

2014 Directory

LEADERSHIP

PIONEER VALLEY



The logo for Leadership Pioneer Valley features the word "LEADERSHIP" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below it, the words "PIONEER VALLEY" are written in a smaller, spaced-out, sans-serif font. A thick, dark, curved line arches over the text, starting from the left and ending on the right, with a slight shadow effect underneath.

Class of 2014 Directory

Leadership Pioneer Valley challenges and engages emerging leaders from all sectors of the community corporate, government, small business, non-profit, and academia— through civic leadership development for the benefit of the Pioneer Valley region. The ten-month program immerses participants in an inspiring and enlightening curriculum that examines critical issues that impact the region’s numerous and diverse areas. During the program, participants expand their leadership skills while gaining connections, greater commitment to community stewardship, and cultural competency.

Leadership Pioneer Valley is topically-relevant and ever-changing, and exposes participants to many community-minded perspectives, resources and mentors through an open and transformative process.

Each year, Leadership Pioneer Valley selects 40 emerging leaders from the private, public, and non-profit sectors of the region to participate. The ten-month program provides those selected with a curriculum designed to raise awareness of the needs and challenges that affect the region, and enhance individual leadership skills with a focus on cultural competency.

Each annual class runs from September until a commencement ceremony in June.

Additional Questions: For more information about

Leadership Pioneer Valley, visit www.leadershippv.org, Facebook, or contact:

Lora Wondolowski, Executive Director 413/737.3876 or lwondolowski@leadershippv.org

La’Tiara Love, Program Associate 413/737.3876 or llove@leadershippv.org

Leadership Pioneer Valley Board of Directors

| | |
|----------------------|--|
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In Memory



Isabel Serrazina
Executive Department Manager
Springfield Housing Authority

Isabel Serrazina worked for the Springfield Housing Authority for the past 21 years, serving in numerous capacities, including the Executive Department Manager and, most recently, as a Purchasing Manager. Originally from Marinha Grande, Portugal, Isabel moved to Western Massachusetts in early childhood. She was a 1991 graduate of Commerce High School and attended Springfield Technical Community College. Isabel was a mentor for Springfield Public School System. Everybody who worked with Isabel always admired her professionalism, creativity, dedication, intelligence, kindness and willingness to help others. Isabel always strived to bring innovations into her work and was always looking for new challenges. Isabel touched many people's lives and she will be deeply missed by her co-workers, relatives, friends, and LPV classmates.



Sherill Acevedo
Audits & Education Specialist

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Sherill Acevedo is a Compliance, Audit & Education Specialist at Baystate Medical Practice. She is responsible for providing advisory services for all aspects of provider billing and education as it applies to professional services working with clinical providers, medical directors, managers, directors and internal customers. She has many certifications including, Spanish Medical Interpreter through from UMASS, Medical Assistant, Medical Coder and Coding Instructor. Sherill serves as the president of the local chapter of American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC). She also serves as Hispanic/Latino ERG Chair with Baystate Health's Office of Diversity and Inclusion.



Jasmine Amegan
Admissions Counselor

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Jasmine Amegan Rosario is a graduate of Longmeadow High School and received her B.A. in English with a concentration in writing from Westfield State University. Shortly after graduating, she began working for WSU as an Admission Counselor for the Office of Undergraduate Admission. Jasmine is passionate about helping students of color achieve their goals through mentoring and advising. Over the past three years, Jasmine has visited all the local high schools in the urban Pioneer Valley, as well as various community-based after school programs. She hopes to expand her network through Leadership Pioneer Valley in order to continue this work while gaining invaluable leadership skills.



Kerri Bohonowicz
Chief Financial Officer

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Born and raised in Greenfield, Kerri earned her Bachelors and Master's Degree in Accounting from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Currently, Kerri is the Chief Financial Officer at the Community Health Center of Franklin County where she has been employed since 2011. Kerri also held the position of Interim Chief Executive Officer during 2012. In Kerri's current role, she is passionate about her organization's mission to provide affordable, accessible and quality health care to all residing in Franklin County and the North Quabbin. Kerri began her career in accounting nearly 10 years ago with a CPA firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers in Boston. Previously, Kerri worked in Springfield for Chicopee Savings Bank and Wolf & Company. Kerri resides in Hadley with her husband and two dogs.



