I am a **lawyer** specializing in family law and own my own law office here in Columbia. I represent clients going through divorces, child custody situations, and other family law matters. I have a background in social sciences and became a lawyer to try to help people going through a difficult time. I went to Rock Bridge and Mizzou. Go Bruins!

Tiffany Sanford-Martens: Psychologist, University of Missouri

Tiffany Sanford-Martens, PhD, is a **licensed psychologist**. She is currently working with students, residents and interns at the University of Missouri-Columbia College of Veterinary Medicine as part of the MU Counseling Center. She received her doctorate in counseling psychology from MU in 2003. Dr. Sanford-Martens has worked in a variety of clinical settings, including private group practice, VA hospitals and before her current job, she was an assistant professional practice professor in the Department of Psychiatry at MU and the Assistant Clinic Director-Psychotherapy Services at the South Providence Adult Psychiatry Clinic. In her current role at the MU CVM, she sees clients for individual therapy and consultations, provides outreach and education to the CVM community, and assists with research.

Stacy Schroeder: Senior Associate Executive Director, MSHSAA

Stacy Schroeder (pronounced "Shrader") is the Senior Associate Executive Director for the Missouri State High School Activities Association. Stacy has been with the MSHSAA office for 30 years and works with eligibility issues, the MSHSAA by-laws and Handbook, the Appeals Committee and the Board of Directors. She has directed the state championships in Volleyball, Tennis, Swimming & Diving, and Scholar Bowl and assists with the activities of football, basketball, music and track & field. Schroeder played volleyball, basketball and track & field at Rock Bridge High School and competed in track & field in college. Stacy, her husband, Kevin, and their two children are all Rock Bridge graduates.

Beatrice Stewart: Executive Director, Flourish

Beatrice Stewart is the Executive Director of the Flourish Initiative in Columbia, Missouri. She is also a Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Missouri. In her current role, she oversees Flourish's 10-bed youth and young adult homeless shelter in Columbia, as well as Flourish's community-based services which provide paid summer internships and scholarships for students with economic and educational barriers.

INDUSTRIAL & ENGINEERING TECH

Panel 27 [CLOSED]

Dennis Bahls: Vice President, Emery Sapp & Sons, Inc.

Dennis is a [licensed civil engineer](#) and executive for Emery Sapp and Sons (ESS) that is responsible for managing pursuits and operations on large highway construction projects in Kansas and Missouri. He has also worked in Chicago, Cleveland, Baltimore, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Los Angeles and Seattle. He received his bachelor of science from Iowa State University before joining a national construction company for the first third of his career. Then he worked for some foreign firms before joining ESS. He enjoys the challenges of designing, estimating and constructing large projects.

Bryce Cordry: Enterprise Systems Administrator, Missouri State University

Hello! My name is Bryce Cordry and I currently work as an enterprise systems administrator for Missouri State University. My department's primary responsibility is to [manage the servers which run the university's campus-wide information systems](#) through all stages of the systems lifecycle. My specific projects currently include upgrades to the university web server infrastructure and major [cybersecurity](#) remediation for several older systems. Prior to my current role, I worked in IT user support roles for a couple of years. I hold a bachelor's degree in information science and technology from Missouri S&T and am currently [working on a master's degree in cybersecurity](#) from Missouri State.

Mary Jo Creech: Office Assistant, Newman Parish

I have an [engineering degree from MU in Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering](#). I worked at UPS, in the Kansas City area, out of school doing logistics, time study and planning work, including package car delivery, our trucking network and our air network. In my current job, in the Newman Center at MU, I am doing database management, compliance work, and creating procedures to improve all processes.

Roseanna Zia: Professor of Mechanical Engineering, University of Missouri

Roseanna Zia is the Wollersheim [Professor of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering](#) at the University of Missouri, Columbia. She conducts research in computational fluid mechanics and physics-based modeling of biological cells, leading a research group of scientists, grad students, and undergraduate researchers. She received her BS in Mechanical Engineering at Mizzou, followed by a PhD at the California Institute of Technology. She moved to California and earned tenure in [Chemical Engineering at Stanford](#), but eventually returned to her hometown of Columbia to be with her family. She also worked as a mechanical engineer in the automotive industry prior to grad school, at GM Powertrain and at Autoliv, designing occupant protection systems.

Panel 28 - Room [Session 2]

Syed Barizuddin: Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Missouri Innovation Center

A career professional with a Ph.D. in [Elec & Comp Eng](#) and research, entrepreneurial and management experience in various fields of STEM.

Angie Priesmeyer: Manufacturing Engineer and Cost Analyst, Ford Motor Company

I have been out of this field for 16 years, but I spent 14 years working for Ford Motor Company. I was an [Engineer at Ford's headquarters in Detroit and at an assembly plant in Kansas City](#). I also worked in the finance office at the assembly plant. I earned my Engineering degree from Missouri S&T and my MBA from Baker University. Since leaving my job at Ford, I have volunteered and worked for multiple organizations as their Treasurer/ Finance Manager.

Sarah Thompson: Civil Engineer, Engineering Surveys and Services

I am a recent graduate of Mizzou with a [degree in Bioenvironmental Engineering](#) while being an athlete. I have begun my [professional career as a Civil Engineer](#) with Engineering Surveys and Services. I spend a lot of my time focusing on civil site design. This includes utilities, building layouts, roads, and landscaping. I also coordinate with cities to ensure our design meets all the city requirements and standards.

