



**LEADERSHIP  
GREATER  
HARTFORD**

# **Executive Orientation**

A PROGRAM OF  **LEADERSHIP GREATER HARTFORD**

**Fall  
2018 Directory**

# About Leadership Greater Hartford

It's widely recognized that a community is more than just buildings. Less well understood is the energy that it takes to establish, nurture, and expand the connections between people to bring the character of a community forward.

That energy is what we call leadership.

For more than 40 years Leadership Greater Hartford has been bringing people of diverse backgrounds together to build the awareness and mutual trust needed to create constructive partnerships that serve the greater good.

By acting on these principles over the past four decades, hundreds of community impact projects have been completed; more than 600 employers have enriched the development of their staff and become involved with civic progress; 2500+ students from four dozen schools across the region have gained broader perspectives and wider circles of friends; more than 500 seniors have gained the opportunity to continue giving back to the communities they've seen undergo so much change in their lifetimes.

Even beyond the direct effect Leadership Greater Hartford has had on our program participants, we are proud to maintain a broader role in the Capital City's continued development. We have collaborated with Hartford's police and school departments to help facilitate broad dialogue and engagement between citizens, city government, businesses, and community organizations. Our programming has led to the appointment of over 675 new board members at 140+ different community-based nonprofits throughout the region.

In fact, participants in Leadership Greater Hartford programs, a third of whom are from minority populations, are nearly one-and-a-half times more likely to continue to volunteer in their community than the national average.

The buildings that shape Hartford's Downtown, neighborhoods, and surrounding towns will no doubt continue to change. Leadership Greater Hartford is committed to working with every constituency to ensure that the strength of our community grows with equal vigor.

Connect today for more information about

**Leadership Greater Hartford**

30 Laurel Street, Hartford, CT 06106

860.951.6161

[www.leadershipgh.org](http://www.leadershipgh.org)



# The Executive Orientation Program Leadership Team



**Greg Andrews**  
Program Director



**Destiny Davis**  
Program Assistant



**Ted Carroll**  
President & CEO



**Doe Hentschel**  
Vice President  
for Programs

By providing senior-level executives, who are either somewhat new to Greater Hartford or new to an executive role, with a fast, but comprehensive overview of the region, the **Executive Orientation Program** is eye-opening in so many ways! Participants personally engage with fellow leaders from across a broad spectrum of the region's business, educational, nonprofit and civic organizations.

Over the five-sessions, **Executive Orientation Program** participants build their networks by connecting to key regional stakeholders and learning about the assets and challenges of their Capital City – many times over the course of delicious meals. And by connecting with Leadership Greater Hartford's network of thousands of community-minded leaders, they discover ways they too can contribute to strengthening the region.



LEADERSHIP  
GREATER  
HARTFORD

## Board Officers

**Jason Jakubowski - Foodshare**  
Chair

**Tisa Rabun-Marshall - Nassau Re**  
Vice-Chair

**Christopher Jackson - Marcum LLP**  
Treasurer

**Gioia Zack - O, R & L Commercial, LLC**  
Secretary

**Ted Carroll - Leadership Greater Hartford**  
President & CEO

## Board Directors

**McKinley Albert**  
Camp Courant

**Nicola Allen**  
KNOX

**Sara Allen**  
Cigna

**Andrea Barton-Reeves**  
HARC

**Karen Bernard**  
Quest 2013

**David Brandwein**  
Third Age Initiative Class 12

**Nadine Brennan**  
UConn Hartford

**Tammy Casey**  
United Healthcare Group

**Maria Green**  
CIL

**Bernard Kavalier**  
Express Strategies

**Ed Klonoski**  
Charter Oak State College

**Aaron Levy**  
Shipman & Goodwin LLP

**Adam Marks**  
Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C.

**Rosaida Morales Rosario**  
Rosario & Associates, LLC

**Dan Noonan**  
Goodwin College

**Jack Soos**  
Pratt & Whitney

**Ryan Taylor**  
Eversource

**Alex Thomas**  
Wilson-Gray YMCA

**Sumakshi Vali**  
Webster Bank

**Mary Williams**  
Third Age Initiative Class 14

**Mana Zarinejad**  
Connecticut Children's  
Medical Center

# Executive Orientation Program Fall 2018

## **Anthony Barrett**

Executive Director  
Wilson-Gray YMCA Youth and  
Family Center  
anthony.barrett@ghymca.org  
860.241.9622