Amy Britt
*Outreach and Community
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Amy Britt is an Outreach and Community Services Supervisor at Tapestry Health where she has worked for more than six years. In her role, she organizes community events to provide sexual health education and testing services in all four Western Massachusetts counties, with a focus on engaging youth on college campuses. In addition to community outreach and project management, Amy is responsible for the advertising and marketing. In 2012, Amy was selected as an American Fellow in a U.S. State Department Program focused on Women's Health Leadership in Brazil. Amy Britt has her BA in Biology from Smith College.



Ronda Carter
*Liabilty & Recovery
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Born and raised in Springfield, Ronda has worked in the health insurance industry and at Health New England for more than eight years. In 2005, she was hired as a Subrogation Administrator and in 2009 promoted to Supervisor. Prior to working at HNE, she worked at Phoenix Home Life Insurance Company for approximately ten years. She holds a Paralegal certificate from Elms College, AS from STCC in Medical Assisting, a BS in Business Management from Albertus Magnus College, and a MBA from AIC. She is HNE's team captain for the American Heart Associate and has been a volunteer for a variety of organizations. She enjoys working with people and surrounds herself with family and friends.



Christina Casiello
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Christina Casiello has been with Mass Mutual since 2001 serving in a variety of capacities including Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Consultant and Director of Medical/Vocational Services. In October of 2013, she was promoted to Director. With over 20 years of experience in the disability arena, Christina has a diverse background working with individuals with disabilities. Christina received her BS from Springfield College and went on to complete her Masters of Rehabilitation Counseling and Casework Management there. Christina is a Certified and Licensed Rehabilitation Counselor and holds a certificate in Massage Therapy and Reflexology.

In addition to working for MassMutual, Christina is an Adjunct Professor at Springfield College and serves on the Springfield College Advisory Board. She held the MA State Representative position for the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals for seven years and is currently the Chair of the EASE Employee Resource Group at MassMutual.



Jenny Catuogno
*Employee Benefits Account
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Jenny Catuogno is an Employee Benefits Consultant at The Gadreau Group Insurance and Financial Services, Inc. and has been working in the insurance industry as a producer since 2009. She began her career as a regionally recognized intern at Northwestern Mutual and moved to current employer in 2012. She now helps employers navigate Healthcare Reform and mitigate benefits, risk exposure, and cost. Born and raised in Northampton, Jenny lives in Springfield and is the Varsity Cheerleading Coach at Springfield Central High School as well as an active member on several committees at the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce. She received her degree in finance from Western New England College.



Tammy-Lynn Chace
*Membership & Events
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Tammy-Lynn Chace has more than twelve years of experience in management. She previously served as the Executive Director of the North Quabbin Chamber of Commerce. Currently, Tammy-Lynn is the Membership & Events Manager for the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce where she oversees 450 local small businesses with a focus on connecting members and increasing membership participation. She also organizes community and networking events while serving as a liaison for the Ambassador Committee. Tammy-Lynn is involved with a number of local organizations including serving on the finance committee for Greater Athol Area Families with Special Needs Family Advisory Board. She is very committed to her church, where she is a Prayer Minister and Launch Team Leader.



Eliza Crescentini
Executive Director

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Eliza Crescentini has extensive and broad experience in both nonprofit and for-profit leadership and a deep and enduring commitment to children and families. She has a Masters in Child Development and Early Childhood Education and has worked with children and families for over 25 years. In addition to her leadership experience, she has also been a foster parent and advocate for people living with disabilities. Currently as Executive Director at The Children's Study Home, Eliza is responsible for a team of over 180 employees serving children and families experiencing disruption or trauma. Eliza has dedicated her life to community building including serving as Chair of the Kip Rockwell Family Center, the Red Cross board, and co-chair of United Way of Berkshire County.



