



Photo Courtesy of KC Chamber

KC SPEAKERS

Kay Barnes **Former Kansas City Mayor**

Kay Barnes is the former mayor of Kansas City. She received her B.S. in Secondary Education at the University of Kansas, her M.A. in Secondary Education at the University of Missouri at Kansas City and her M.P.A. (Public Administration – Organizational Behavior) at University of Missouri at Kansas City. She is currently a distinguished Professor for Public Leadership & Founding Director, Center for Leadership, Park University, Hauptmann School for Public Affairs. Kay has initiated a mentoring program with Leadership Associates providing support to students and others focusing on individual coaching. She has presented at regional and national conferences on various aspects of leadership, focusing on the Unscripted Future. In 2012, Kay received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Urban Land Institute in Kansas City. She is involved in various volunteer activities as a board member including Arvest Bank, Kansas City Region, Arts Council of Greater Kansas City, Convention and Visitors Association, Kansas City, MO., St. Luke's College of Health Sciences and the Mid-America Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Kay has two children, Fritz Waldo and Kelly Waldo Dillman.

Terry Bassham **Chairman, President, CEO** **KCP & L and Great Plains Energy**

Terry Bassham is chairman, president and chief executive officer of Great Plains Energy and Kansas City Power and Light. As chairman, he is the only management representative on the board. Prior to being named to his current position, Mr. Bassham served as president and chief operating officer, where he focused on achieving Tier 1 performance in safety, operations and customer service. Mr. Bassham served originally as KCP&L's executive vice president of finance & strategic development and chief financial officer and more recently as executive vice president - utility operations. Before joining KCP&L in March 2005, Mr. Bassham was executive vice president, chief financial officer and chief administrative officer for El Paso Electric Company (EPE) in Texas, where he oversaw the financial, treasury, and regulatory and administrative functions. He joined EPE in 1996 as general counsel with responsibility for legislative affairs, regulatory affairs and corporate governance. Active in the Kansas City area community, Mr. Bassham serves on several boards, including Commerce Bancshares, Inc., the Kansas City Symphony, the Urban Neighborhood Initiative, the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City and the Linda Hall Library. He holds a Bachelor of business administration degree in accounting from the University of Texas-Arlington and a Juris Doctor degree from St. Mary's University Law School in San Antonio, Texas.



SPEAKERS

Harlan Brownlee President & CEO

ArtsKC Regional Arts Council

Harlan Brownlee, President and CEO of ArtsKC-Regional Arts Council, has worked for 30 years in the arts field as a performing artist, arts educator, and arts administrator. From 2005 to 2009, he served as the Executive Director for Kansas City Young Audiences, a non-profit dedicated to engaging all youth in the arts, promoting creativity, and inspiring success in education. Mr. Brownlee is on the Kennedy Center's national touring rosters for the Partners in Education program and Changing Education through the Arts and has conducted master classes, workshops and residencies extensively in the Midwest and throughout the United States. In addition, he has been an adjunct professor for Rockhurst University's School of Education and the University of Missouri – Kansas City's School of Education. For fourteen years, Harlan served as a consultant for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and as a member of the Missouri Fine Arts Task Force. Mr. Brownlee received his B.F.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he was educated as a dancer and choreographer. Mr. Brownlee received his M.A. in Educational Research and Psychology from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Matthew Condon, J.D./MBA CEO

Bardavon Health Innovations, LLC

Matt has been recognized nationally as an Entrepreneur to Watch by repeatedly forming game-changing companies that bring positive disruption to the marketplace. He has focused most of his startup efforts in the field of healthcare services and "Big Data" technology, and his portfolio of startups includes ARC Physical Therapy+, Bardavon Health Innovations, RedefinePE.com, and KTM2. ARC Physical Therapy+, founded in 2003, grew to become one of the largest PT Partnership transactions of 2013, which paved the way for Matt to create Bardavon Health Innovations, LLC. Bardavon has erupted onto the national landscape as a software and process solution that integrates innovative services for physical and occupational therapy providers along a cloud based platform. This unique solution enables employers to make true value-based decisions in choosing their healthcare team, while concurrently empowering outcome-based providers with the ability to redefine 'excellence' within their market. Matt also serves on numerous boards and acts as an advisor to several other startup companies. Some of these roles include serving on the boards of the Greater KC Chamber, KC Sourcelink, Enterprise KC, and Phoenix Family, as well as being the champion of the Big 5 Initiative on Entrepreneurialism and serving as the compliance director to the KCPA ACO.

