

LEADERSHIP MEMPHIS PRESENTS

# 2021 **LEADERSHIP AWARDS** LUNCHEON

Presented by: 1 Regional One Health & (1) sedgwick.





## 2021

# LEADERSHIP **AWARDS** LUNCHEON



Presented by: (I) Regional One Health & (1) sedgwick.



**MARCH 12, 2021** 11:15 A.M. | ZOOM

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## **PROGRAM**

## 11:15 AM - NETWORKING

## 11:30 AM - WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

## Gwyn Fisher (FTS2008, EP2015)

Regional Director, Department of Economic & Community Development, State of Tennessee

## **MAYOR WELCOME**

Mayor Jim Strickland (EP2005) **Memphis Mayor** 

#### PRESENTING SPONSOR WELCOME

## Imad Abdullah (EP2019)

Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer, Regional One Health

## Terri Riley (EP2015)

SVP Managed Care Practice, Sedgwick

#### AWARDS CEREMONY

#### 2021 KATE GOOCH LEADER OF THE YEAR

## Dr. Jonathan McCullers (EP2015)

Dean of Clinical Affairs, The University of Tennessee Health Science Center

## Presented by: Reginald Porter, Jr. (EP2013)

Senior Vice President, CSR/Chief Diversity Officer, ALSAC, the fundraising and awareness organization of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

## 2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

#### Rick Wagers (EP2013)

Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, Regional One Health

Presented by: Valerie Morris Bearup (EP2014) President/CEO, Morris Marketing Group

## **AWARD RECIPIENTS**

#### **Keith Blanchard**

**President & CEO**, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis

Presented by Calvin Anderson (EP1984), President, Clear Strategies Group

## **Crystal Clark-Chatman**

Founder & CEO, Beautiful Spirited Women

Presented by Janet Boscarino (EP2015), Co-Founder & Executive Director, Clean Memphis

#### Dr. Divya Choudhary

Dean, College of Professional & Graduate Studies, Christian Brothers University

Presented by Stephen Reynolds (EP1983), President Emeritus/Senior Consultant, Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation

## Dr. Reginald Coopwood (EP2012)

President & CEO, Regional One Health

Presented by Calvin Anderson (EP1984), President, Clear Strategies Group

#### Judge Bernice Donald (EP1987)

*Circuit Judge*, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

Presented by Raumesh Akbari (EP2017), State Senator, Tennessee General Assembly

## Terri Freeman (EP2016)

Former President, National Civil Rights Museum

Presented by Carol Coletta, President & CEO, Memphis River Parks Partnership

#### Jason Little (EP2009)

President & CEO, Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation

Presented by Steven Reynolds (EP1983), President Emeritus/Senior Consultant, Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation

#### Dr. Reginald Porter, Sr. (EP1984)

Pastor, Metropolitan Baptist Church

Presented by Carol Coletta, President & CEO, Memphis River Parks Partnership

## **Alexandria Smith (EP2017)**

Chief HR Officer, City of Memphis

Presented by Raumesh Akbari (EP2017), State Senator, Tennessee General Assembly

## Leslie Lynn Smith (EP2016)

Former President & CEO, Epicenter

Presented by Janet Boscarino (EP2015), Co-Founder & Executive Director, Clean Memphis

# INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER SPONSOR

### Reginald Porter, Jr. (EP2013)

Senior Vice President, CSR/Chief Diversity Officer, ALSAC, the fundraising and awareness organization of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

# INTRODUCTION OF ENTREPRENEURIAL SPOTLIGHT

#### Jessica Taveau

Interim President and CEO, Epicenter

## **ENTREPRENEUR SPOTLIGHT**

Erica Plybeah, Founder & CEO, MedHaul Nathalie Ocean, COO, MedHaul

## INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND MODERATOR

#### Jessica Taveau

Interim President and CEO, Epicenter

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

James E.K. Hildreth, Ph.D., M.D.

