

Lee's Summit Diversity and Inclusion Commission
Member Bio

Dale Beasley

2500 SW Winterview Ridge
Lee's Summit, MO 64081

District of residence: 2
Years as a resident: 22
Education: East High School, *Kansas City, Missouri*
Calvary Bible College and Theological Seminary
Current Employment: Pillars of Truth Church, *Pastor*

Interest in Serving Community:

I have been a part of the Lee's Summit community for over 20 years and have watched the community evolve. There is a way for each of us to contribute, express ourselves, and serve. We all have a mix of experiences, passions, values, desires and skills. Every journey has purpose. With a heart of passion, we can all have a positive impact on the community. I am committed to a community that is united on every level.

Other Activities:

City of Lee's Summit Human Relations Commission—Chair

City of Lee's Summit Police Department—Chaplain

Lee's Summit Diversity and Inclusion Commission
Member Bio

Jesse Bechtold
2808 SW 13th Street
Lee's Summit, MO 64081

District of residence: 2
Years as a resident: 21
Education: Booneville High School, *Booneville, MO*
University of Missouri, *Bachelor of Accounting*
Current Employment: By the Numbers, LLC, *Principal, Owner*

Interest in Serving Community:

For years I have included in every workshop, presentation, and keynote address a quote by Thomas Friedman, "Change is inevitable, your only choice is whether the change is done by you or to you." I want to be part of change. There is much I don't know about Diversity and Inclusion; however, I am willing to learn and to contribute what I know about strategy, managing change and culture to the process.

I have been a consultant to the Fortune 10, to startups, I have consulted with for profit, non-profit, and educational institutions. They all struggle with strategies for change, they let the perfect get in the way of the good. This commission will be asked to consider our community and possibly leading change, I want to bring my experience with strategy and change leadership. I want to bring my analytical skills and my love for Lee's Summit to the table.

Other Activities:

Alliance for Strong Families—Volunteer

Lee's Summit Arts Council—Past Boardmember

Summit Arts—Past Boardmember

Lee's Summit Sunrise Rotary—Past Member

Lee's Summit Diversity and Inclusion Commission
Member Bio

Tina Ellsworth

1637 SW Napa Valley Drive
Lee's Summit, MO 64082

District of residence: 2

Years as a resident: 17

Education: Central Missouri State University, *Bachelor of Secondary Education*
University of Central Missouri, *Masters in History*
University of Kansas, PhD in Curriculum and Instruction

Current Employment: Olathe Public Schools, *K-12 Social Studies Coordinator*
University of Kansas, Baker University, & Emporia State University,
Adjunct Professor

Interest in Serving Community:

I am interested in serving on the Diversity and Inclusion for several reasons. First, I am an educator (with a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction), and equity is at the center of everything I do, so naturally, I'm drawn to more opportunities where I can be involved in DEI efforts. I'm mindful of the intersections of various identities on people's lived experiences, and am conscious about how we can work together as a community to make those experiences the best they can be. Second, my knowledge about DEI has led to me providing workshops on these topics at the local, state, and national levels, both for schools and for businesses. Third, I am eager to serve in this capacity outside of the scope of my day job, because I want to partner with others in my community to be a part of its continuous improvement.

Other Activities:

Parent Teacher Association—Active Member

Equity in LSR7 Group—Member

Human Relations Commission in Olathe, KS—Contributor as role as member of the Diversity and Engagement Advisory Council for Olathe Public Schools.

Suburban Balance and Races United—Volunteer

Local Church—Active Member

National Council for the Social Studies--Board of Directors

Lee's Summit Diversity and Inclusion Commission
Member Bio

Melanie Harding

612 SE Westwind Dr
Lee's Summit, MO 64063

District of residence: 1

Years as a resident: 28

Education: Lee's Summit West High School
Rockhurst University, *Bachelor of Communication Sciences & Disorders*

Current Employment: Lee's Summit R-7 School District, *Behavior Coach*

Interest in Serving Community:

I would like to offer my unique perspective as a lifelong Lee's Summit Resident and member of the LGBTQ community. I believe my experiences can help shape the community's culture of diversity and inclusion.

Lee's Summit Diversity and Inclusion Commission
Member Bio

Lorenzo Harrison

1401 SW 3rd St, Apt A2
Lee's Summit, MO 64061

District of residence: 2

Years as a resident: 10

Education: Lee's Summit North High School
Missouri Southern State University, *Bachelor of Business
Administration-Secondary Business Education (enrolled)*

Current Employment: Lee's Summit R-7 School District, *Hawthorn Hill Elementary School
Before and After School Services Site Coordinator*

Interest in Serving Community:

I am interested in serving on the Commission for Diversity and Inclusion to help make recommendations regarding diversity issues within our city and to help provide ways for our city to be more inclusive. Some key qualities I feel that I would offer are integrity, competence, insight, dedication, and effectiveness.