Anthony's responsibilities as Wilson-Gray YMCA's new Executive Director include quality program delivery, oversight of fiscal management, strategic planning, employee and volunteer relations, promoting membership growth, developing and maintaining collaborative community relationships, fund raising and advisory board development/management. Anthony earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Hartford in Psychology, with a concentration in criminal justice, and an MBA from Springfield College. As he reflects on servant leadership, the countless young boys and men of color that are lost to gun violence or the penal system fuel him to be more and do more to save lives and create pathways for all.

## **Letitia Cotto**

Customer Experience Officer  
Hartford Public Library  
lcotto@hplct.org  
860.695.6335



Letty oversees the development of all library programs and services, and works toward building supportive learning environments, for all city residents, visitors and communities. "We are most effective when we create relationships with customers and are able to tailor services to fit customers' needs and lives." She's especially interested in increasing opportunities in the areas of business, education, access, recreation, and the arts. She has just earned her MS in Organizational Management. Letty enjoys frequent day trips with her three children. Growing up in Hartford's North End and attending the former Sacred Heart Church gave her a deep indoctrination in social justice. Her personal goals are to work toward building strong communities where all residents feel safe and have opportunities to grow through advocacy and financial support.

## **Kevin Ferrarotti**

System Director - EMS Network  
Development  
Hartford HealthCare System  
kevin.ferrarotti@hhchealth.org  
860.601.1086



Kevin has 15 years of managerial and business development experience, working in a variety of industries from sports and hospitality to healthcare. In addition, he's spent 22 years in the emergency services field, most recently as an educator and volunteer chief of Harwinton's townwide emergency medical services (EMS). Coming to Hartford HealthCare three years ago, his dual role includes being Account Manager for Sales and Business Development in an organization that's an economic driver in cities across the state. Kevin has earned two Masters Degrees (Education and Healthcare Administration), and is active in the American College of Healthcare Executives. He lives in Rocky Hill with his wife Morgan and daughter Samantha.

## **Harold "JR" Fritsch**

Area Service Coordinator for  
Greater Hartford  
The Salvation Army  
Jr.fritsch@use.salvationarmy.org  
860.543.8413



JR recently moved to Hartford from Cleveland, where he was a key member of the team that successfully implemented and carried out a \$35 million-dollar capital campaign to build three new facilities and renovate a fourth. He's proud of his skills in program administration and development to serve Hartford's population better, being an "out-of-the-box" thinker in developing programs to address needs in a creative way. He's also served the Salvation Army in Youngstown Ohio, Salem and Manchester, NH and Sanford, ME.

## **Armindo “Mingo” Gomes**

Chief Executive Officer  
Hartford Parking Authority  
mingo.gomes@hartfordparking.com  
860.757.0720



Mingo is proud that his career returns him to Hartford, where he moved with his parents in 1959 from Portugal. Now heading the city’s Parking Authority (HPA), he aims to expand the services possible with the new parking kiosks (2017), for example by offering weather alerts and accepting parking ticket payments. Prior to the HPA, Mingo spent over nine years at LEGO in Enfield, heading North American Education Operations and as Senior Director of Global Customer Logistics. He worked with customers to improve LEGO’s brand and image, and now plans to improve Greater Hartford’s perception of Hartford parking by collaborating closely with the city council and holding community forums. Mingo graduated from Hartford Public High School, and holds a BA in Business Administration/Management from Albertus Magnus College (New Haven). Before LEGO, he worked for Excel, Ryder and for nine years at Philips Electronics.