President and Chief Executive Officer, Meharry Medical College

Member of the Biden-Harris Administration COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force

## MODERATED KEYNOTE SPEAKER QUESTIONS

#### Renee Frazier (EP2011)

CEO Emeritus, Common Table Health Alliance Project Manager, College-Wide Patient Center Medical Home, Meharry Medical College

## **CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Reggie Crenshaw (EP2011)

Interim President & CEO Leadership Memphis





Reginald Porter, Jr.
Board Chair (EP2013)
Senior Vice President, CSR/Chief
Diversity Officer
ALSAC, the fundraising and
awareness organization of St.
Jude Children's Research Hospital



Terry Lynch Immediate Past Chair (EP2009) President The Southland Capital Corporation



Valerie Morris Bearup Vice-Chair (EP2014) President & CEO Morris Marketing Group



Rick Wagers Secretary (EP2013) Senior EVP & CFO Regional One Health



Shirley Ford
Treasurer (EP2019)
CFO
City of Memphis



**Belinda Anderson At-Large (EP2001)** Community Volunteer



Ted Townsend At-Large (EP2019) Chief Economic Development & Government Relations Officer The University of Memphis



Percie Strong-Jenkins At Large (EP2014) SVP/Senior Treasury Officer Bank of America



Ginger Pilgrim

Volunteer Memphis Chair (EP2012)

Principal

Price Waterhouse Cooper



Vernon Stafford, Jr.

Alumni Engagement Chair (EP2015)

Senior Executive Vice President and
Chief Audit Executive

First Horizon National Corporation



Shunji Brown-Woods Program Chair (EP2018) Vice President, Global Professional Relations & Fellowship Strategy Smith & Nephew



## LEADERSHIP MEMPHIS

STAFF



Reggie Crenshaw
Interim President/CEO



Jared Bulluck Senior Director of Operations



Andrea Hill
Director of Volunteer
Memphis



Shantile Franklin
Operations
Coordinator



Austin Hasenmueller
Alumni Engagement
Coordinator



Candace Taylor Special Projects & Events Coordinator

## **OUR MISSION**

Leadership Memphis prepares and mobilizes leaders to work together for the good of the whole community.

## 2021 LEADERSHIP MEMPHIS BOARD MEMBERS



Belinda Anderson (EP2001) Community Volunteer



Carol Johnson (EP2015) President Spaces Group, LLC



Karren Todd (EP2016) Empowerment Coach Life Coach



Shunji Brown-Woods (EP2018) Vice President, Global Professional Relations & Fellowship Strategy Smith & Nephew



James Kirkwood (EP2019) Executive Director Memphis Christian Pastor's Network



Chuck Utterback (EP2011) Assistant Vice President, Network Management Cigna Healthcare



Rene Bustamante (EP2009) Staff Vice President & Assistant Treasurer FedEx Corporation



**Terry Lynch** (EP2009)
President
The Southland Capital



Dan Weddle (EP2017) President & CEO ProTech Services Group, Inc.



Joanna Crangle (EP2019) Market President/Publisher Memphis Business Journal



Kimmie McNeil Vaulx (EP1999) System Director of Corporate Communications Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation



Laurie Whitney (EP2018) Integrated Products Sr. Project Manager Sedgwick



Jim Crone (EP2018) Government & Corporate Relations Trane



Valerie Morris Bearup (EP2014) President & CEO Morris Marketing Group



Linda Sawyer (EP2018) CAO/CFO Memphis Tourism



Blake Elliot (EP2010) Senior Vice President Regions Bank



Jean Morton (EP2015) Senior VP & Manager, Not for Profit and Government SunTrust/Truist Bank



Kandace Stewart (EP2020) Director, Business Operations & External Affairs Memphis Grizzlies



Julie Ellis (EP2013) Senior Counsel Butler Snow LLP



Dr. Albert Mosley
(EP2020)
SVP, Chief Mission Integration
Officer
Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare



