Agenda

8 a.m.  Welcome Message — G2U Steering Committee Co-Chairs
Larry Hisle, executive director, Greater Kansas City Federal Executive Board
Troy Lillebo, assistant vice chancellor of external relations, University of Missouri – Kansas City

8:10 a.m.  Opening Remarks
Thomas W. Ross, president, the Volcker Alliance

8:15 a.m.  G2U Year-In-Review
David Warm, executive director, Mid-America Regional Council
Erika Garcia-Reyes, Local Government Services project manager
Frank Lenk, director of Research Services
Anita Davis, Workforce Development program director
Amanda Graor, chief innovation officer

9 a.m.  Networking and Small Group Introductions
Introduced by Amanda Graor
Participants will rotate through breakout rooms with a mix of university and government partners in each room. Conversations will be lightly moderated by a member of the G2U Steering Committee with the goal of creating new relationships within the region across sectors.

10 a.m.  Break
Featuring music from the UMKC Conservatory and the Park University International Center for Music Students and Alumni. (Details on reverse.)

10:15 a.m.  Introduction of Breakout Sessions
Introduced by Lauren Palmer, director of local government services, Mid-America Regional Council
Participants will be moved into the room for whichever breakout session was selected during registration. If you did not pre-register, or you wish to move to the other breakout session, please let the organizer know.
Breakout Sessions:

1. **The Secret Sauce for Effective Service Learning** — Faculty and government officials will learn how they can successfully partner on mutually beneficial classroom-based assignments that enhance student learning and assist with solving real world problems.
   
   Moderator: Lauren Palmer
   
   Panelists:
   • Jeremy Bonnesen, STA at The Missouri Innovation Campus
   • Tony Luppino, professor and director of Entrepreneurship Programs, UMKC School of Law
   • Becky Stuteville, K-State, Olathe

2. **Federal Career Pathways** — The federal government is the largest employer in the Kansas City region. K-12 and higher education representatives will learn how they can help students navigate Pathways and convert internships to permanent employment.
   
   Presenter: Erika Vega, U.S. Office of Personnel Management
   Special guest: Bayley Peer, U.S. Custom and Immigration Services

3. **Home Grown Public Service: State and Local Careers** — Internships, fellowships and pipeline initiatives are some of the best ways to connect rising talent to public service careers. Learn more about successful models and how they are adapting virtually.
   
   Moderator: Dr. Leigh Anne Taylor Knight, executive director and chief operating officer, DeBruce Foundation
   
   Panelists:
   • Dr. Julie Holland, Kansas City regional director, Urban Leaders Fellowship
   • Kari Keefe, executive director, KC Social Innovation Center
   • Dr. Burdett Loomis, emeritus professor of political science — University of Kansas, KU Washington intern program
   • Jamie Robichaud, deputy city administrator, Prairie Village, City of Olathe Intern Class of 2012-2013

11 a.m. **Leveling Up with G2U**

This session will include a live survey via Poll Everywhere to gather your input about the day’s events. Participants will be divided into new breakout rooms to discuss the survey results and the future of the G2U work in the Kansas City region. Each breakout room will be facilitated by a member of the G2U Steering Committee. This is your opportunity to influence G2U priorities.

11:45 a.m. **Closing Remarks and Adjourn**

*Larry Hisle and Troy Lillebo*

Special thanks to our musical guests:

From the UMKC Conservatory:
• Larry Hernandez, performed “Jaguar Songs” by Paul Desenne (Movements 4-5, “Birimbao-Jaguar Song”)

