

Middle Tennessee Research Administration and Innovation Network (M-TRAIN)

Workshop 3: April 11th, 2024



M-TRAIN WORKSHOP 3

LOCATION & TIMES

Date and Time	Thursday, April 11 th , 2024, 8:15 am – 4:00 pm
Event Space	Tennessee State University (TSU) Research and Sponsored Programs Building, Room 163 1008 37 th Avenue North, Nashville TN 37209

AGENDA

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:15 am – 9:00 am	Arrival, Informal Networking, and Breakfast
9:00 am – 9:10 am	Welcome, Workshop Rules and Tools
9:10 am – 10:00 am	Panel on Government Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xaviar Warren (Managing Director, Congressional Partners) • Pearl Amanfu (Digital Inclusion Officer, Nashville Mayor’s Office) • Abbey Loehr (Manager of Research-Practice, Metro Nashville Public Schools, Co-Director for Nashville Partnership for Educational Equity Research – PEER)
10:00 am – 10:45 am	Discussion Session 1: Government Partnerships
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Recap Session 1
11:00 am – 11:15 am	Break
11:20 am – 12:05 pm	Discussion Session 2: Commercialization, Tech Transfer, Research Translation
12:05 pm – 12:20 pm	Recap Session 2
12:20 pm – 12:30 pm	Break for Lunch
12:30 pm – 1:15 pm	Lunchtime Panel Discussion: Commercialization, Tech Transfer, Research Translation Panel Session moderated by Dr. Quincy Quick (Chief Research Officer and Associate Vice President of Research and Sponsored Programs, TSU) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Turner (Technology Transfer and Innovation Manager, Tennessee State University) • Chris Rowe (Executive Director for Industry Collaborations, Vanderbilt University) • Holly Rachel (Executive Director for the Darrell S. Freeman Sr. Incubation and Innovation Center, Fisk University)
1:15 pm – 1:30 pm	Break

1:30 pm – 2:20 pm	<p>Panel on Corporate and Non-Profit Partnerships</p> <p>Panel session moderated by Matt Seaton (Director of Corporate Partnerships, Vanderbilt University)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kandace Harris (Client Service Advisor, Pinnacle Bank) • LoLita Toney (Assistant Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Tennessee State University) • Achintya Ray (Professor of Economics and Endowed Chair of Excellence in Banking and Finance Services, Tennessee State University) • Lena Winfree (John Lewis Center Tech/Data Science Fellow at Fisk University, Rachel + Winfree Consulting)
2:20 pm – 2:40 pm	Discussion Session 3: Corporate Relations and Non-Profit Partnerships
2:40 pm – 2:55 pm	Recap Session 3
2:55 pm – 3:00 pm	Closing
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Informal networking with coffee and refreshments

WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES



M-TRAIN JAMBOARD

April 11th, 2024: Workshop 3

Jamboard App (Android)



Link to download
the app for Android
Devices

Jamboard App (iOS)



Link to download
the app for iOS
(Apple) devices

Link to Jamboard



Link to the projected
JamBoard

How to use Jamboard


Computers:

1. Use the JamBoard link in the latest email from M-TRAIN and navigate to JamBoard.
2. Click on the text boxes and edit with your group's ideas!

Mobile Devices:

1. Scan the QR Code to download the JamBoard app onto your device (Android or iOS).
2. Scan the QR Code for today's Jamboard (code on the right) and click the link - it will open today's JamBoard.
3. Use the "sticky note" function to contribute. On JamBoard, click "+" and select "Sticky Note".

 <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/research-development-and-support/m-train/>

 mtrain@vanderbilt.edu

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Joanne Spitz, MA, CRA (Co-Chair): Joanne is the Executive Director of the Research Development and Support (RDS) team within Vanderbilt's Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Innovation. Prior to this role, she served as the Senior Director of Grant Initiatives, Corporate and Foundation Relations at Baylor University, resulting in a significant increase in Foundation and other private support for faculty researchers. Joanne also spent over 30 years in research development and pre- and post-award administration at Washington University in St. Louis in multiple departments and schools, including Neuroscience, Biology, and the Olin Business School. While at Olin, she worked for 11 years as the administrator of an interdisciplinary research network sponsored by The MacArthur Foundation. She was also instrumental in the establishment of a new grants program for the Olin School and served as its first Grant Development Manager.