Sylvester Tate (EP2012) Owner Tate Computer Systems



Gwyn Fisher (FTS2008, EP2015) Regional Director, Department of Economic & Community Development State of Tennessee



Ginger Pilgrim (EP2012) Principal Price Waterhouse



Ted Townsend
(EP2019)
Chief Economic Development
& Government Relations Officer
The University of Memohis



**Shirley Ford** (EP2019) CFO City of Memphis



Reginald Porter, Jr. (EP2013) SVP, CSR/Chief Diversity Officer ALSAC, the fundraising and awareness organization of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital



Rick Wagers (EP2013) Senior EVP & CFO Regional One Health



Edmund Ford, Jr. (EP2010) Commissioner, District 9 Shelby County Commission



Patrice Robinson (EP2006) Council Member, District 3 Memphis City Council



Marvin White (FTS2013, EP2019) Manager, Desktop Planning & Innovation R&D FedEx TechConnect



Paul Haught (EP2020) Vice President of Academics Christian Brothers University



Vernon Stafford, Jr. (EP2015) Senior EVP and Chief Audit Executive First Horizon National Corporation



Percie Strong-Jenkins (EP2014) SVP, Senior Treasury Officer Bank of America



(EP2017) County Attorney Shelby County Government

**Marlinee Iverson** 

## **LEADERSHIP AWARDS RECIPIENTS**



2021 KATE GOOCH LEADER OF THE YEAR

Dr. Jon McCullers (EP2015)
Dean of Clinical Affairs

Dr. Jon McCullers is the Dunavant Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatrics, Senior Executive Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs, Chief Operating Officer, for the College of Medicine at the The University of Tennessee Health Science Center and Pediatrician-in-Chief at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital.

Dr. McCullers moved to Memphis in 1996 for a Pediatric Infectious Diseases fellowship in the joint St. Jude/Le Bonheur program and did his laboratory research training under Dr. Robert Webster. After becoming a St. Jude Scholar in the Physician Scientist Development Program in 1999, McCullers went on to join the St. Jude faculty and the Department of Infectious Diseases.

After 15 years managing a translational research laboratory studying influenza viruses and bacterial pneumonia, Dr. McCullers was recruited to UTHSC and Le Bonheur in 2012 to lead the Department of Pediatrics. The research laboratories directed by Dr. McCullers have pursued investigations related to virology, bacterial pathogenesis, and innate immunity in an effort to better understand the mechanisms underlying co-infections in the lung involving pandemic viruses.

Dr. McCullers grew up in the Tidewater area of Virginia and attended the University of Virginia as an undergraduate. He received his medical degree and did his internship and residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He has been honored with multiple awards and has published more than 170 peer-reviewed articles.

To view past Leadership Awards Winners, visit LeadershipMemphis.org



## 2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

Rick Wagers (EP2013)
Sr. Executive VP/CFO
Regional One Health

Rick Wagers is the Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Regional One Health. In his role, Wagers is responsible for managing all the financial matters of the health system – including overseeing all financial transactions, patient billing and collections, operating and capital budgeting, and investment portfolios. Wagers also oversees the organization's purchasing, security, and facilities operations functions.

Wagers has dedicated his entire career to healthcare finance, including more than 30 years at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. At Vanderbilt, he held the positions of Director of Financial Management, Vice President, and finally, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer before joining Regional One Health in 2010.

Wagers earned his Master of Business Administration – Finance at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee and undergraduate degree in accounting at Ball State University in Indiana. He is also an alumnus of the Leadership Memphis Executive Class of 2013.

A member of the Healthcare Financial Management Association and Health Management Academy, Wagers has lent his expertise to the Board of Directors for numerous organizations including Tennessee Hospital Association Solutions Group, University of Tennessee Regional One Health Physicians, Partners Central Business Office, and Leadership Memphis.

Wagers has earned several awards for his work in healthcare finance, including Tennessee Hospital Association's Meritorious Service Award in 2015 and *Memphis Business Journal's* CFO of the Year in 2012. He has also been named a Power Players in Business Who's Who by *Inside Memphis Business*.