## **Meghan Hanrahan**

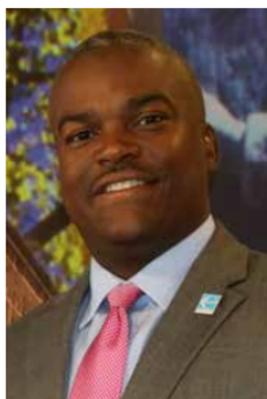
Director of MS in Business Analytics &  
Project Management Program  
UConn School of Business  
meghan.hanrahan@uconn.edu  
860.728.2445



Meghan Hanrahan’s career began at UConn in 2004, after she earned at UConn both her undergraduate and graduate degrees. As the new Director of the MS in Business Analytics & Project Management (MSBAPM) Program, she manages \$8 million in revenue for the University and supports over 450 students recruited from around the world. With a vision and commitment to offer first-in-class experiences including data challenges, hackathons, corporate capstone projects, networking, career placement and alumni events—the student profile and rankings of the program are now among the best. Meghan lives in Newington with her husband JP and two children, Jack (9) and Julia (5). She loves to travel, run, and volunteers as a community basketball coach, but most importantly Meghan enjoys quality time with her family.

## **G. Duncan Harris**

Chief Executive Officer  
Capital Community College  
gharris@capitalcc.edu  
860.906.5101



Prior to becoming head of Capital Community College in July (2018), Duncan served as Dean of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at Manchester Community College. He is a recognized expert and mentor in this field. In 2016 he was founding Executive Director of the Connecticut State College and University's Student Success Center (CSCU/SSC). Duncan's many board memberships (e.g., FoodShare and Community Health Resources) and community contributions have earned him Central CT State University's "Distinguished Alumni Counseling Professional Award" and the CT African American Affairs Commission "Man of the Year Award." Dr. Harris holds a PhD in education (Fischler Graduate School of Education, Nova Southeastern University), an MS in Counseling (CCSU) and a BS in Economics (UConn), along with Harvard's Certificate in Management and Leadership in Higher Education. He currently lives in Windsor, CT with his wife and two children.

## **Mia Hawlk**

Director, Part-Time MBA Program  
UConn School of Business  
mia.hawlk@uconn.edu  
860.728.2400



As Director of UConn's Part-time MBA program, Mia oversees staffing, student services and program delivery at their three locations (Hartford, Waterbury, and Stamford) that enroll 1,000 working professionals. The Downtown Hartford location at Constitution Plaza, with 600 enrolled, is the largest campus. Students range from new professionals to C-Suite leaders moving on to their second (or third) careers. UConn School of Business offers an academically challenging environment where students are encouraged to expand their networks and build strong professional relationships. Mia holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership and also serves as an adjunct faculty member in UConn's MS in Business Analytics and Project Management (MSBAPM) Program, headed by Meghan Hanrahan (EOP 2018). At home, Mia loves to garden with her husband and two daughters.

## **LaKisha Jordan**

Corporate Responsibility Officer  
Keybank  
lakisha\_jordan@keybank.com  
203.784.5065



LaKisha's new Corporate Responsibility Officer position for Keybank in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts charges her with leading community engagement and partnerships, executing the bank's Community Benefits Plan and monitoring regulatory compliance, as well as working closely with Keybank's local and corporate foundations to ensure charitable giving is aligned with the foundations' missions. LaKisha graduated from Southern Connecticut State University, with a BA in Liberal Studies (concentrations in Psychology, Sociology and Public Health) and an MBA. She spends her free time in activities involving her husband and three children, as well as volunteering in the community.

## **Amy Karwan**

Division Director  
Capitol Region Education Council (CREC)  
Resource Group  
akarwan@crec.org  
860.524.4011



Amy is the first Director of the Capitol Region Education Council's (CREC) Resource Group, their educational products and services division. The Resource Group supports school and district leaders with professional learning, instructional projects, regional efficiencies, staff brokering, cooperative purchasing, and educational product development. Her entire career has been devoted to the progress of every student and the educational professionals who serve them. Before joining CREC, Amy held K-12 leadership positions in public school systems and the nonprofit sector. She served as Chief Turnaround Officer for Southbridge Public Schools (MA), Executive Director of College Readiness Assessments at The College Board (NY), Executive Director of Performance Management & Accountability for Stamford Public Schools (CT), and Special Assistant for the New York City Department of Education. Amy holds a Master of Public Policy degree from Georgetown University and BA degree from James Madison University.

