FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 3, 2021

Area Executives Named to 43rd Kansas City Tomorrow Leadership Class

The Civic Council of Greater Kansas City has announced its 43rd Kansas City Tomorrow (KCT) leadership class. Potential participants were nominated earlier this year and were selected through a competitive process that included in-person interviews.

“This year’s KCT class is a very strong and diverse group of Kansas City professionals,” said Paul Holewinski, President & CEO Academy Bank and chair of the KCT Leadership Group, the Civic Council committee that selected the 2021-2022 participants. “We are excited about the upcoming programming and KCT year, and our Civic Council members are looking forward to interacting with the KCT class.”

The twenty-nine business, nonprofit and public sector executives will begin the ten-month program on August 27, 2021 and complete the experience in June 2022. KCT’s curriculum focuses on many of the region’s most pressing issues, such as education, economic development, diversity and inclusion, and the KC Rising initiative. The goal of the KCT program is to prepare its participants for civic leadership roles in the Kansas City region. More information about the KCT program can be found online at: https://kcciviccouncil.org/kansas-city-tomorrow/.

“The Civic Council created the KCT program to help educate rising executives about the key challenges and opportunities facing our region,” said Civic Council president, Marc Hill. “Ultimately, we hope that many of these KCT participants will go on to take a leadership role on an important community issue,” he added. “That could mean serving in appointed or elected office, joining a nonprofit board or community task force, or stepping up in some other way in our region.”

KCT will be co-facilitated by John Murphy of J. Murphy Strategies, who will team up with several community leaders for specific program days. As a long-time member of the Civic Council who also served as co-chair of KC Rising for four-years, John brings a wide network of relationships and deep experience working on regional issues to the KCT program. John will co-facilitate each program day with one of the following community leaders: Dr. Cokethea Hill (BlaqueKC), Nicole Jacobs-Silvey (Connection Coach KC), McClain Bryant Macklin (Health Forward Foundation), and Frank White (RideKC Development Corporation). The program co-facilitators help manage the session topics and moderate class discussion, with a specific focus on equity and inclusion.

Once the program is completed, participants are eligible to join the KCT Alumni Association (www.kctaa.org), an independent, non-profit organization that allows the more than 990 graduates of the program to stay connected with other program participants. In addition, the Civic Council provides opportunities for civic engagement through various committees, leadership groups and task forces within KC Rising and the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City.

About the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City:
The Civic Council of Greater Kansas City was formed in 1964 with the goal of aggregating the resources of the leaders of the region’s largest employers to address major challenges and opportunities. As a privately-funded, nonprofit membership organization of business CEOs, the Civic Council focuses on long-term issues that impact the economic prosperity and quality of life of all Kansas City residents in the region. For more information, visit www.kcciviccouncil.org.
KANSAS CITY TOMORROW (KCT)
43rd CLASS 2021-2022

Lauren Allen, General Counsel - Housing Authority of Kansas City
Keith Bae, Partner - Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP
Jeremy Baum, Vice President, Project Executive - JE Dunn Construction
Kalinda Calkins, SVP Treasury Services Sales Manager - BOK Financial, NA
Wayne Carter, System Director, Medical Imaging - Truman Medical Center
Rebecca Coulson, Program Officer - Hall Family Foundation
Shari Crittendon, General Counsel - Kansas State University
Jayson Cuba, Employee Benefits Advisor - The Robert E. Miller Group
Alicia R. Dickens, Associate Vice Chancellor - Metropolitan Community College
Tyler Enders, Co-Owner - Made in KC, LLC
Michael Hauser, Managing Director, Creative & Technology; Sr Leadership Committee - Global Prairie
Christee Highbarger, Chief Risk Officer - Country Club Bank
Sabrina Holliman, Chief Compliance Officer - Swope Health Services
Ryan Hudnall, Executive Director - Della Lamb Community Services
Melissa Jackson, Assistant VP, Public Affairs - Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City
Steven Lewis, Director - Mid-America Regional Council
Lisa Murray, Chief Investment Officer - Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
Alexia Norris, Shareholder - Polsinelli PC
Melissa Patterson Hazley, Senior Research Faculty - UMKC Institute for Human Development
Robert Riccardi, Principal - Gould Evans
Jeniene Rice, Director, Continuous Improvement - Kansas City Southern Railway
Brandi Riggs, VP, Human Resources - McCownGordon Construction
Patrick Sallee, CEO - Vibrant Health
Jennifer Shafer, Associate VP & Director of Dispute Resolution - Black & Veatch
Lesley Smith, Assistant Federal Defender - Federal Public Defender, Western District of Missouri
Avrell Stokes, Director - Alive and Well Communities
Nina Ward, Community Engagement Manager - Crossroads Charter Schools
Michele L. Watley, Founder - Shirley's Kitchen Cabinet
Molly Weaver, Senior Director, Talent Acquisition - Children's Mercy