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

## JAMES E.K. HILDRETH, PH.D., M.D.

PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE, AND MEMBER OF THE BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION COVID-19 HEALTH EQUITY TASK FORCE

James E.K. Hildreth, Ph.D., M.D. is the 12th President and Chief Executive
Officer of Meharry Medical College, the nation's largest private,
independent historically black academic health sciences center. Dr. Hildreth earned a B.A. in
chemistry from Harvard University before being selected as the first African-American Rhodes
Scholar from Arkansas. His postgraduate achievements include a Ph.D. in immunology from
Oxford University, an M.D. from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, as well as a
postdoctoral fellowship in pharmacology at Johns Hopkins.

President Joseph Biden recently named Dr. Hildreth to his COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force after his exceptional work against the virus with Meharry. Dr. Hildreth manages all of Nashville's COVID-19 testing centers and led the effort to establish Meharry as a COVID-19 vaccine test site as part of Operation Warp Speed. Dr. Hildreth is also leading clinical research on a promising therapeutic for moderate to severe cases of COVID-19.

Prior to his efforts in the pandemic, Dr. Hildreth's research was based in immunology and virology, with a focus on HIV. His work has garnered more than 120 publications in top journals and 11 patents. He has received numerous NIH grants to support his research including a prestigious NIH Director's Pioneer Award.

Dr. Hildreth is also known for his commitment to diversity in medicine and service to communities. His recognitions include honorary degrees, induction into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame, the Johns Hopkins University Society of Scholars and election to the Institute of Medicine (now the National Academy of Medicine), part of the National Academy of Sciences, the most prestigious biomedical and health policy advisory group in the U.S.

In 1987, Dr. Hildreth joined the Johns Hopkins School of faculty as assistant professor. He was appointed as the first associate dean for graduate studies at Johns Hopkins in 1994. In 2002, Dr. Hildreth became the first African American in the 125-year history of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine to earn full professorship with tenure in basic sciences. In July 2005, Dr. Hildreth became director of the NIH-funded Center for AIDS Health Disparities Research at Meharry Medical College. In August of 2011, Dr. Hildreth became dean of the College of Biological Sciences at University of California, Davis. He was the first African-American dean in the university, which was founded in 1905. He was also appointed as a tenured professor in the Department of Cellular and Molecular Biology as well as professor in the Department of Internal Medicine in the UC Davis School of Medicine.

Dr. Hildreth has served on numerous national advisory boards including the Harvard University Board of Overseers. He currently serves on the Advisory Council to the NIH Director, the Veteran's Administration National Academic Affiliations Council and the board of directors of the Association of Academic Health Centers. Dr. Hildreth serves on several other boards including chair of the board of the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

# NOW RECRUITING THE EXECUTIVE CLASS OF 2022



Leadership Memphis is looking for an elite group of Memphis business executives to join the Executive Class that starts in August 2022.

The Executive Program is designed to connect and engage high-profile leaders with a focus on tackling complex social and economic issues facing the Greater Memphis area.

If you know someone driving change in their field, nominate them at **LeadershipMemphis.org/Nominate**.



## **ABOUT CHANGE MAKERS**

Leadership Memphis considers Change Makers to be rare and unique forces of positive change. These dynamic individuals come from various backgrounds and organizations but share a common passion for bettering the world around them. Each Change Maker's work has enhanced the community, uplifted other people, and made Memphis a better place.

Leadership Memphis welcomed its inaugural Change Makers class in 2019, celebrating Leadership Memphis' 40th anniversary with the induction of 40 individuals. Each year, ten Change Makers will be added to the list of impressive individuals.

