



Washington University in St. Louis

**UMSL**

## **Missouri Solve Climate by 2030: Green Recovery, Climate Solutions, and a Just Transition**

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm (Central Time)

Register [here](#)

### **Keynote:**



#### ***The Honorable Cori Bush | US Representative of Missouri's 1st Congressional District***

Congresswoman Cori Bush is a registered nurse, community activist, organizer, single mother, and ordained pastor for the people of St. Louis.

Congresswoman Bush is serving her first term as the representative of Missouri's 1st Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. She is the first Black woman and first nurse to represent Missouri; the first woman to represent Missouri's 1st Congressional District;

and the first activist from the movement fighting for Black lives elected to the United States Congress.

### **Panelists:**



#### ***Ashlen Busick | Senior Regional Representative, Socially Responsible Agriculture Project***

Ashlen Busick grew up on a family farm in Northern Missouri next to one of the state's largest corporate hog operations. Her family's ongoing battle for justice and advocacy for family farms led her to the Socially Responsible Agriculture Project, where she works as a Sr. Regional Representative for Missouri and the surrounding states. In addition to working with communities, Ashlen has a growing passion for permaculture and healthy soil

education which she practices as the director of the local community garden.



#### ***Sal Martinez | Chief Executive Officer Employment Connection***

Sal Martinez was appointed to the position of CEO of Employment Connection in November of 2018 after a distinguished career in place-based community development. Employment Connection's mission is to assist individuals with limited opportunities to self-sufficiency, and it currently serves thousands of clients on an annual basis including: justice-involved individuals, single mothers with children, military veterans and the unhoused.

Martinez also serves on a number of civic boards including: St. Louis Housing Authority, Civil Rights Enforcement Agency, North Newstead Association, Hamilton

Heights Neighborhood Association and the Community Builders Network. He has also received numerous community service awards from such entities as: Human Development Corporation, Community Development Administration, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Better Family Life, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Metro Sentinel Journal, St. Louis Argus, St. Louis Housing Authority, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Committee and the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council. Martinez is also a past recipient of the Harris-Stowe State University Distinguished Alumni Award.



***Rachel K Owen, PhD | Executive Director MOST Policy Initiative***

Dr. Rachel K. Owen co-founded Missouri Science and Technology (MOST) Policy Initiative in 2016 and has served as the executive director since June 2019. As MOST Director, Rachel has worked to identify key decision points in the state legislative process and provide timely and relevant scientific information to policy-makers. Additionally, MOST equips scientists to effectively engage with decision-makers and hosts science policy workshops and events statewide. Dr. Owen received her Ph.D. in the University of Missouri School of Natural Resources, researching the impact of a changing climate on wetland ecosystems and landowner perceptions of climate and agricultural threats in the Great Plains.

Additionally, Rachel serves as an soil science instructor at University of Missouri, coaching the Mizzou soil judging team – Go Tigers!

## Community Discussions

The Bard Team has developed a series of [teaching guides](#) and a list of [resources](#) that can be used by teachers across the state to promote discussion with students around the event. What can individuals do to help “move the needle” on climate change? How do we translate the solutions identified by the state experts in the panel discussion, to actionable items on the ground?

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