Quincy Quick, PhD (Co-Chair): Quincy serves as the Associate Vice President of Research and Sponsored Programs and Chief Research Officer at Tennessee State University (TSU). As a scientist, Quincy has studied novel targets and therapeutics for the treatment of glioblastomas for the past 20 years and has been an active NIH grant reviewer, as well as reviewer and editor for several journals. Quincy has also served as a research mentor and/or coordinator on several NIH and NSF funded developmental training grant programs that include RISE, MARC, NIMH-COR, HBCU-UP, and served as the co-program director for the TSU-NERVE program, an NIH funded developmental training program to increase the number of students that earn PhDs in neuroscience. As part of these initiatives, Quincy has mentored more than 80 students at the PhD, Masters, and undergraduate levels. This service and productivity have led to Quincy being acknowledged as one of the most inspiring black scientists in the US by Cell Mentor. Furthermore, in his role as AVP of Research and Sponsored Programs, Quincy mentors and supports research efforts and development of faculty at all levels.



Sajid Hussain, PhD (Co-Chair): Sajid Hussain is Associate Provost for Research and the Director of the Office of Sponsored Research and Programs (OSP) at Fisk University. In 2009, he joined Fisk University as an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Prior to Fisk, he worked as Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in the Jodrey School of Computer Science, Acadia University, Canada, 2005-09. He received a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Manitoba, Canada, in 2004. Sajid is interested in applying machine learning to projects related to healthcare, bioinformatics, digital humanities, and criminal justice. He is also interested in energy-efficient communication protocols and security techniques for mobile, ubiquitous, and pervasive applications.



Donna Ingles, MS, MPH (Organizing Committee Member): Donna currently serves as Director of Operations for the Center for Technology Transfer and Commercialization. Prior to this, she served as Associate Director of Research Development and has nearly 20 years of grant development experience across pre- and post-award support and research project management. Donna is the former Assistant Director of Operations for the Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health, where she focused on optimization of pre- and post-award processes, project development, and implementation, as well as research capacity-building in low- and middle-income countries. She previously worked at Moffitt Cancer Center, in Drug Discovery and then in Epidemiology, culminating in a senior position within the Center for Immunization and Infection Research in Cancer.



Phil Ko, PhD (Organizing Committee Member): Phil is an Associate Director of Research Development on Vanderbilt's RDS team. He has 16 years of research experience in cognitive neuroscience conducted at Yale, Harvard, and Vanderbilt. He has held faculty positions at Vanderbilt and Austin Peay State University. Following his scientific career, he pivoted to science policy and research administration, serving the National Science Foundation (NSF) as a Science and Technology Policy Fellow with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). At NSF, he managed communications and analytics with the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES). Phil also served as a Science Officer for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs within the Department of Defense.



Phyllis Danner, EdD, CRA (Organizing Committee Member): Phyllis is Executive Director of Research and Sponsored Programs at TSU, providing daily leadership, supervision, and administration of the division. She is responsible for pre-award and non-financial post-award administration for proposals and awards of federal, state, private, foundation, and local agencies. She is the project manager of all external information systems, e.g., Research.gov, Grants.gov, NIH Commons, etc. She is also responsible for assisting in garnering over \$100 million in funding awards during the 2023 fiscal year, conducts university-wide training and leadership concerning compliance and budget development, and is an adjunct professor at TSU.



Sufyan Baksh, PhD, MBA (Co-Investigator): Sufyan is the Executive Director of Innovation and Distinguished Professor of Business in the Department of Business Administration at Fisk University. He received a PhD in integrated marketing communication and advanced research methods from Texas Tech University and completed a post-doctorate at the University of Florida. He has an MBA in entrepreneurship and international business from RIT, an MBA/MMS in marketing from RIMSIR, and a BA in Economics and Commerce from Jai Hind College (Bombay, India). He is a board member of Wahed Invest Inc. and worked for LINOpinion PR (Mumbai, India) for four years. His research in marketing, communication, digital transformation, etc. is published in several internationally renowned peer reviewed journals and has been presented at leading national and international conferences.