## CHANGE MAKER JUDGES

## George Abbott (EP2019)

Director of External Affairs Memphis River Parks Partnership

## Belinda Anderson (EP2001)

Community Volunteer

## **Joy Truly Brown (EP2016)**

Director of Production and Rental Operations The Orpheum Theatre

# Dr. Tamika Carwell Richmond (EP2013)

Executive Leadership
Memphis Public Libraries
City of Memphis

## **Ali Jaffery (FTS2020)**

Associate Manager for Grants and Innovation

Memphis Education Fund

## Justin Jamerson (FTF2014, EP2017)

Learning Manager, Digital & Multimedia Development Nike

## Vijay Kalaga (EP2017)

Vice President of Sales Management SunTrust/Truist Bank

## Alex Matlock (EP2013)

Owner
ContigoCreative, LLC

## James McCraw (FTS2016, EP2021)

*Vice President of Retail*Avison Young

## **Justin Rushing (EP2017)**

Director of Advertisement
The Daily Memphian

## Dan Weddle (EP2017)

President & CEO

ProTech Services Group, Inc.

## Mandy Young (FTS2020)

Sr. Liaison-IT Talent Architect

ALSAC, the fundraising and awareness organization of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

## **CHANGE MAKERS 2021**



**KEITH BLANCHARD President & CEO**Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis

Keith Blanchard became President & CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis in August 2014. As President & CEO, Keith is responsible for the overall strategy, vision, fundraising, and operations of the organization. Additionally, Keith serves as a Great Futures Ambassador for Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Before joining the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis, Keith served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Boys & Girls Club of Alachua County in Gainesville, Florida for 12 years and spent seven years in law enforcement as a California police officer. Keith's main focus has been on quality programming, team building, strategic planning and fundraising. Keith's leadership and commitment to youth have been recognized both locally and nationally. Among these honors is the coveted Boys & Girls Clubs of America, "Blue Spirit" Award, which he received in 2018.

Keith has guided the Memphis organization through the launch of an exciting new strategic direction, the Great Futures Impact Plan. Under his leadership, Memphis Clubs are increasing impact on the young people they serve by focusing on four priority outcome areas – Academic Success, Good Character and Citizenship, Healthy Lifestyles and Career Readiness.

Keith's leadership goes beyond the Memphis Clubs. In addition to his nomination to the Shelby County Juvenile Justice Board, he serves on the City of Memphis' 3.0 task force and as an executive coach and mentor for new CEO's for Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Keith, his wife Vera Cristina, and his daughter Monique are enjoying Memphis and the Mid-south. In his spare time, Keith enjoys, playing tennis, art and traveling.



CRYSTAL CLARK-CHATMAN
Founder & CEO
Beautiful Spirited Women

Crystal Clark-Chatman is the Senior Director of Beautiful Spirited Women (BSW) Girls Mentoring Program which she founded in 2010. Clark-Chatman grew the organization into its now 12 service chapters with global leadership partners that help BSW provide a progressive series of high-quality activities and learning experiences for girls.

After graduating from Shelby County School systems at Fairley High School in 2001, Clark-Chatman attended Lane College (Jackson, TN), University of Phoenix (Cordova, TN), and ICU Academy (Atlanta, GA) earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Management, Master of Business in Business Administration and a CLC Certified Life Coach in Kids Life Coaching.

Clark-Chatman has been named l'Oréal Paris Women of Worth Honoree, Memphis Business Journal "Super Women in Business" and Top 40 & Under 40 Urban Elite Professional for creating a platform for women and girls to have a safe haven where they are empowered.

Clark-Chatman's recent activities include working actively with programs such as the Memphis Grizzles Foundation, Royal Neighbors of America, Peace First and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Dean, College of Professional & Graduate Studies Christian Brothers University

Dr. Divya Choudhary is the Dean of School of Professional and Graduate Studies and Founding Director of the STEM Center for Women and Diversity at Christian Brothers University (CBU).

Dr. Choudhary has taken a grassroots approach to promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education for middle and high school girls across the Mid-South. Her summer workshops and mentoring sessions at CBU have helped inspire countless young women to pursue their interests in these fields.

An impassioned believer in women's leadership, Dr. Choudhary has chaired the annual Women's Leadership Conference on CBU's campus for the last several years and offered her time to several women's leadership organizations in the Memphis community.