Ethan Vizitei: Research Engineer, Infinite Monkey (Private AI Lab)

Ethan Vizitei is an RBHS graduate and has spent 15 years in the **software industry**. He's worked on some products you might be familiar with (CARFAX vehicle history reports, Canvas-LMS by Instructure), and many others that you probably haven't heard of. He has spent his career building a history of major technical contributions in the areas of distributed systems and data management, and has acquired deep expertise in statistical pattern recognition and discrete optimization, without following the traditional higher education path that most students do. Today he works as a **research engineer** at the company that publishes the ARC prize (<https://arcprize.org/>).

Panel 29—Room [CLOSED]

Clark, Michele: Principal, Weaver Consultants Group

I have 29 years of experience in **civil/environmental engineering** projects including solid waste and hazardous waste design, permitting, compliance, construction oversight and corrective action. I have a B.S. in Civil Engineering. I also manage a large team of engineers, scientists and field personnel focused on managing waste in an environmentally responsible manner.

Patrick Earney: Structural Engineer, McClure Engineering

Patrick holds BS and MS degrees in **Civil Engineering with a structural emphasis** and has been practicing structural consulting engineering for almost 20 years. Patrick has worked in building design including many structures in Columbia as well as landmark museums and other special structures all over the US like the soon to open Lucas Museum of Narrative Arts in Los Angeles, CA. Patrick has PE and SE licensure and is licensed in 23 states.

Michael Poehlman: Engineer/Teacher, MU

I am a retired **design engineer**. I used to work for John Deere and Smith and Wesson. Today, I **teach engineering classes at Mizzou**. My specialty is product development. I have my own business making and selling data loggers for truck and tractor pullers. I have a **BS in mechanical engineering and an MS in engineering management**. I graduated from RBHS. I love design and development. Nothing makes me happier than designing something and then making it, testing it, and then seeing other people use it.

Eric Worts: Engineering Supervisor, City of Columbia—Water and Light Department

I am responsible for the electric system controls and planning for the City of Columbia. My team and I **design systems for the substations and electric control room**. We are also responsible for planning and recommending capital projects to the Director and City Manager. I will also assist with planning on energy resources for the city which includes working with some renewable power sources. I can speak to working in public service in general but more specifically about most jobs in the electric utility including linemen, substation technicians, power plant operators, engineers, IT, and business analysts.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Panel 30 - Room

Collin Ankton: Outreach|Training Coordinator, NRCS US Department of Agriculture

Hello! My name is Collin Ankton and I am an Outreach and Training Coordinator for the NRCS with the USDA. You may wonder, "what does an Outreach and Training Coordinator do?" Well, I help coordinate and facilitate training for my agency's staff, and I also attend events like these to recruit students to come work for us! My career with the NRCS started as a freshman in college when I applied and was accepted into the NRCS 1890's/ Pathway Program. While in this program I attended College at Lincoln University each semester and worked for the NRCS all around Missouri each summer until I graduated and was hired on with the agency full time! I would encourage anyone who has a love for the environment and the preservation of Missouri's natural resources to pursue a career with the NRCS!

Nikki Enderle: Veterinary Medical Officer, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Dr. Nikki Enderle is a Veterinary Medical Officer with USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine. She is a trained Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician, has participated in animal disease outbreak responses to Virulent Newcastle Disease and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, as well as assisted with administering COVID-19 vaccinations with FEMA, and was a member of an incident management team. Her current position involves working with Customs and Border Protection in the regulating of animal products entering the US. Dr. Enderle holds Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Master of Public Health degrees.

Dave Farris: Research Scientist, University of Missouri

My name is Dr. Dave Farris, and prior to transitioning to teaching here at RBHS I had twenty years of professional experience in the life sciences. During that twenty year period, I conducted research and published at the university level, performed R&D in the private sector, and spent time as a quality control supervisor at a radionuclide processing facility. I'm happy to speak with anyone who may be interested in a career in academia, research, or the regulatory sector!

Jessica Norris: Ecological Planner, Biohabitats

As a returned Peace Corps Volunteer, Jessica worked on bird conservation here and in Latin America for 8 years before joining a restoration company named Biohabitats. Today, she works on park, site, and regional sustainability and natural resource planning.

Christopher Pierce: Pest Survey Specialist, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

I serve as the Pest Survey Specialist for Missouri and Iowa. I have a B.S. in Plant and Soil Science, M.S. in Horticulture, and Ph.D. in Entomology. Coordinate and manage all State and Federal invasive pest surveys for Missouri and Iowa to safeguard U.S. agriculture and natural resources against the entry, establishment, and spread of economically and environmentally significant pests.

Cheyenne Stratton: Aquatic Invertebrate Ecologist, Missouri Department of Conservation

My name is Cheyenne Stratton, and I'm an Aquatic Invertebrate Ecologist with the Missouri Department of Conservation. I focus on researching and protecting our state's aquatic invertebrates, especially crayfish. I earned my B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences from Mizzou, where I started my conservation career with MDC's crayfish crew. After graduation, I pursued a PhD at the University of Florida, investigating disease in crayfish invasions. Rejoining MDC in May has been an exciting opportunity to apply my research and new perspectives to the species and ecosystems that first ignited my passion for this field a decade ago!