## **Rebecca Kriner**

ITS Implementation Director  
Hartford HealthCare System  
rebecca.kriner@hhchealth.org  
860.578.6493



Rebecca came to New England in 2016 to join Hartford HealthCare in her present position. She oversees all ITS training, including Epic, PeopleSoft, and Dragon. Her staff of 18 provides new hire and efficiency education, curriculum design, class coordination, train the trainer and eLearning creation. A current focus is various projects intended to increase provider satisfaction and eliminate burnout. Rebecca graduated from Ball State University (IN) with a BA in Journalism. Being a fairly new resident of New England, she enjoys exploring “the greatest part of the country.” (Thank you, Rebecca!) She also loves to read, is an amateur gardener and is very active in her church, while her son is a junior at Auburn University.

## **Joel Lohr**

President  
The Hartford Seminary  
jlohr@hartsem.edu  
860.509.9502



Joel Lohr became president of Hartford Seminary last July (2018). Besides his wide-ranging presidential responsibilities, he also serves as Professor of Bible and Interreligious Dialogue. Previously he was Dean of Religious Life at University of the Pacific (CA). Dr. Lohr is an award-winning author, scholar, and passionate leader in interreligious relations and higher education. A native of Canada, he studied theology there (BA in Religious Studies, Trinity Western University) and in England (MA in Theological Research and PhD in Religion and Theology, University of Durham). Joel preceded this education with a four-year journeyman apprenticeship in carpentry and work in construction management. Joel and his wife Teresa and daughter Aviyah (11) live in Hartford, and they love outdoor activities, especially involving beaches, rolling hills and mountains, and ski slopes.

## **Katie Martin**

Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer  
Foodshare  
kmartin@fooshare.org  
860.856.4320



Katie's newly created position at Foodshare involves shaping and leading its strategic direction of creating smart, systemic solutions to hunger. She is a nationally recognized authority on food security, and previously held positions at the University of St. Joseph (Assistant Professor and Director of the Public Health Program) and UConn (Assistant Research Professor). Dr. Martin led Hartford's first rigorous evaluation of a food pantry program and then collaborated with Foodshare and Urban Alliance to create the "More Than Food" framework for more effectively addressing hunger and nutrition. Dr. Martin also helped develop a new "stoplight" nutrition system called SWAP (Supporting Wellness at Pantries). Katie earned a BA in Political Science (Indiana University) and an MS and PhD in Nutritional Science & Policy (Tufts University). She lives in Simsbury, is happily married for 23 years, has two college-age sons, and currently hosts an international student from Nigeria.

## **Mark McGrath**

Major Gifts Officer  
Hospital for Special Care Foundation  
mmcgrath@hfsc.org  
860.827.4826



Mark is almost a CT native, working here for 17 years before joining the Hospital for Special Care (HSC) in March, 2018. He's responsible for expanding the major gifts program and its funding relationships (existing and cultivating new ones), all in support of HSC priorities and in collaboration with the entire Hospital for Special Care Foundation team. Moving to Greater Hartford in 2001, his professional experience in Connecticut includes 4-1/2 years with Campaign UConn and the UConn Foundation in Storrs and at the UConn Health Center, 9-1/2 years at Connecticut Children's Medical Center Foundation, and 2 years as Director of Development, Major Gifts, at Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation in Bloomfield. Mark lives in Burlington and is the father of two boys, Liam and Connor. His personal interests include coaching and playing ice hockey, road and mountain bike riding, and volunteering with dog rescue organizations in Connecticut and the Southeast.

## **Thomas Mitchell**

Vice President

The Whiting – Turner Contracting  
Company

tom.mitchell@whiting-turner.com

203.627.4915



Tom's professional involvement in the construction industry has most recently focused on Whiting-Turner's significant role in the Greater Hartford Region, including the development of major components of the Front Street/Adriaen's Landing section of Downtown Hartford and construction of the new UConn Hartford campus building. Tom holds a BS in Civil Engineering and is married with two grown sons, who have both graduated from college and begun their careers. He enjoys golf, a good day at the beach and hiking. And Red Sox/Patriots fans beware: Tom is an avid New York sports fan in both baseball and football.