From the Park University International Center for Music Students and Alumni:
• Igor Khukhua, violin, graduate student, performed “Caprice No. 24” by Nicolo Paganini.
• Dilshod Narzillaleev, cello, alumnus, performed “Suite for Cello, III. Intermezzo e Danza Finale” by Gaspar Cassadó.
• Maria Ioudenitch, violin, alumnus; and Lolita Lisovskaya-Sayevich, piano, collaborative pianist, performed “Mazurka Op. 10, No. 2” by Eugène Ysaïe.
• Kenny Broberg, piano, graduate student, composed and performed “Tale of Medtner.”
• Laurel Gagnon, violin, alumnus; and Lolita Lisovskaya-Sayevich, piano, collaborative pianist, performed “Caprice Viennois’ Op. 2 by Fritz Kreisler.
• Behzod Abduraimov, piano, alumnus and artist in residence, performed Piano Sonata in C-sharp minor “Quasi una fantasia” (“Moonlight”), Op. 27, No. 2, by Ludwig van Beethoven.
Presenter information

**Jeremy Bonnesen** — Dr. Bonnesen is the director/principal of Summit Technology Academy (STA) at The Missouri Innovation Campus. He has over 24 years of experience in education. Dr. Bonnesen has received numerous awards and recognitions within the educational and civic arenas, including Lee's Summit Community Reflections of Character Award, Kansas City Connector Recognition by the Kauffman Foundation and a Lee’s Summit School District Excellence in Teaching award. He holds a doctorate and specialist’s degree in educational leadership from Saint Louis University. In addition, he earned a master’s degree in school counseling and a bachelor's degree in English education from the University of Central Missouri.

**Larry Hisle** is the executive director of Greater Kansas City Federal Executive Board, which is a catalyst for communication, coordination and collaboration among federal agencies in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. Hisle has been with the federal government and FEB for 10 years. Prior to that, he was the vice president of Federated Campaigns for Greater Kansas City United Way for 15 years. His professional background is in sales and non-profit management, and he studied business administration at Central Missouri State University and Thomas Edison State University.

**Julie Holland** — Dr. Holland is the Kansas City regional director of the Urban Leaders Fellowship. She also leads the Parent Leadership Training Institute in Kansas City, a non-partisan democracy and civic leadership initiative that activates parents to become leading advocates for children. Previously, Dr. Holland served as education advisor to Kansas City mayor Sly James. She has also worked at the Ewing Marion Kauffman School, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Central New York and congressional offices in Oklahoma and Washington, D.C. She has a B.S. from Oklahoma State University, an M.P.A from Syracuse University and a doctorate in law and policy from Northeastern University.

**Keri Keefe** is the founding executive director of KC Social Innovation Center (KCSIC), a nonprofit impact agency and regional hub for human capital development in smart, digital cities, exploring the nexus of learning and work to advance the design and development of innovative, high-quality, inclusive opportunity and workforce initiatives in the Kansas City region. Prior to launching KCSIC, Kari had a successful 20-year marketing career working with entrepreneurs and startups. She then jumped into ed-tech in 2013, with a National Science Foundation grant working for Mozilla to manage an experimental fund for next-generation educational pilots that use gigabit technology to illustrate the transformative power of high-speed, low latency Internet and cyber physical systems on learning and workforce development. Keefe serves on a number of boards and advisories and is a frequent speaker on opportunity ecosystems, next-generation workforce models, human empowerment and inclusion.

**Troy Lillebo** serves as the assistant vice chancellor and chief engagement officer at the University of Missouri–Kansas City. Over his 29-year career in higher education, he has worked at the University of Missouri–Columbia, the University of Arizona, Ball State University and the University of South Dakota. Currently, Lillebo oversees various areas within the University External Relations and Community Engagement division, including the UMKC Board of Trustees, government relations and community engagement. At the very essence, his job is to help connect the university to the greater Kansas City community. Lillebo is also engaged with the Downtown Council and the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, serving on the Missouri Public Policy Council, the Kansas City, Missouri, committee, and the Workforce Development Taskforce. He was an inaugural member of the KCMO Mayor’s Challenge Cabinet leading the community engagement team. Lillebo has been able to exercise his passion for the arts by working with ArtsKC, Alvin Ailey, the Kansas City Repertory Theatre Board and the Kansas City Municipal Arts Commission.
Anthony (Tony) Luppino is a Rubey M. Hulen Professor of Law and director of Entrepreneurship Programs at the UMKC School of Law, and a Senior Fellow with the Regnier Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at UMKC. He joined the regular faculty at the Law School in 2001, after approximately 19 years in private practice with law firms in Boston and the Kansas City area, primarily working on business transactions and tax planning matters. He teaches or co-teaches business, tax and entrepreneurship courses, including interdisciplinary courses in for-profit, social and civic entrepreneurship; and law, technology and public policy, and is a frequent speaker at conferences on those subjects. Prof. Luppino is also involved with the UMKC-led Legal Technology Laboratory and is a member of the Missouri Science and Technology Policy Fellows Advisory Board. He was named the recipient of the University of Missouri system’s inaugural Entrepreneurship Educator of the Year Award in 2017, received the UM System President’s (Faculty) Award for Economic Development in 2018 and received the UMKC Trustees’ Leo E. Morton Community Service Award in 2019. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Dartmouth College, his J.D. from Stanford Law School, and an LL.M. in taxation from the Boston University School of Law.