After receiving her doctoral degree in the Electrical Engineering from the University of Memphis, Dr. Choudhary went on to research digital signal processing, machine learning and applications of data science in higher education.

Under her leadership, CBU introduced Master of Science in Computer Information System and Graduate Certificate in Data Analytics at CBU and offered workshops and short programs in Data Science. Dr. Choudhary was honored with 'Memphis Top 40 under 40' award in 2016 and 'Superwomen in Business' award in 2015 by Memphis Business Journal. She was featured in Diversity Journal summer 2017 issue of Women Worth Watching.

## DR. REGINALD COOPWOOD (EP2012)

President & CEO
Regional One Health

Dr. Reginald W. Coopwood has been the President and CEO of Regional One Health since March 2010. Prior to joining Regional One Health, Dr. Coopwood served in leadership roles including CEO and CMO in other health systems.

Dr. Coopwood's work at Regional One Health is complemented by his commitment to the health and well- being of the individuals in our community. Dr. Coopwood serves as a board member of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee and the Memphis Medical District Collaborative. He is an alumnus of Leadership Memphis. Dr. Coopwood also serves on the Tennessee Hospital Association Board of Directors and is a member of the American Hospital Association's Nomination Committee.

He has earned numerous honors for his work in healthcare over the years, including Inside Memphis Business' CEO of the Year in 2014; and the Tennessee Hospital Association's CEO Meritorious Service Award in 2011, the Diversity Champion Award in 2013 and the President's Award in 2016.

Dr. Coopwood is married to Erica Coopwood, and the couple have five children.

## **CHANGE MAKERS 2021**



**JUDGE BERNICE DONALD (EP1987)** 

Circuit Judge
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

The Honorable Bernice B. Donald was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals by President Barack Obama in 2011. Prior to her appointment, Donald served on the United States District Court for more than 15 years.

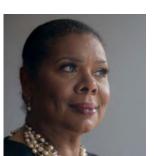
Judge Donald is a member of the prestigious American Law Institute and the American Bar Association ("ABA") Judicial Division. She has served as Chair of the ABA Center

for Human Rights and chaired a committee which published an implicit bias resource book for judges and practitioners titled, Enhancing Justice: Reducing Bias. Donald served as Chair of the ABA Criminal Justice Section, focusing on issues concerning implicit bias, children of incarcerated parents, mass incarceration, and the collateral consequences of incarceration.

More than her career on the bench, Donald has been faculty at the National Judicial College, the Federal Judicial Center, the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center & School, and the Federal Magistrate Judges Conference in Portland, Oregon. She served as Jurist in Residence at American University, Washington University, University of Cincinnati School of Law, and the University of Georgia School of Law. In addition, she has served as faculty for international programs in more than twenty countries.

Donald's legal writings have been features in several prestigious publications. An alumna of the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, she also received a LLM from Duke University School of Law, and an honorary Doctors in Law from Suffolk University.

Donald has received over 100 awards throughout her career, including the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Memphis, the Margaret Brent Award, the Spirit of Excellence Award, the John Pickering Award of Achievement, the University of Memphis Pillars of Excellence Award, and the Inaugural Lifetime Liberty Achievement Award from the Tort, Trial and Insurance Section of the ABA.



**TERRI FREEMAN (EP2016)** 

Former President National Civil Rights Museum

Terri Lee Freeman took her post as President of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture in February 2021. Before taking over Maryland's largest museum devoted to African American history, Freeman served as President of the National Civil Rights Museum for six years.

During her tenure, Freeman updated the museum's vision and mission by broadened its reputation as the new public square. Freeman oversaw the Museum's MLK50 commemoration, an international commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. She also expanded the National Civil Rights Museum's public programming, including the creation of the "Unpacking Racism for Action" program, a seven-month long dialogue that delved into issues of implicit bias and structural racism.