Jon Copaken Principal

Copaken-Brooks Real Estate

Jon is active in the entire development process, including major tenant office and retail leasing, financing, land acquisition, zoning, and construction. He is also instrumental in the firm's leadership and strategic planning initiatives. Jon recently led the team on the redevelopment of the 55,000-square foot Kirkwood Building for Service Management Group, which was the first restoration project in Kansas City to achieve LEED Gold certification. Additionally, Jon is responsible for the Arterra 21 project, a mixed-use condominium development in downtown Kansas City. He also led the development of the Plaza Colonnade, a 345,000-square foot project that includes an office tower, library facility, parking garage and retail building on the Country Club Plaza. Jon is active in several civic and economic development organizations, serving on the Downtown Council of Kansas City (Chair), Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, and the Art in the Loop Board of Directors. In addition, he is a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers and Kansas City Chamber Centurions Leadership Program. Prior to joining Copaken-Brooks in 1993, Jon was an analyst in the real estate acquisitions department of Prudential Insurance Company in Chicago.

Bill Dietrich President & CEO

Downtown Council of Kansas City

Bill Dietrich has served as President & CEO of the Downtown Council of Kansas City, Missouri (DTC) since June 2002. Initiatives under the DTC's umbrella include the development and management of multiple Community Improvement Districts, delivering \$23 million of clean, green, safe and marketing services. The DTC is active in commercial and residential development initiatives, streetscape and infrastructure enhancements, marketing and promotional services, business recruitment, expansion and retention, the establishment of a Downtown Political Action Committee, and producing research and development information on downtown. Bill also serves as the Chief Administrative Office of the Downtown Community Improvement District and the River Market Community Improvement District. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from The Evergreen State College, and holds two Master's Degrees, including Business Administration in Managerial Leadership from City University, Seattle and Entrepreneurial Real Estate Development from the University of Missouri - Kansas City. Bill is from Seattle, Washington, and has worked in economic and community development for more than 20 years.



Gwendolyn Grant **President & CEO** **Urban League of Greater Kansas City**

Gwendolyn Grant, president & CEO of the Urban League of Greater Kansas City, is a strong advocate for social and economic opportunity for African Americans and other minorities. The first female leader in the organization's 95-year history, Gwendolyn has been leading the Urban League since 2001. In her role as the chief executive officer of the Urban League, she provides leadership, oversight and direction for advancing all Urban League programs and its mission. She is the co-founder of the League's Servant Leadership Development Program, where she has provided leadership development training for more than 450 emerging leaders. Mrs. Grant also serves as President of the Kansas City, Missouri School District Buildings Corporation Board of Directors; Urban Neighborhood Initiative Board of Directors and Chair of the Health and Safety Committee; Urban Summit Education Committee; Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Diversity Committee; and she is a member of the Kansas City Climate Protection Plan Steering Committee. In addition, Grant is a member of the MARC Creating Sustainable Places Coordinating Committee, The Citizens Association, Freedom, Incorporated and the Finance Committee at Friendship Baptist Church. Ms. Grant is the founder and facilitator for Destination: Wealth Creation - a financial education and asset development initiative that is designed to teach sound financial principles and create wealth in urban communities; and Personal Pathways to Powerful Leadership for Women - a professional development institute for emerging and seasoned female leaders. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Park University and an Executive Fellows MBA from Rockhurst University, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude.

Greg M. Graves, P.E **Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer** **Burns & McDonnell**

As Chairman and CEO of Burns & McDonnell, Greg Graves leads one of the fastest-growing and most successful engineering, architecture, construction, and environmental consulting firms in North America. In January 2004, when Greg was appointed CEO, approximately 1,500 employee-owners worked at Burns & McDonnell. Annual revenue in 2004 was \$420 million. Since then, the employee count is now more than 5,000 and sales last year exceeded \$2.5 billion. Under Greg's leadership, Burns & McDonnell has earned a reputation as a national leader in many technical specialties within the energy, public infrastructure, government, aviation, process, and healthcare sectors. In 2014, Burns & McDonnell ranked as the 18th largest engineering, architecture and construction firm published by *Engineering News-Record* magazine. In 2014, for the fifth consecutive

year, Burns & McDonnell received the prestigious Premier Award for Client Satisfaction from the Professional Services Management Journal (PSMJ). In 2015, FORTUNE magazine ranked Burns & McDonnell the 15th best place to work in its annual ranking of the 100 Best Companies to Work For. It was the fourth consecutive year and the fifth time that Burns & McDonnell has been named to the high-profile ranking. In addition, the Kansas City Business Journal named Burns & McDonnell the No. 1 Best Place to Work among large workplaces in Kansas City for three consecutive years. Greg joined Burns & McDonnell in 1980. After holding several positions of increasing responsibility with the firm, he was named in 1997 as General Manager of Burns & McDonnell's Energy division. In 2001, he was promoted to President of the division, a position he held until being named the firm's sixth CEO three years later. Greg was named the CEO of the Year by the Mid-America Minority Business Development Council and the Difference Maker of the Year by the Urban League of Greater Kansas City. Greg is a past Chairman of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, and also serves on the boards of Union Station Kansas City, Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, University of Missouri Kansas City, University of Kansas Advancement Board, United Missouri Bank, University of Kansas Hospital Authority Board and the Kansas City Repertory Theatre.