Lena Winfree (Co-Investigator): Lena Winfree is the inaugural John Lewis Center Fellow for Tech/Data Science at Fisk University. Lena is the co-founder of Rachel + Winfree Consulting, a data analytics consulting firm that provides data strategy and analytics solutions to small and mid-sized businesses. Lena is also Vice President and co-organizer of the Nashville chapter of the Blacks In Technology Foundation. In this role, she has been responsible for launching social justice initiatives (including equitable workforce development) that increase digital equity and literacy for historically excluded minorities. Lena also launched LocalTek-Thrive, a technology education initiative in partnership with Dell Technologies that aims to diversify the tech talent pipeline by providing Nashville high school students with opportunities to receive hands-on tech education, college credit, and industry certifications that prepare them to join Nashville's rapidly growing tech workforce. This initiative currently serves over 150 students in the MNPS school district, with over 90 percent being minorities. In addition to her business and non-profit work, Lena is an active part of the Nashville tech community. Lena dedicates her time by serving on the Women in Technology Tennessee (WiTT), the Nashville Technology Council (NTC) executive board, and the Nashville Technology Council's Education Committee. Lena has also served on the steering committee for the Nashville Analytics Summit for the past two years. Lena was awarded the "Women of Influence" (2023) for the greater Nashville area.

Lena will be serving as a panelist in today's Panel on Corporate and Non-Profit Partnerships.

PANELISTS



Xavier Warren (Congressional Partners): Xavier J. Warren serves as the Managing Director for Congressional Partners (CP), a leading federal pre-award services agency specializing in aiding higher education institutions and nonprofits across the nation in securing grants and earmarks to fund their priority needs. CP boasts a remarkable track record, having successfully assisted all of its clients in securing awards, totaling over \$100,000,000 in federal funding. Notably, CP has achieved an impressive average return on investment of 3,303%. Recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of its clients, CP has been honored as a "Top Lobbyist" by the National Institute for Lobbying & Ethics for three consecutive years, in 2021, 2022, and 2023.



Abbey Loehr (Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools): Abbey joined the Department of Research, Assessment, and Evaluation at Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) in August 2023 as Manager of Research-Practice Partnerships to serve as the district-side Co-Director for Partnership for Educational Equity Research (PEER), a research-practice partnership between MNPS and Vanderbilt University's Peabody College. She has been leading and creating systems for conducting collaborative research on high impact problems of practice for the past 10 years. Most recently, Abbey served as the Research Director for the Institute for School Partnership at Washington University in St. Louis where she led a Networked Improvement Community focused on improving equitable outcomes and experiences in mathematics. She holds a PhD in developmental science from Vanderbilt University.



Pearl Amanfu (Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County): Pearl Amanfu is the Digital Inclusion Officer for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, leading Tennessee's first digital inclusion office. Her work centers on collaboration with nonprofit, private, and academic institutions to help residents access, afford, and use technology in everyday life. Before taking this role, she led the development of Davidson County's first comprehensive digital equity study, conducted with the Digital Inclusion and Access Taskforce. The study was nominated for Digital Inclusion Initiative of the Year by Nashville Technology Council (NTC) in 2021. In 2022, Pearl was nominated for NTC's Digital Inclusion Advocate of the Year.



Robert Turner (Tennessee State University): Robert Turner is an accomplished innovation strategy leader, with a strong track record in building inclusive innovation ecosystems and social impact entrepreneurship. As Director of Technology Transfer and Innovation at Tennessee State University and Executive Director and Co-Founder of Earth Tech Futures, he has dedicated his career to helping community and business leaders, innovators, and venture capitalists identify and remedy barriers to entrepreneurship while driving social impact, sustainable development, and economic growth in communities around the world.



