PRESS RELEASE

Dwayne T. James
University of Missouri Extension
1-314-400-7391 | jamesdt@missouri.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 19, 2019

Announcing the 2020 Neighborhood Leadership Fellows Cohort

Advanced Leadership Training to Increase St. Louis Promise Zone Civic Engagement

St. Louis, MO: Creating Whole Communities, in partnership with University of Missouri- St. Louis, University of Missouri Extension, and St. Louis Promise Zone- St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, is proud to announce the 2020 Neighborhood Leadership Fellows Cohort Class. Neighborhood Leadership Fellows is generously supported by Missouri Foundation for Health. The 2020 Cohort consists of 25 leaders from North St. Louis City and North St. Louis County:

- Julia Abernathy
- Megan Betts
- Mary Chandler
- Audrey Ellermann
- Ted Gatlin, Jr.
- Eujorya Gilkey
- Delesha George
- Karen Greer
- Eltoreon Hawkins
- Kristina Hazley
- Kyle Lackey
- Trevaughn Latimer
- Janett Lewis
- Alan Mueller
- Dawn Price
- Ebonie Reed
- Paulette Sankofa
- Ramona Scott
- Catherine Smith-Morgan
- Shavanna Spratt
- Toni Stovall
- Quinton Ward
- Sundy Whiteside
- Alice Wilson
- Michael Woods

The mission of Neighborhood Leadership Fellows is to increase the voices of North St. Louis City and North County residents at the civic decision-making tables in order to produce more equitable regional policies for neighborhoods. The primary geographic focus for the program is the federally designated St. Louis Promise Zone.

Neighborhood Leadership Fellows is a nine-month leadership training. The program, set to convene on January 10, will meet one weekend a month from January through September 2019. During the Friday and Saturday sessions, participants will engage in shared collaborative learning experiences through dialogue, and presentations among fellows and respective community and state leaders. Educational workshops will cover policies, new research, and innovations that promote equitable neighborhood development in areas of housing, education, economic development, public health and safety. Positional power trainings will give participants the foundational knowledge to lead their communities and to serve effectively on boards, commissions, committees, and in elected office. All participants who are accepted receive a $2,000 stipend and a UMSL Chancellor's Certificate upon completion.

To learn more about the program, please visit cwc.umsl.edu/nlf/

Neighborhood Leadership Fellows Program Partners:

- Creating Whole Communities (CWC). CWC, formed in 2014, brings together the University of Missouri–St. Louis (School of Social Work, Des Lee Collaborative Vision, and the Public Policy Research Center), University of Missouri Extension (MU Extension), and the St. Louis region's neighborhoods to focus on strengthening our communities. CWC looks to link the resources of the university's local efforts throughout the region to create whole communities.
- University of Missouri Extension**.** MU Extension is the outreach and engagement arm of the University of Missouri system providing research-based educational programs for youth & families, businesses & communities, and horticulture. MU Extension solves problems and engages with communities across all 114 counties and the City of St. Louis.
- Missouri Foundation for Health. Missouri Foundation for Health is a resource for the region. They work with communities and nonprofits to generate and accelerate positive changes in health.
- St. Louis Promise Zone – St. Louis Economic Development Partnership. The St. Louis Promise Zone program launched in 2013, designates high-poverty urban, rural and tribal communities as Promise Zones in order to increase economic activity, improve educational outcomes, reduce serious and violent crime, invest in transformative development and improve health and wellness.