George Guastello **CEO & President** **Union Station Kansas City**

George Guastello was named President and Chief Executive Officer of Union Station Kansas City in December 2008 to lead the effort to build a strategic business and financial plan for the future of the station. He manages an annual budget of \$11 million and is responsible for operation, management and development/growth of the Station and surrounding property it owns. Union Station, a historical landmark and civic asset, was renovated and reopened to the public in 1999. A bi-state cultural sales tax, the first of its kind in the country, funded nearly half of the \$250 million renovation. Prior to joining USKC, Guastello's previous positions included President and CEO for the American Royal Association, Vice President - Marketing and Business Strategy for the Starlight Theatre Association, and Senior Vice President of Marketing & Strategic Development for the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. Guastello is a member of the UMKC Alumni Governing Board of Directors and Children's TLC Board of Directors. Guastello has amassed noteworthy accomplishments in many endeavors from association management to economic and community development. Recently, he was named the 2015 Non-Profit Professional of the Year from Non-Profit Connect. Guastello, a native Kansas Citian, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in Marketing and a Master's Degree in Business Administration in Finance, both from the University of Missouri at Kansas City.



SPEAKERS

Wendy Guillies Acting President and CEO Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

Wendy Guillies is the acting president and chief executive officer of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. Established in Kansas City, Missouri, by the late entrepreneur and philanthropist, Ewing Marion Kauffman, the Foundation is one of the largest private foundations in the United States with an asset base of more than \$2 billion. In her role, Guillies works in close partnership with the Foundation's Board of Trustees and senior leadership team to realize Ewing Kauffman's vision of fostering a society of economically independent individuals who are engaged citizens in their communities. In service of this vision, the Foundation focuses grantmaking and operations on two areas – education and entrepreneurship. Guillies joined the Foundation in April 2000, and among her accomplishments, she has developed, launched and overseen the growth of one of the Kauffman Foundation's most far-reaching initiatives, Global Entrepreneurship Week, now in its sixth year, stretching from Kansas City to communities in 150 countries. She also serves on the board of Kauffman FastTrac, the Foundation's longest-running entrepreneurship education program. She was appointed in 2014 to the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors and Executive Committee. She also was selected for the 2014 class of Women Executives in Kansas City by Ingram's magazine. She is an alumnus of Kansas City Centurions, a civic leadership program. Guillies is a native of Kansas City, Kansas, and a graduate of the University of Nebraska.

Jim Heeter President & CEO Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

Jim Heeter serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. He joined the chamber in April 2010, following a distinguished career as a corporate attorney. Heeter received his A.B. from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1970 and his J.D. with honors from Harvard Law School in 1973. He practiced corporate law for more than 35 years, representing some of Kansas City's biggest and most successful companies, as well as a number of successful start-up ventures and healthcare clients. In 1995, he became a partner with Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal, LLP (now Dentons), serving as the managing partner of the firm's Kansas City office and a member of the firm's executive committee from 2000 until 2010. In addition, he was "Councilman" Jim Heeter from 1983 – 1987, representing Kansas City, Missouri's Fourth District At-Large. Jim has been included in Best Lawyers in America, SuperLawyers, Chambers Directory of Leading American Lawyers, and the Kansas City Business Journal's "Best of the Bar." In 2008, he received the prestigious H. Michael Coburn Community Service Award from Legal Aid of Western Missouri.