Holly Rachel (Fisk University): Holly Rachel is the Executive Director for the Darrell S. Freeman Sr. Incubation and Innovation Center at Fisk University. Holly Rachel is a seasoned executive, educator, and entrepreneur with more than 15 years of experience. Rachel began her career at the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation where she held roles as a special agent, forensic scientist, and data analyst. In 2017, Rachel and friend Lena Winfree, who co-founded the Data Science Institute at Meharry Medical School, launched Rachel and Winfree, a technology consulting firm specializing in helping small to midsize businesses strategically scale with data. Since then, the two have consulted with more than 30 small to mid-sized companies across the globe. Acutely aware of the lack of diversity in Nashville’s tech scene, she and Winfree chartered the Nashville chapter of Blacks in Technology, a global organization that seeks to increase the number of minorities in tech by expanding education opportunities, in 2021. As president, Rachel has grown the membership of the local chapter to 750 individuals, making it one of the largest chapters in the U.S. At the helm of BIT, she has created and launched seven successful education programs, including Local Tek Thrive (in collaboration with TSU and Nashville State) and Healthcare Data Training (in collaboration with Nashville Software School, HCA, Dell, and Next Generation Health Analytics).



Christopher Rowe (Vanderbilt University): Dr. Rowe is Executive Director for industry collaborations in the Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Innovation working closely with the Center for Technology Transfer and Commercialization at Vanderbilt University. He leads the institution's efforts to create and expand mutually beneficial industry research collaborations that advance strategic scientific programs, solves industry-relevant research and development challenges, and provides channels to deploy and commercialize new technologies of substantial societal impact. He holds faculty appointments in engineering management and communication of science and technology. Prior to his current role, he served as associate dean for external relations in the Vanderbilt University School of Engineering.



Dr. Achintya Ray (Tennessee State University): Achintya Ray is the Endowed Chair of Excellence in Banking and Financial Services, Professor of Economics, and Director at the Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development at Tennessee State University.



LoLita Toney (Tennessee State University): Smart, authentic, and fun - these three words are defining qualities of LoLita Toney, a local business and community leader driven by her passion for working with people and organizations on achieving their maximum potential. Currently serving as the Assistant Vice President of Institutional Advancement at Tennessee State University, LoLita is a recognized philanthropy strategy expert in the nonprofit and educational spaces. LoLita was an 18-year member of the Army Reserve and National Guard, serving on active duty with the U.S. Army in Frankfurt, Germany, and in the Gulf War.



Kandace Harris (Pinnacle Bank): Kandace Harris began her banking career as a teller in 2010 with Regions Bank and found her most fulfilling position as the manager of the North Nashville branch, serving as a financial literacy advocate. Kandace joined Studio Bank in 2018, Nashville's newest De Novo bank since 2008 where she influenced retail standard operating procedures and dove deeper into credit policies, loan approval processes, and commercial lending. In 2020, Kandace continued making an impact as the Office Manager at The Nashville Entrepreneur Center where she worked directly with entrepreneurs and small businesses, helping them become bankable and providing insight on loan readiness. Kandace returned to banking in 2021 as the VP of Retail Banking for Citizens Bank, the oldest continuously operating African American owned bank in the country. She now proudly serves on Pinnacle Bank's community development team as VP, client service advisor. Kandace assists with identifying goals and creating a financial plan in alignment with set targets. Kandace was recognized for her impact by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as Nashville's Top 30 Under 30 Young Professionals. She earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Lipscomb University and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Fisk University.



Matt Seaton (Vanderbilt University): Matt Seaton brings two decades of expertise in fostering corporate partnerships to his current role as Director of Corporate Partnerships at Vanderbilt University, where he manages a portfolio of strategic industry relationships, engaging them at an enterprise level to foster mutually beneficial collaborations. Matt previously served as Sr. Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations at Belmont University. His career also includes work as Vice President of Partnerships at PENCIL, an organization dedicated to building corporate partnerships with public schools. A Nashville resident for 25 years, Matt's experience spans the fields of mental health, disaster relief, public education, higher education, and the music industry.

ATTENDEES



Chad Brooks (Austin Peay State University): Chad Brooks is the Vice Provost of Research at Austin Peay State University. He is responsible for coordinating all of the administrative duties for Research, Grants and Sponsored Programs, International Education, the Center for Workforce Development, and the College of Graduate Studies. He is also responsible for establishing the policies and procedures that govern these areas. Chad chairs the Graduate and Research Council, facilitates the Institutional Review Board, and coordinates Graduate Faculty approvals and the Graduate Student Appeals Process. Chad also represents APSU's College of Graduate Studies at THEC and several other professional organizations. He is also an active faculty member on campus. He is passionate about foster care and working in the community.