Geoffrey Croteau
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Geoffrey Croteau is a MassMutual Financial Advisor and Managing Associate Sales Manager for Charter Oak Insurance and Financial Services, a member of the MassMutual Financial Group. He helps families and business owners protect their loved ones and business with insurance and help them save for their children's educations and retirement. Geoffrey is also responsible for recruiting, training and developing the next generation of advisors. Geoffrey lives in Chicopee where he grew up, with his wife Erin and step son Brayden. He earned his BA from Westfield State University. He is a past president of The Beavers Club of Western Mass, was named a 40 Under 40, and enjoys giving back to the community.



Nasheika Durham
Director of Development & Communications

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Nikki Durham is a native of Tampa, Florida and currently resides in Ludlow. She earned her BS in Health Science Education with a minor in Business Administration from the University of Florida. After a ten-year career in youth development, she transitioned into her current role where she manages all development and marketing endeavors for the YMCA of Greater Springfield. Nikki happily shares her life with her loving husband and two children. She is passionate about singing, positive social change, and youth empowerment.



Andrew Fletcher
Staff Associate

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Andrew Fletcher attended UMass-Amherst where he earned his degree in Biology with a concentration in neuroscience. After college, Andrew worked for BASF on anticoagulants and narcoleptics based drugs. After a brief career in science, Andrew returned to higher education because he missed the interactions with students that he enjoyed as a mentor at UMass. Andrew has worked at Brown University, Western New England College, Assumption College, Hampshire College, and Holyoke Community College (HCC), where he brings his expertise in student outreach, retention and diversity. He has worked for the last six years as Staff Associate in the Center for Academic Program Support (CAPS) at HCC. He has held various volunteer capacities at the New England Counselors of Color Bridging Access to College.



Kelsey Flynn
Sales Consultant

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Kelsey Flynn began her career in communications as a copywriter for a breastfeeding mothers' catalog. She parlayed that beginning into a broadcasting career as a morning show host and news producer for Valley stations WRNX, WRSI, and WHMP. After ten years in radio, Kelsey joined MassMutual Financial Group as a communications consultant in 2010. Recently, she became a Sales Consultant role in Field Relations. She received her BA from Smith College where she also began her latent career as an improvisational comedian.

Kelsey is active with a number of organizations and is a founding member and on the Leadership Council of Out & Equal Connecticut, a local affiliate that strives to bring workplace equality to all businesses, non-profits, and government agencies. She lives in Northampton with her wife, Jaime, and their two-year old son Gram.



Valerie Francis
Member Services Supervisor

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Valerie Francis is a Member Services Supervisor for Health New England. With almost ten years' experience in Health Insurance, she has a strong history of leadership, LEAN concepts, and business improvement. Valerie was born in New Orleans, LA but has resided in Springfield, MA since 1992. Her volunteer work includes Friends of the Homeless and Springfield Partners for Community Action. Married with two daughters, Valerie considers family and friends the foundation of her happiness and can usually be found cooking southern dishes or attending her daughter's sports events.



Meghan Godorov
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As Asst. Dir. Of Career Development at Mount Holyoke College, Meghan meets individually with students and delivers workshops addressing their job search, networking, and career developmental needs. Previously she was a Family Worker for an in-home preservation and reunification service. Additionally, Meghan serves as an Executive Co-Chair for the Northampton Area Young Professionals, on her alma mater's alumni board, and as a career consultant with MLG Career. She earned her M.Ed. for Student Affairs and College Counseling Licensure from Kutztown University and her B.A. from Franklin and Marshall College. She currently resides in downtown Northampton.



Cynthia Gonzalez
Branch Manager

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Cynthia grew up in Cohasset Massachusetts, a small ocean town on the South Shore. She attended Salem State College then lived in several different eastern states over the years including Puerto Rico. She moved back to Eastern Massachusetts in 1995 and returned to a career in banking that has lasted more than 20 years. In 2002, she moved to Greenfield and began working at Greenfield Cooperative Bank the following year.