Other Activities:

United Church KC—Boardmember

Word and Deliverance Evangelistic Ministries—Boardmember

Lorenzo Harrison Ministries International—Boardmember

Lorenzo Gives Back—Boardmember

Lee's Summit Diversity and Inclusion Commission
Member Bio

Levi Holland

500 NW O'Brien Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64063

District of residence: 3

Years as a resident: 6

Education: Tri-County Community School, *Thornburg, IA*
Olivet Nazarene University, *Bachelor of Youth Ministry*
Nazarene Theological Seminary, *Master of Divinity*

Current Employment: Post Coffee Company, *Co-founder & Roaster*

Interest in Serving Community:

I believe that our community should be as equitable as possible, to not only be a place of equality, but a harbor of equity for all of the residents. What that means is for Lee's Summit to be not just be a place of residence, but a place where people from diverse backgrounds, cultural and socio-economic, can thrive. I have a master's level education in Pastoral leadership with 15 years of experience, and 6 years of entrepreneurial ownership skills. I truly believe in the investment of people to make communities thrive, and with this commission, to make sure that opportunity not only serves majority culture, but sets up the success for our growing minority cultures, because at the end of the day, we all hail from the same town, and I want that to be a place where people are proud to be from.

Other Activities:

Local, Home Church Pastor

Pro Deo Youth Center—Volunteer

Equity in LSR7 Parent's Group—Member (and location host)

Lee's Summit Diversity and Inclusion Commission
Member Bio

Sharon Ivy

604 NW Brookhaven
Lee's Summit, MO 64081

District of residence: 2
Years as a resident: 11
Education: Raytown South High School, *Raytown, MO*
Missouri State University, *Bachelor of Accounting*
University of Missouri-Kansas City, *Juris Doctrate*
Current Employment: Stinson LLP, *Manager of Diversity and Inclusion*

Interest in Serving Community:

The City has experienced some challenges related to diversity and inclusion in recent years, notably within our school district. This, combined with the national movement for social justice, places the City in a position to think strategically about what we want our community to look like in the future. I would like to be a part of the discussion and collaborate with other citizens as we look to create a community that is diverse, inclusive and welcoming to everyone. I am the Manager of Diversity and Inclusion at a large law firm where we are addressing unconscious bias, hosting opportunities for honest dialogue and creating structures which allow all of our constituents to thrive. Prior to working in diversity and inclusion full time, I practiced law for over 10 years in Kansas City. I look forward to using my expertise in diversity and inclusion to support the Commission.

Other Activities:

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association's Diversity Section—Member

Kansas City, Missouri Chapter of Jack and Jill of America—Member

Assistance League of Kansas City Advisory Council—Boardmember

St. James United Methodist Church—Member and Middle School Sunday School Facilitator

Lee's Summit Diversity and Inclusion Commission Member Bio

Saadia Mahmood

4435 SW Creek Drive
Lee's Summit, MO 64082

District of residence: 2

Years as a resident: 4

Education: Dr. Norman Bethune Collegiate Institute (High School), *Toronto, ON*
University of Missouri-Columbia, *Bachelor & Master of Accountancy*

Current Employment: NBH Bank (dba Bank Midwest), *Director of Enterprise Risk/Chief Information Security Officer*

Interest in Serving Community:

Lee's Summit is our home. The only way to truly show our investment to our home is through continuous self-reflection to further self-improve and providing service to support the end goal. We've been on national media for how our school board is grappling with D&I and recent pivotal events and sentiments further illustrate the gap between various groups within our community still exists. From an ethical perspective, D&I is an imperative.

Our efforts in assessing what we define as diversity, what our goals are, how we hope to achieve those goals, I expect, will be invaluable in helping our community continue staying relevant, innovative, and prosperous. Mayor Baird, for example, during his last State of the City had mentioned the need to continue attracting younger generations. This is a great example of the impact this Commission can have. The younger generation's demographics, values, and interests could be greatly addressed by our Commission's efforts.

Personally, I'm a first-generation immigrant: both my parents are from India. I spent nearly a decade of my life in Saudi Arabia and another in Canada. I know what it's like to be from the outside and having to find a way to belong. In our core family, my husband and I are a mixed-race couple with four children. We near daily must address how to meld our two cultures as well as our two religions. Our goal is to raise complete human beings who are impactful to the world around them while fitting in and standing out.

For a personality perspective, I am a very driven individual. My strengths are in assessing risk. I'm a true dissenter. A true dissenter is needed always to help ensure concepts/ideas are assessed completely from many perspectives before rolling out.

Other Activities:

Bank Midwest's EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Committee-- Core/Founding Member

Kansas City Chamber's Centurions Leadership Program—2019 Graduate

Lee's Summit Diversity and Inclusion Commission
Member Bio

Ben Martin

302 NE Keystone
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

District of residence: 4
Years as a resident: 32
Education: Pacific High School, *Pacific, MO*
Culver-Stockton College, *Bachelor of Speech and Theater Education*
University of Central Missouri, *Master of Arts-Theater*
Current Employment: Retired

Interest in Serving Community:

This issue intersects with my experiences on so many levels. Education is at the center of this concern. Not only the formal institutions of school-based education, but also the informal revelations about how to interact in a diverse community are open for a wide ranging and discerning conversation. I especially feel that the Arts can play a huge role in bridging gaps and including people from all backgrounds. Yet, the Arts in general have a LONG way to go to achieve diversity and inclusion within their own ranks. I look forward to exploring all the facets of these issues and working to open hearts and minds (or keep them open) to make Lee's Summit a better and more welcoming community.