Sharana Jones (Austin Peay State University): Sharana Jones is the Grants Specialist for Austin Peay State University in the College of STEM. She has worked in the Research Administration field for over 20 years in the Healthcare and Higher Education industry, working with federal, foundation and private grants supporting underserved, youth, and community-based initiatives. She received her Bachelor's degree from Ferris State University and is working on her Master's in Community Leadership at APSU and her Certified Research Administrator certification. She is an active member of the APSU Black Faculty and Staff Association and the National Council of University Research Administrators.



Kelly Pitts (Austin Peay State University): Kelly Pitts is the current Assistant Director of Grants at Austin Peay State University. She has a Master's in Corporate Communications and has been working in Grants Administration since 2017. She is also an adjunct professor in the Department of Communication and has been at Austin Peay State University since 2012. She has a wealth of knowledge of the campus and the community. She is an active member of NCURA, board member of the university Staff Senate Committee, and volunteers as a board member with Bella's Closet, a local non-profit in Clarksville, as their grant manager.



Brenda Gill (Belmont University): Brenda Gill is the Grants Administrator at the Office of Sponsored Programs at Belmont University. She holds a BSN from D'Youville College, an MS in Exercise and Nutrition Science from Lipscomb University and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) at Walden University, which she is expected to complete in 2025. Brenda's extensive experience in leadership includes operational, strategic, and clinical roles at Allstate Insurance and Onlife Health respectively. In her current role, Brenda oversees pre-award activities, grant research, and submission processes to position faculty for successful grant funding.



Jai Starling (Belmont University): Jai Starling is the Finance Administrator in the Office of Sponsored Programs at Belmont University. She holds an MBA from Trevecca Nazarene University and is pursuing a Master of Data Science at Meharry Medical College (graduating May 2024). She previously served as Director of Communications at the Tennessee Human Rights Commission and prior to that Grants Manager at the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. Jai's diverse roles showcase her expertise in finance, communication, and grants management. In her current role, she oversees the monitoring of awarded funds compliance, ensuring efficient financial operations.



Ellen Zinkiewicz (Belmont University): Ellen is the Director of Belmont University's inaugural Office of Sponsored Programs and responsible for scaling administration, compliance, and customer support for the University-wide push to increase grant funding. Prior to coming to Belmont, she directed Nashville's youth employment programs including creating and leading the city's first full scale, city-funded youth employment initiative, Opportunity NOW. Ellen is a social worker with an MSSW from University of Tennessee's College of Social Work. She has an undergraduate degree from University of Evansville and was a Fulbright in Debrecen, Hungary. In her spare time, she likes to garden. She has an undergraduate degree from University of Evansville and was a Fulbright in Debrecen, Hungary.



Lindsey Cox (LaunchTN): Lindsey Cox is the CEO of Launch Tennessee (LaunchTN), a 501c3, public-private partnership, empowering Tennessee's most promising entrepreneurs with capital, connection, and commercialization opportunities. Cox spent six years at LaunchTN before rejoining the organization as CEO in July 2022. She previously worked at the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) - a bureau of the Department of Commerce, where she led the restructuring of a \$225 million federal grant program supporting tech-based economic development initiatives, and went on to lead The Company Lab (CO.LAB), a regional entrepreneur center in Chattanooga, TN.



Charles Layne (LaunchTN): Charles Layne currently serves as the Technology Advancement Manager at LaunchTN, where he works to facilitate the commercialization of technologies across the state of TN in addition to striving to improve the TN innovation ecosystem through policy, advocacy, and development efforts. These efforts include the development of the Tennessee Technology Advancement Consortium, a pilot project to create a statewide technology transfer and commercialization support office to increase resources available to participating universities. Chuck previously worked in Nashville and Memphis on housing, transportation, and public infrastructure projects. He holds a bachelor's degree in community development and a Master of City and Regional Planning from the University of Memphis.