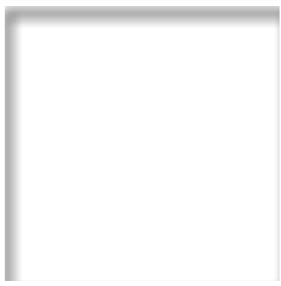
Cynthia is a board member of Camp Kewanee, is very involved in the children's ministry with her church and loves to volunteer at the Salvation Army preparing and serving meals. She has two beautiful children Malachi, 22 and Hannah, 13 years old.



Richard Griffin Jr.
Project Manager

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Richard Griffin Jr. is the Project Manager for the City of Springfield Office of Planning and Economic Development. He implements programs and projects that support commercial, office, and industrial development. He works with non-profit organizations, and neighborhood groups concerning economic development issues and develops business assistance, business retention, and financing plans. He is also the CFO of Griffin Staffing Network where he develops long-term strategic planning and cost management initiatives. Richard is a board member of the Dunbar YMCA, Youth Social Educational Training (YSET), and Intercity Youth Incorporated.



Rachel Jones
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Rachel Jones is the Director of the Gateway to College program at Springfield Technical Community College, a program for high school aged students 16-21 who have dropped out or are on the verge of dropping out, earn their high school diploma and college credits simultaneously. Rachel earned her BA from New Mexico State University and a MA from the University of Connecticut in Higher Education and Student Affairs. She previously taught in South Louisiana with Teach for America and continues to work toward educational equity and college access.



Kevin A. Jourdain, Esq.
Director of Managed Care
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Kevin A. Jourdain, Esq. is a
native and life-resident of

Holyoke. He is married with three children, Kevin Jr., age 11, Jacqueline, age 9, and Allison, age 7. He is currently the Director of Managed Care for the Sisters of Providence Health System. Prior to joining SPHS in 2008, he worked for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the prior 10 years in various capacities at the Division of Insurance, Department of Revenue and the Department of Youth Services.

Attorney Jourdain is very civically involved. He is the President of the Holyoke City Council and has been a member of City Council since 1994. He has served on numerous boards including Holyoke Community College, Advisory Board of the PVTa, and the Thomas J O'Connor Animal Shelter. He holds a JD from the MA School of Law in Andover, an MBA from Anna Maria College, and BA from UMass-Amherst. He was named to the 40 Under 40, as well as, receiving a Distinguished Service Award by Holyoke Community College.



Matthew Kullberg
Corporate Support
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A life-long resident of the Valley, Matthew grew up in Hampden before earning a BA in Communications from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. After graduating, Matthew interned in the production department at WGBY and worked at WGGB-TV. He returned to WGBY in 1999, working in Broadcast Operations before moving into his current role in development. Matthew also holds a second position as the Technology Coordinator at the Hilltown Cooperative Charter Public School in Haydenville. He is also involved at the school as a volunteer and volunteers as a baseball and soccer coach in Northampton. Matthew lives in Northampton with his wife and son.



Diane LeBeau
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Diane grew up in Southwick and now resides in Chicopee. She graduated from Stonehill College with a BS/BA in Accounting. Upon graduation she completed a year of service with the Holy Cross Associates in Portland, Oregon working with individuals with dementia. She has since committed her career to service for the past ten years working in the non-profit and public sector. Diane earned her Masters of Public Administration and is currently pursuing the Certified Government Financial Manager certification. Diane oversees the financial management of the Division of Graduate & Continuing Education at Westfield State University. She is involved with the Human Service Forum and has volunteered with Volunteer Income Tax Assistance.



Yamilette Madho
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With over nine years of experience in the Human Resources field, Yami is responsible for promoting diversity & inclusion through various methods and initiatives including implementation of their inclusion strategy and retention plan. She also oversees Big Y's involvement and relationships with youth development and workplace mentorship programs. Yami holds a Bachelor's Degree from American International College in Psychology and Sociology. She is a board member of the Human Resource Association of Western Massachusetts Executive Board and Co-Chairs the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. In addition, she holds positions on various community advisory boards in the private and non-profit sectors. She resides in Springfield.