Other Activities:

Downtown Lee's Summit Cultural Arts Committee—Member

Rotary Club of Lee's Summit—Member

Lee's Summit Christian Church—Member

Lee's Summit Arts Council—Past Member and Chair

Summit Theatre Group—Former President, Founding Board Member, and Director

Chamber of Commerce—Past Chair of Education Committee

Lee's Summit Diversity and Inclusion Commission
Member Bio

Claudia Meyer
1021 NE Serenity Lane
Lee's Summit, MO 64064

District of residence: 1
Years as a resident: 16
Education: William Woods University, *Educational Doctorate Program (enrolled)*
William Woods University, *Education Specialist*
University of Central Missouri, *Masters in School Counseling*
Webster University, *Masters of Curriculum Instruction & Instruction*
University of Central Missouri, *Bachelor of Arts in Education*
Current Employment: Guadalupe Centers Middle School, *Principal*

Interest in Serving Community:

Diversity is a global topic that deserves attention. These days, most people know diversity and inclusion is important for a culture and community to thrive, so it makes sense that maintaining diversity discussions in our community is important, as well.

I believe that a primary role for any community leader should be to make sure all its members feel both supported and challenged. If members are not supported and able to express themselves, then they won't contribute. That is why support and autonomy are important to cultivate. Once these open and honest discussions are facilitated and our residents have a level of comfort, they are able to have real conversations with each other, even challenging and creating tension within the community. It is important not to avoid those important conversations — they're good for the community, increasing its value and showcasing its growth.

I want to serve on this commission because of all the amazing possibilities that can come of it. We can brainstorm ideas, have different types of conversations, and have the opportunity to share our perspectives and learn from others as well. How amazing is a community where all its members feel valued? Where assumptions are questioned and alternative ideas are presented — This committee would help our community continue to grow in this area. Diversity not only supports and enhances our community now, but it ensures longevity and future growth.

Other Activities:

City of Lee's Summit Ignite Strategic Plan Collaboration with Educational Partners C4
Implementation Team—Citizen Member

Lee's Summit Diversity and Inclusion Commission
Member Bio

Karen Schuler

537 NE Victoria Court
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

District of residence: 3
Years as a resident: 28
Education: Ruskin High School, *Kansas City, Missouri*
University of Missouri-Columbia, *Bachelor of Journalism*
Current Employment: United Way of Greater Kansas City, *Director of Community Engagement*

Interest in Serving Community:

In recent weeks, we've begun new conversations about race and the systems that have shaped opportunities and inequities in America. Many in our predominantly white community may believe civil rights is an issue of the 1950's and 1960's. We can certainly see now how inequality persists. There is work left to do.

Lee's Summit is a community that is changing and we can approach our discussion of diversity with awareness, understanding and respect. As we learn from others of different backgrounds, we will address problems where they exist and build a more vibrant, successful community for all citizens.

Other Activities:

City of Lee's Summit Human Relations Commission—Board member

Community Services League— Vice Chair, Board of Directors

Truman Heartland Foundation—Secretary, Board of Directors

City of Lee's Summit Ignite Strategic Plan Community Health and Wellness C4 Implementation Team—Citizen Member

Lee's Summit Diversity and Inclusion Commission
Member Bio

Susan Wilson

1257 SW Summit Crossing Drive
Lee's Summit, MO 64081

District of residence: 2

Years as a resident: 16.5

Education: Schenely High School, *Pittsburg, PA*
University of Pittsburg, *Master and PhD of Clinical Psychology*
University of Missouri-Kansas City, *Master of Business Administration*

Current Employment: University of Missouri-Kansas City, *Vice Chancellor of Diversity and Inclusion*

Interest in Serving Community:

As a resident of Lee's Summit, I have long been interested in getting involved in our community. When I heard of the Mayor's newly-formed Diversity and Inclusion Commission, I felt that my skill sets and experience could be helpful to this effort. I am a psychologist that has over 20 years of experience in diversity and inclusion strategy, and currently serve as the Vice Chancellor of Diversity and Inclusion at UMKC. At UMKC, I have experience chairing a 20 member diversity council. I have consulted with government and a variety of organizations regarding Diversity and including Unity Village, KU, the FAA and three school districts.

I also have board and commission experience; I was a commissioner for Jackson County COMBAT, as well as a member of the Mayors Human Rights Commission (Kansas City). Given that Lee's Summit is becoming increasingly diverse, I believe I can make a positive contribution to Mayor Bill Baird's new initiative. My nature is to be collaborative, to look for "win-win" solutions, and to educate others without a "shame and blame" approach.

Other Activities:

Delta Sigma Theta—Member

Jackson County Chapter of Links Incorporated—Member