Robyn Saakian (Lipscomb University): Robyn Saakian is the director of the Office of Research and Grants at Lipscomb University. She has led Lipscomb to attain public and private grants for academics and research for the past twelve years. In her role in the Office of Research and Grants, Saakian manages institutional oversight of the entire life of the grant cycle, from proposal development to grant management and compliance. Prior to joining Lipscomb, Saakian spent more than a dozen years in Washington, D.C., overseeing international development-related grant programs for two national nonprofit organizations.



Aramandla Ramesh (Meharry Medical College): Aramandla Ramesh is a Professor in the Department of Biochemistry, Cancer Biology, Neuroscience & Pharmacology at Meharry Medical College. He also serves as the Associate Vice-President for Research and Innovation at Meharry. He is an environmental toxicologist by training. His research is funded by NIH, DOE, NSF, EPA, and ACS. Aramandla's research interests are in the areas of environmental health and toxicology, public health exposome, and chemical carcinogenesis.



Kelsey Benton (Middle Tennessee State University): Kelsey Benton is an award management specialist at Middle Tennessee State University. Her role primarily focuses on the post-award aspect of grants, and she oversees time and effort reporting for the institution. Kelsey holds a Bachelor's degree in Human Development and Family Science and a Master's degree in Higher Education Administration. When she is not working, you can find her reading a book, listening to a true crime podcast, or exploring the outdoors with her goofy golden retrievers.



John Sousa (Middle Tennessee State University): John is an Award Management Specialist at MTSU. He performs both pre- and post-award roles. John has an MFA in Writing from the University of San Francisco.



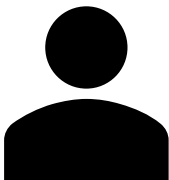
Michelle Willard (Middle Tennessee State University): Michelle Willard began her career not in grants, but as an archaeologist for a cultural resource management firm. She travelled the Southeast for a few years before the Great Recession cut her Indiana Jones dreams to an end. From there she pivoted to journalism. Her writing has been honored by the Council for the Advancement of Education, National Newspaper Association and Tennessee Press Association. In 2015, Willard received the state's highest honor for investigative reporting, the Malcolm Law Investigative Reporting Award from the Tennessee Associated Press Managing Editors.



Zachary Adams (Tennessee Board of Regents): Zachary Adams is Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for TBR. He has worked in both K12 and higher education in classroom, administrative, and policy settings in New York, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Before joining TBR, Zachary worked at the Tennessee Department of Education developing the final pillar of Governor Haslam's Drive to 55 Initiative. This work defined the vision of guided pathways from K12 into college and career for Tennessee's school systems. At TBR, Zachary is responsible for policy, programs, and partnerships that strengthen the connections between education and the workforce. He leads TBR's Center for Apprenticeship which has secured over \$2.6 million to support the expansion of apprenticeship opportunities. He is regularly invited to share promising practices from his work in local, state, and national settings including most recently with the Texas Commission on Virtual Education and the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. Zachary is a PhD candidate at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and holds a master's degree in public policy from Vanderbilt University.



Jessica Barkley (Tennessee State University): Jessica Barkley is a certified corporate and small business manager with over 10 years of experience. In her role as Electronic Records Manager at Tennessee State University, he helps principal investigators gain clarity, set realistic goals, and develop actionable plans to overcome spending obstacles and achieve success.



Corinne Vaughn (Tennessee State University): Corinne Vaughn is the Director for Research Management at Tennessee State University. She has been with TSU for 21 years and has worked as a director in the Research and Sponsored Programs Division for the past fifteen years.



Janice Lovell (Trevecca Nazarene University): Janice Lovell is Director of Grants and Foundation Relations at Trevecca Nazarene University. Janice is currently in the tenth year of leadership at Trevecca Nazarene University, her alma mater. She spent over 25 years in the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences at TSU working with federally funded higher education degree pathways for early childhood teachers. Janice hosts Grants Academy sessions for AmeriCorps VISTA members from the campus and conducts Responsible Conduct in Research training. She is a member and frequent mentor for the Grant Professional Association of middle Tennessee.