Rosemarie Marks-Paige
Accounting Supervisor

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A New York native, Rosemarie graduated from Port Chester High School and attended Berkeley College in White Plains, NY. She has lived in Springfield since 1992 and has currently serves as the Accounting Supervisor at Health New England where she has worked in accounting for more than 13 years. She has been married for 21 years to her husband, George; they are proud parents of three children, Nate, Jordan, and Malik. She enjoys spending time visiting family in NY and traveling to the different Caribbean Islands.



L.A. McCrae
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L.A. McCrae, “the revlatte,” is the Co-Founder and Senior Consultant of Three Sisters Consulting. “The revlatte” is a facilitator, youth development coach, scholar, activist, theologian, poet, and community organizer. For the last decade, L.A. has focused on community development and deepening the leadership skills and liberation of marginalized youth. “Revlatte” holds a BA from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville in Political Science and Africana Studies and was initiated into Phi Beta Kappa. Additionally, L.A. earned a Master’s of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary focusing in youth, young adult, and urban ministries, as well as queer liberation theology. “Revlatte” has been recognized for being an effective youth liberation coach and outstanding skills in program evaluation.



Monique Meadows
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Monique Meadows is a co-founder and senior consultant with Three Sisters Consulting. With more than 15 years of experience in nonprofits, she is an enthusiastic new resident of the Pioneer Valley, offering rich expertise in facilitation, strategic planning, board development and grant writing. With a master's degree in organization development from American University in Washington, DC, she specializes in building inclusive organizational cultures and managing challenging transitions. Most importantly, Monique strives to live her life according to the wise words of Rumi - "Let yourself be silently drawn by the strange pull of what you really love. It will not lead you astray."



Josiah Neiderbach
Planner

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Josiah Neiderbach is a Planner at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, where he assists municipalities in planning efforts for the mitigation of natural hazards. He also works to encourage bicycling in the region and serves as the regional coordinator for Bay State Bike Week. While attending the University of Pennsylvania, Josiah met his amazing wife and earned a Bachelor of Arts and Master of City Planning. In his spare time, he enjoys cooking and running. He is also a passionate fan of the Chicago Cubs and the Penn Quaker football and basketball teams.



Lizzy Ortiz
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Lizzy Ortiz serves as the Program Manager and Housing Retention Coordinator for the City of Springfield. She oversees a program for homeless families and individuals with collaboration of the Springfield Housing Authority and is involved in a task force around families in shelters. She is also a member of the advisory board for the Recovery with Justice Program, a mental health court clinic. She has worked in the human service and criminal justice field for over 20 years. Lizzy has a BA in Criminal Justice with a minor in Human Service from Curry College. In May 2013 she completed Leadership Institute for Political and Public Impact and in October became involved in the Massachusetts State Democratic committee, where she won the female minority affirmative action seat.



Beena Pandit
Business Systems Consultant

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Born and raised in India, Beena Pandit made the United States her home 28 years ago. Beena's academic credentials include a BS in Microbiology, Diploma in Business Computer Programming, and Child Development Associate. After working as a Senior Software Programmer for Aetna, Beena shifted her focus to early childhood education where she worked as a preschool program coordinator, head teacher, and a trainer. In 2007, she transitioned back to the corporate world with MassMutual. She is a leader in the MassMutual Asian Employee Resource Group as Vice-Chair and Chair in 2013.

Beena is active in non-profits that support women and families of South Asian origin and co-founded a Hindu Sunday School in Connecticut. She has been married to her husband for 28 years and is the mother of two loving children.



Laura Porter
Good Green Jobs Coordinator

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Laura Porter has over 15 years of experience promoting social justice through education and intercultural communication. She is currently the Good Green Jobs Coordinator for Co-op Power, a regional network of local communities creating a multi-class, multi-racial movement for a sustainable and just energy future, which functions as a consumer-owned energy cooperative serving New England and New York. She places low-income young people and out-of-work adults in green jobs, providing on-the-job and skills-based trainings and mentoring support to ensure successful sustainable employment. Laura earned a Master's of Arts in Teaching (Spanish and English as a Second Language) from the School for International Training, and is passionate about creating a safe, sustainable, and equitable world for all.