Burdett Loomis — Dr. Loomis is an emeritus professor of political science at the University of Kansas. He has written or edited more than thirty books in various editions, mostly focusing on legislatures, interest groups and state politics. He started the KU Washington intern program in 1984, which has sent 700-plus students to D.C.

Bayley Peer is currently the Pathways Program manager and member of the Staffing and Benefits team with the National Benefits Center (NBC). The NBC is a field office with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, under the Department of Homeland Security. She began her career with the NBC as a Pathways Student Intern during her final semester of undergraduate studies. Peer holds a dual bachelor’s degree in political science and international justice from the University of Central Missouri. After graduating, she was able to convert non-competitively with the NBC, where she immediately started heading up the operation to expand and redevelop the NBC’s Pathway’s Program.

Jamie Robichaud currently serves as the deputy city administrator for the city of Prairie Village, where she oversees community development, human resources, municipal court and solid waste. She began her career in local government as a part-time intern with the city of Riverside and then as a full-time intern with the city of Olathe. Before coming to Prairie Village, Robichaud served as the assistant city manager and interim city manager for the city of Tonganoxie. She earned her M.P.A. from the University of Kansas in 2013 and her B.S. in Political Science from the University of Central Missouri in 2011.

Thomas W. Ross has served as president of the Volcker Alliance since July 2016. He remains president emeritus of the 17-campus University of North Carolina and serves as the Sanford Distinguished Fellow in Public Policy at the Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy. Previously, Ross served as president of Davidson College, executive director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, director of the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts, a Superior Court judge, chief of staff to a U.S. Congressman, a member of a Greensboro, North Carolina, law firm and as an assistant professor at UNC-Chapel Hill’s School of Government. Ross holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from Davidson College and graduated with honors from the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law.

Rebekkah Johnson Stuteville is the assistant dean of academic support services, teaching associate professor in the School of Applied and Interdisciplinary Studies, and director of the professional science master’s degree program at Kansas State University’s Olathe, Kansas, campus. Prior to joining K-State Olathe, Stuteville served in various roles at Park University, including serving as the director of the school’s Master of Public Affairs program. Stuteville spent 17 years in various roles in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development before transitioning to higher education.
Leigh Anne Taylor Knight — Dr. Taylor Knight is the executive director and chief operating officer at The DeBruce Foundation in Kansas City, which has the mission to expand pathways to economic growth and opportunity. Dr. Taylor Knight is driven to lead the leveraging of resources across sectors for innovative learning, rigorous research and community collaboration in order to improve economic development and the quality of life. A teacher at heart, Taylor Knight has also served as a K-12 assistant superintendent, advised learning institutions across the nation, and led a bi-state consortium providing powerful tools for data-driven educational research to inform practice and policy. She currently serves on the Mizzou Alumni Association Governing Board, Advisory Board to University of Kansas-Edwards, Board of Trustees for University of Missouri-Kansas City and ExCPT Certification Governing Board of the National Healthcare Association. In addition, she enjoys being engaged in an advisory role to boards for Greater Missouri Leadership Foundation and Griffiths Leadership Society.