Prior to joining the NCRM, Freeman served as president of the Greater Washington Community Foundation for 18 years. She distinguished herself for her community building, and her ability to grow the Foundation's reputation as an effective and strategic funder in the metropolitan DC region.

Her intense passion for the nonprofit sector and community was nurtured while serving as the founding executive director of the Freddie Mac Foundation, at the time, one of the five largest corporate foundations in the metropolitan Washington region.

A graduate of the 2016 class of Leadership Memphis, Freeman still serves as a leader in the Mid-South community. She serves as chair of the board of the Community Foundation for Greater Memphis and is a member of the board of Urban Teachers. Freeman was also a member of the boards of the Greater Memphis Chamber of Commerce; the Memphis Brand Initiative; and the Orpheum Theatre Group.



JASON LITTLE (EP2009)

President & CEO

Baptist Memorial Health Care

Jason Little is the fifth President and CEO of Baptist Memorial Health Care. During his tenure, Little has helped grow Baptist from 14 hospitals to a 22-hospital health care system accounting for more than \$3.1 billion, 18,000 team members, and more than 5,000 affiliated physicians.

Little came to Baptist in 2002 after serving as an operations administrator for the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona. At Baptist, Little served as CEO of three different hospitals and then COO of the entire System prior to becoming President and CEO.

Little received his bachelor's degree in health administration from the University of Tennessee, where he received the prestigious Whittle Scholarship and was elected student body president. Little went on to earn master's degrees in business administration and health care administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

In 2011, Little received the American College of Healthcare Executives' Early Career Healthcare Executive Award. He serves on boards of the Greater Memphis Chamber, Memphis Tomorrow, the New Memphis Institute, the Tennessee Hospital Association, the Hospital Alliance of Tennessee, the Mississippi Hospital Association, the Healthcare Institute, the University of Memphis Foundation, Briarcrest Christian School, and the Senior Protection Coalition.

Little and his wife, Allison, have three children. They attend Germantown Baptist Church where Little serves as a deacon and Sunday school teacher.



DR. REGINALD PORTER, SR. (EP1984)

Pastor

Metropolitan Baptist Church

Dr. Reginald L. Porter Sr. has dedicated his life to service of the Lord, his congregations, and the community as a whole. His commitment and passion for making a difference in the lives of others is demonstrated through his works to improve the lives of others.

Dr. Porter is the Retired Pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church, but grew up attending services with his mother as a member of the congregation. His service to churches

like Metropolitan Baptist, St. John No.1 Baptist Church, Jackson, TN (1983-1986) and Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church, Tuskegee, AL (1992-1998) helped him lay the foundation for his eventual return to Memphis in 1998.

After a brief time with Mt. Vernon Baptist Church as the Executive Assistant Pastor, Dr. Porter returned to Metropolitan Baptist Church in 1999 as assistant pastor before being elected Senior Pastor in 2001, a role he held until his retirement 18 years later.

A trained counselor, Dr. Porter led marriage seminars across the country, along with his wife of fity years, Reverend Davena Young Porter. He is a contributor to "Living in Hell: The Dilemma of African American Existence" and author of "Words for the Journey".

Dr. Porter has served in numerous positions as a part of the Progressive National Baptist Convention. They include Executive Committee, Executive Board, Vice President At Large of the Southern Region and Executive Director for Missions. He has also taught, lectured, and preached across the country.

Dr. Porter is a native Memphian, earning his Bachelor of Science Degree in Education at the University of Memphis in 1970 before receiving advanced degrees from the Memphis Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity, 1976) and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Doctor of Ministry 1989).

Dr. Porter received certification in Clinical Pastoral Education) in 1978 from the Memphis Institute of Medicine and Religion. He is a graduate of Leadership Memphis (class of 1984) and is a Certified Marriage and Family Therapist.