Lee M. Pouliot
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Lee Pouliot is a Planner and Administrator in the City of Chicopee's Office of Community Development (OCD). Lee plays an integral role in overseeing various state and federal grants and manages the City's brownfields program. He brings experience in community engagement, sustainable development, LEED, Sustainable Sites, urban planning and landscape architecture to the OCD. Lee is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects and is a LEED Green Associate. He holds a Master of Landscape Architecture from Cornell University and a Bachelor of Science in Ornamental Horticulture with a specialization in Environmental Design from Delaware Valley College. He is chair of the Events Committee of the Northampton Area Young Professionals.



Jennifer Sanchez
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Born in Newark, New Jersey, and raised in Springfield, Jennifer Sanchez is the proud mother of two amazing girls, Lianesa and Kaliza. She earned her B.A. in Psychology and M.B.A. from Bay Path College, holds certifications in: MBTI, CDF, REA, and has recently been accepted as a doctoral candidate at the University of Hartford with a focus on the Latino community. Jennifer is the Vocational Education Career Counselor at Springfield Technical Community College and co-chair of the Hispanic Association in Higher Education. She continues to serve in a variety of areas in the community promoting personal growth and development.



Nicole Skelly
Personal Banking Officer

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Nicole has more than 20 years of experience in the Pioneer Valley banking industry, the last six of those years at United Bank. As a Personal Banking Officer, Nicole is responsible for soliciting new and expanded business for her assigned portfolio/market area and oversees the delivery of high-quality customer service to her designated portfolio of accounts. Nicole is a resident of Ludlow where she lives with her husband, Shawn, and three active children: Loren, Colin & Quinn. She can be found volunteering with her children's school and sporting events. Nicole is passionate about children, families and education to ensure the best for future generations.



Kyle Sullivan
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Kyle lives and grew up in East Longmeadow. He received a BSBA with honors from Nichols College. After graduation Kyle moved back to the area to become a 3rd generation insurance broker working at the John M. Glover Agency in Holyoke. As a Commercial Insurance Specialist he helps to protect local business owners. Kyle is the VP of Mill River BNI in Northampton and was recently named Western Mass BNI Member of the Year. He is a board member of Junior Achievement WMASS, the Holyoke Blue Sox, and serves on the Events and Worklife committees for the Young Professional Society of Springfield.



Colin Tansey
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Colin Tansey is the Inside Sales Manager at Specialty Bolt and Screw in Agawam. Colin received his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Westfield State University.

Colin volunteers his time in the Sunday School program at St. Mary's Church in Westfield. He is an active member of the Dante Italian American Club. He is originally from Westfield and has settled there with his wife, Jessica and daughter Mia. In his spare time, he enjoys boating and recreational water sports.



Todd Weir
Pastor

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Todd Weir is the Pastor of First Churches in Northampton. He is a board member at Friends of the Homeless, and was a program manager for housing and homeless programs in Poughkeepsie, NY for eight years. Todd has a Masters in Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School and a Masters in Psychology from Marist College. He is also a freelance writer and blogger at “bloomingcactus” and has been published in the Abingdon Creative Preaching Annual for the past three years. Todd and his wife Jeanne have raised four children, and they enjoy biking, hiking, gardening and reading.



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Chris Whelan is a Collector at Florence Savings Bank. He is an active volunteer in his community where he serves on various committees, among them the Cutchins Program for Children and Families and the Northampton Salvation Army, where he serves as unit Treasurer. The son of two Irish immigrants, Chris grew up in Amherst and currently lives in Northampton. He is pursuing a B.S. in Finance from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. In his off time he enjoys traveling, visiting family in Ireland, and enjoying the restaurants and culture of the Northampton area.



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Jonencia Wood is a Diversity Specialist with the Office of Diversity & Inclusion at Baystate Health. Wood has been a member of the Baystate Health family for over 12 years. She holds a Master's in Management from Cambridge College. Wood's career focuses on the professional development of youth and individuals of color. Wood is an active community member within the Pioneer Valley with volunteer roles across the region. She lives in Palmer with her husband and five children. Her passions include project management, event planning, community development and professional development of self.



Notes

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