Sly James Mayor of Kansas City

Mayor Sly James was elected on March 22, 2011, and sworn into office on May 1, 2011. He was born and raised in Kansas City and learned valuable lessons about resiliency and dedication, watching his parents work hard to take care of their family. This laid the foundation for Mayor James' commitment to education and ensuring every child receives a high-quality education, regardless of where they live or their socio-economic background. Mayor James focuses his efforts to make Kansas City best in four areas: Education, Employment, Efficiency, and Enforcement. In addition, he has worked to raise Kansas City's statewide and national profile by highlighting the myriad cultural and human capital resources. At the state level, he has been a voice for commonsense gun control laws, economic development tools, and education reform. Nationally, he is a member of Black Mayors for Education Reform, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, and was elected in June 2013 to the Advisory Board of the United States Conference of Mayors. Prior to his election, Mayor James enjoyed a successful legal career, which spanned almost three decades. He joined Blackwell, Sanders, Matheny, Weary & Lombardi in 1983, and became the first African-American partner in the firm's history in 1990. In February 2002, he started his own small business, The Sly James Firm, where he worked with victims to seek justice and positive outcomes to disputes. After serving his country as a military police officer for four years in California, the Philippines, and Japan during the Vietnam War, Mayor James graduated cum laude from Rockhurst College. He then went on to earn his law degree, also cum laude, from the University of Minnesota in 1983.

Leo E. Morton Chancellor University of Missouri-Kansas

Leo E. Morton was named Chancellor of the University of Missouri-Kansas City on December 15, 2008. Prior to assuming the Chancellorship, Morton had been senior vice president and chief administrative officer for Aquila, Inc. He has been a University of Missouri-Kansas City trustee since 2000 and was in his third year as chairman of the Trustees Board when he stepped down to become interim chancellor and then permanent Chancellor. Morton's management career spanned 26 years in a wide range of engineering and manufacturing positions with Aquila, AT&T Microelectronics, Bell Laboratories, General Motors, Rust Engineering Company, and Corning Glass. He is on the advisory board of Prep-KC, a major regional youth educational development organization, a member of the Business & Education for Schools of Tomorrow (B.E.S.T) for the Blue Valley School District,



Pembroke Hill School Board. He is on the board of directors for the Urban Neighborhood Initiatives, the Union Station Board. In addition, he serves on the board of MRIGlobal, Truman Medical Centers, the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, the H&R Block Bank Board, Big 5 Champions, Kansas City No Violence Alliance (KCNOVA), UMKC Board of Trustees, Western Athletic Conference, and the National Association of Corporate Directors. Morton has a Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Tuskegee University, and a Master's degree in management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mi-Ai Parrish **President & Publisher** **The Kansas City Star Media Company**

Mi-Ai Parrish has been the president and publisher of The Kansas City Star Media Company since June 2011. She came to The Star from its sister newspaper, The Idaho Statesman, where she was president and publisher of Idaho's largest newspaper for five years. Prior to becoming a publisher, Parrish spent the majority of her career in newsroom roles ranging from reporting and copy editing, to travel editor and projects editor. She has three Pulitzer Prize finalists in her tenure. Parrish served at the Minneapolis Star Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle, Arizona Republic, Chicago Sun-Times and The Virginian-Pilot. The Star's first female publisher, she currently serves on the boards of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, Kansas City Area Development Council and The Civic Council. She also is a founding member of the Heartland Project Advisory Council and the Union Station Centennial Committee. She's done a variety of speaking engagements, ranging from presentations at Sprint's Global Diversity initiative, the Central Exchange, American Society of News Editors, Asian American Journalists Association and the Centurion's Women's Forum to Ink's Middle of the Map Tech Forum on Women Innovators. The Kansas City Star is the region's largest source of news and information, with the largest daily newspaper, No. 1 news website, largest alternative free weekly tab, largest lifestyle magazines, largest weddings magazine and wedding shows, its premiere arts/culture/innovation/music/film and tech festivals, award-winning suburban newspapers, the region's largest commercial print operation and more. Parrish is a two-time Pulitzer Prize Juror, longtime member of the Asian American Journalists Association, and was named one of the 100 Most Important Minority Journalists of the last Century. She was named to the University of Maryland Alumni Hall of Fame in 2013. She is married to Pulitzer-Prize winner Dave Parrish.

Stephen Samuels **Executive Director** **Greater Kansas City LISC**

Stephen Samuels is an urban planner and business development professional, and has been Executive Director of Greater Kansas City LISC since October 2013. Under his leadership, LISC is accelerating its NeighborhoodsNOW comprehensive neighborhood revitalization program, expanding its Financial Opportunity Center Network, and developing an implementation strategy for large-scale catalytic urban redevelopment. Stephen spent the first 10 years of his career in consumer marketing, mostly on the west coast. Prior to LISC, he was the Director of Business Development for the Economics Center at the University of Cincinnati, and founder and president of Bridging Broadway, a nonprofit supported by LISC to assist the City of Cincinnati in maximizing the new Horseshoe Casino's effect on the downtown area. Stephen's organization led the planning and community engagement, which helped to guide over \$25 million of public infrastructure investment and the on-going management and programming strategies for the five-neighborhood area. Stephen is currently an Advisory Board Member for the Kansas Health Foundation's Community Engagement Initiative, Marketing Chair for the Kansas City Ballet BARRE, and serves on the Prosperity Committee of the Urban Neighborhood Initiative. He received his degrees in urban planning and business real estate from the University of Cincinnati.