Erika Vega is the acting deputy of the Federal Staffing Center at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. She started her federal career as a Presidential Management Fellow. She has over 17 years of experience in federal human resources. She is an expert in federal staffing policy and operations, as well as human resources information technology (HRIT) implementation. She holds a B.S. in socio/political communications from Missouri State University and an M.S. in justice, law and society from American University.

Kansas City G2U Lead Agency — Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)

Anita Davis, Workforce Development program director — Davis serves as the G2U work group lead for regional recruitment. Davis has over 15 years of experience leading community, economic development and workforce development programs and initiatives. In her current role, she leads a team responsible for convening and collaborating with regional education and workforce development stakeholders in order to support economic growth and prosperity in the Kansas City Region. This includes programs such as KC Degrees, which connects adults to education and training, and GradForce KC, a college attainment network. Prior to joining MARC in 2019, Davis was the assistant director of Workforce Development for the city and county of Denver, Colorado, where her work included leading the delivery of WIOA adult, dislocated worker and youth programs, as well as Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other regional workforce development initiatives. Davis earned a bachelor’s degree in African studies from the University of Kansas in 1993 and her master’s degree in public administration and urban economic development from the University of Missouri–Kansas City in 2005, where she was a Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development Fellow.

Erika Garcia-Reyes, Local Government Services project manager — Garcia-Reyes serves as the G2U work group lead for the Public Sector Talent-to-Industry Exchange (TIE). She joined MARC in 2016 and manages the Government Training Institute (GTI) and supports other local government programs through grant management, research and public engagement. Prior to joining the GTI team, she served for several years in the workforce development program building relationships with educators, chambers of commerce and economic development professionals. She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in public administration from the University of Kansas.

Amanda Graor, Chief Innovation Officer — Graor serves as the G2U work group lead for the regional data academy and GEAR Challenge. In her role as CIO, she is responsible for increasing MARC’s capacity to advance regional goals and collaborative initiatives through innovation in public policy and operating practices and through the strategic deployment of data and technology. She has been with MARC for more than 12 years with previous work areas focusing on air quality, workforce transportation, energy policy and climate strategy. She holds a bachelor’s degree in earth system science and engineering from the University of Michigan and a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Kansas.
Frank Lenk, director of Research Services — Dr. Lenk is director of Research Services for the Mid-America Regional Council, where he has worked for the past 41 years. Dr. Lenk specializes in using a variety of technical tools to help understand social and economic issues. He has authored or co-authored numerous reports on the Kansas City area economy, including the workforce needs of the region’s Global Design industry and the opportunities and challenges facing the skilled trades. More recently, he has been forecasting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Kansas City economy and its likely path of recovery. Dr. Lenk graduated from Shawnee Mission East High School in 1973 and earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in economics from Stanford University in 1978 and 1979 respectively. He obtained his interdisciplinary Ph.D. in economics and social sciences from UMKC in 2015, where his dissertation analyzed the underpinnings of institutional racism.

Lauren Palmer, assistant director of Community Development and Local Government Services — Palmer serves as the lead agency contact for the G2U Network in Kansas City. Prior to joining MARC, Palmer worked for 14 years in local government administration, including serving as city administrator in Parkville, Missouri, and assistant city manager in Independence, Missouri, and Manhattan, Kansas. She has a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Missouri—Columbia and a Master of Public Administration degree from Indiana University.

David Warm has served as executive director of the Mid-America Regional Council since July 1990. As the council of governments for Greater Kansas City, MARC leads key regional services and planning initiatives and is widely regarded for innovation and effectiveness in areas that include transportation, environmental protection, emergency management, aging and community services, early education, workforce development and local government cooperative services. Warm is active in many civic groups and initiatives, including serving on the boards of area non-profit agencies addressing healthcare, education and community development, as well as the Hall Family Foundation. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and, in 2015, he was recognized with a National Public Service Award from the American Society for Public Administration and the National Academy of Public Administration.