## **CHANGE MAKERS 2021**



ALEXANDRIA SMITH (EP2017)

Chief HR Officer
City of Memphis

Alex Smith is Chief Human Resources Officer for the City of Memphis, reporting directly to Mayor Jim Strickland. Smith is the architect behind the city's talent management, training, employee relations and engagement, compensation, benefits, Total Rewards, and diversity initiatives. She is also the "Chief Change Officer," focused on evolving the City of Memphis's culture

to enable Mayor Strickland's mission of "improving the quality of life for all Memphians, every day."

Under Smith's focus on innovation and service, the City of Memphis is working to become a model for a Twenty-First Century city. Her implementation of Oracle HCM made Memphis the first city to launch the HR cloud-based technology in the public sector. Smith has been featured in numerous publications for her work modernizing local government for the 21st Century through cloud-based technology and economic empowerment through workforce sustainability.

Before her service with the City of Memphis, Smith was the Director of Human Resources for Brightstar Device Protection where she led vital culture and organizational development projects. Formerly, she served in HR management roles for industry leaders, including Target Corporation and Microsoft Corporation, building a career of being a strategic HR partner for key business leaders.

Smith is also a firm believer in community service and has volunteered in several leadership roles, most notable being the global chairperson for Blacks at Microsoft, the first employee resource group at Microsoft Corporation. She also served on the board of Youth Eastside Services in Bellevue, WA.

Alex holds a Bachelors in Economics from Duke University and earned a Masters in Human Resources and Industrial Relations from the University of Minnesota. She currently resides in Memphis with her two daughters.



**LESLIE LYNN SMITH (EP2016)** 

Former President & CEO Epicenter

Leslie Lynn Smith is the National Director for GET Cities (Gender Equality in Tech) at SecondMuse.

Smith has dedicated her work toward building a national movement to create a tech economy that not only celebrates but elevates women and

other marginalized genders. Her efforts are inspired by a vision for American cities that leverages economic justice and inclusion to enrich and empower individuals, families, and communities.

Under Smith's leadership, GET Cities launched in Washington, D.C. where it is working to shift power in the local tech economy. Their focus is on empowering women, trans, and non-binary people with a focus on Black, Indigenous, and people of color to transform the tech industry into an engine for equity.

Smith brings years of experience in economic empowerment work and community-based business development to her current job. Before joining GET Cities, Smith served as the founding president and CEO of Epicenter, a nonprofit hub for the greater Memphis entrepreneurial community; president and CEO of TechTown, Detroit's most established business incubator and accelerator; and prior to that, director of business acceleration for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.



Volunteer Memphis invites you to submit nominations for individuals, nonprofits and corporations that have demonstrated the highest level of service and commitment to volunteerism throughout the Mid-South.

The nomination portal opens on **VolunteerMemphis.org** on Monday, March 22nd and will close on Friday, May 14th, so don't delay, nominate today!









## **CORPORATE VOLUNTEER COUNCIL**

Volunteer Memphis' Corporate Volunteer Council (CVC) connects businesses and professionals to structured volunteer and community engagement opportunities in the Mid-South. Volunteer Memphis provides informative monthly sessions that provides companies and their employees with information and guidance related to employee engagement. If you are interested in joining our CVC, learning about best practices, and engaging in meaningful community projects, please contact the Volunteer Memphis team via phone at 901-278-0016.



# 40 CHANGE MAKERS

In celebration of its
40th Anniversary
in 2019, Leadership
Memphis announced
40 Change Makers
who have positively
impacted Memphis
over the past 40 years.
The distinguished
group of honorees
was nominated by the
community and their
peers and selected by
a panel of judges.

The 40 Change Makers represent a diverse group of leaders who have demonstrated a passion for driving positive change in Memphis Business, Healthcare, Arts/Education, and Nonprofit/Community Involvement.



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Belz Enterprises



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**ADAM CRUTHIRDS** Student Rhodes College



MICHAEL HOOKS, JR. (EP2019) Founder/CEO Allworld Project Management



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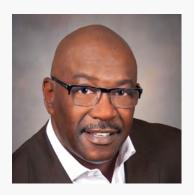
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