Paul Tyler **Grants Director** **ArtsKC Fund**

Paul Tyler serves as Grants Director for the ArtsKC Fund in Kansas City and supervises ArtsKC's work with artists on professional and career development through Artist INC, which helps artists develop stronger business practices. Previous work includes 7 years as Deputy Director of the Virginia Commission for the Arts, where he supervised financial reporting and tracking for an average of \$4.5 million in grants disbursed annually. A graduate of the University of Virginia with a BA in English and Drama, Paul has over 30 years of experience related to grantmaking, financial management and administration in the arts.



SPEAKERS

David Warm Executive Director Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)

David Warm has served as executive director of the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) since July 1990. As the chief executive of the metropolitan council of governments serving Greater Kansas City, Warm leads key regional planning and community development initiatives, as well as a broad range of regional functions that have become widely regarded for innovation and effectiveness in areas that include transportation, environmental protection, emergency management, aging services, early education and local government cooperative services. Prior to coming to MARC, Warm was the city administrator at Liberty, Missouri, and he also served in administrative positions with the city of Kansas City, Missouri. Warm is a native Californian and received a B.A. degree in Political Science and Economics from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of California in Riverside. He is an associate of the Citistates Group and a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. Recent recognitions include The Walter Schreiber Leadership Award from the National Association of Regional Councils (2006), Nonprofit Connect Professional of the Year for the Kansas City region (2012), and the National Public Service Award from the National Academy of Public Administration (2015). Warm also periodically serves as an adjunct faculty for the KU School of Public Affairs and Administration.

Marita Wesely Trends Expert Hallmark Cards, Inc.

Marita Wesely, trends expert at Hallmark Cards, Inc., Kansas City, Mo., not only searches for new and emerging trends, but she distinguishes a trend from a craze or a fad. She follows each trend to see if that trend might become significant. In addition, she has to do it before a trend is significant so that the artists and writers at Hallmark have time to reflect trends in products — before consumers realize they want, need or like a particular solution. Curious by nature and with a degree in fine art and interest in philosophy, Wesely began her career at Hallmark as an art director and did stints as a lettering artist (where she created an alphabet font called “Marita” for a new card line), in design studio management, and in the creative advisory group. Today, Hallmark increasingly appeals to those who, perhaps, did not realize that Hallmark creates solutions for them. Hallmark products and solutions reflect the true diversity of lifestyle, experience, culture and changes in the American landscape. *American Demographics* magazine named Wesely one of the nation's top five trendspot-

ters. A major feature article about Wesely and her trends research appeared on the front-page of the “Life” section in *USA Today*. Wesely's trend forecasts have been featured in *The New York Times* and *The Business Journal*, while she has been quoted in *American Demographics*, *USA Today*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *Time* magazine. Her predictions have also been featured in *The Wall Street Journal Almanac*.

Peter Witte Dean of the Conservatory of Music & Dance University of Missouri-Kansas City

Peter Witte serves as dean of the Conservatory of Music and Dance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. During his tenure, UMKC's conservatory has established and renewed partnerships with a broad range of artistic, educational, and civic organizations, including a performance at (le) poisson rouge in New York City, annual performances at the new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts and the historic Folly Theater in Kansas City, and international relationships with the conservatories in Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, and Hangzhou, China. Previously, Mr. Witte served as chair of the Department of Music at Kennesaw State University in metropolitan Atlanta, a position he held from 1999 to 2008. Committed to arts education and arts in communities, Mr. Witte has led performances in Carnegie Hall with the National Wind Ensemble and with the Atlanta Wind Symphony, with whom he served as Music Director for seven years. Prior to his conducting and administrative careers, he performed as an orchestral horn player with ensembles, including the Atlanta Opera, the Toledo Symphony, the Windsor Symphony, and in summer festivals in Grand Tetons, and in Graz, Austria. A recent member of the Kansas City Mayor's Task Force for the Arts, Mr. Witte serves on the Commission on Accreditation and as a visiting evaluator for the National Association of Schools of Music. Additionally, he is past-president of the board of the Youth Symphonies of Kansas City, president of the Missouri Association of Departments and Schools of Music, and chair of the Board of Governors for the Alumni Society of the School of Music, Theatre and Dance at the University of Michigan. Mr. Witte earned Bachelor of Music, Master of Music in performance, and Master of Music in conducting degrees from Michigan.