## **Gil Peri**

President & Chief Operating Officer  
Connecticut Children's Medical Center  
gperi@connecticutchildrens.org  
860.545.8587



Gil arrived in Hartford in September, 2017 from Colorado Children's Hospital, where he served as Senior VP and Chief Strategy Officer. His passion for developing teams, systems and processes to deliver high-quality experiences and outcomes, especially for young people, has driven his 20-year career. Gil's earlier experience includes serving as VP for Strategic Development/Operations at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Ohio. He graduated from University of South Florida, with an MBA and Master's in Public Health. Gil now is a committed board member of organization dedicated to homelessness, disabilities and child health. His wife is a part-time pediatric endocrinologist and clinical informatics at Connecticut Children's. With their young daughter (2) and son (4), they enjoy exploring new destinations throughout Connecticut and the region.

## **Donna Perlee**

Director of Contracting  
Harvard Pilgrim HealthCare  
donna\_perlee@harvardpilgrim.org  
860.757.6936



In joining Harvard Pilgrim HealthCare's new and rapidly expanding Connecticut presence, Donna handles all the provider-network contracting with physicians, hospitals and other health-care services. She is a senior-level healthcare professional with over 20 years of experience in provider-contract negotiation (national, regional and community-based) and provider-network maintenance and expansion, customer-relationship management, and managed-care operations. Her prior employers included UMass Memorial Medical Center and Neighborhood Health Plan (MA). Donna was educated at SUNY Albany, originally trained as a librarian, and is passionate about her dog Zoe, a mini-Aussie. She enjoys living in Hartford and CT "more so than any other area where I've lived" (Florida's West Coast, New York, Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, an impressive combination), and is eager to learn all about Greater Hartford.

## **Adam Robersmith**

Senior Minister  
The Universalist Church of  
West Hartford  
minister@westhartforduu.org  
630.414.5340



As the new Senior Minister for his parish, Adam is the primary spiritual leader, chief of staff, and their public face. He sets their vision in collaboration with its leadership. Adam also is a spiritual director in private practice and works with individuals, most often other ministers or seminarians, to support their spiritual, mental, physical, and emotional health. And as a scholar of spiritual formation, he has authored articles and created spiritual formation curricula for the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association. In a "prior life," he worked in urban planning and found those experiences to be incredibly helpful in navigating the work of ministry. Adam holds a BS from Cornell University, an M.Div from Starr King School for the Ministry (a member of the Graduate Theological Union, affiliated with the University of California), and a Doctor of Ministry from Chicago Theological Seminary.

## **Tom Sessa**

Director of Programming  
The Bushnell Center for the  
Performing Arts  
860.987.6039  
tsessa@bushnell.org



Tom lived in Portland, OR before coming to The Bushnell, and served as Director of Booking and Sales for the Portland's 5 Centers for the Arts. Earlier for 20 years he was a fixture at Portland's Alladin Theater, a classic and live movie venue, rising to general manager. At the Bushnell, he programs events in their theaters and spaces, with a primary goal of bringing new audiences by developing partnerships with community organizations, scheduling events for target audiences, and creating welcoming spaces. Tom also is a percussionist musician by trade, having performed with many professional orchestras, including the Oregon Symphony. In his free time, he enjoys playing and listening to music, golf, reading and working on his house. His greatest pleasure is spending time with his wife and their German Shepherd.

## **Beverly Smith**

Head of School  
The Montessori School of Greater  
Hartford  
cillasmith271@gmail.com  
860.236.4565



As a nearby Southington native, Bev happily began her new Hartford position last July (2018). Bev has spent her career at independent schools, first in Washington, CT at Rumsey Hall School and then Washington Montessori School (WMS), where she rose from teacher to administrator. Next, in rural Lebanon, NJ she headed Acorn Montessori School, and then moved to New York City's West Side Montessori School as Assistant Head, while also deeply involved with the Center for Montessori Teacher Education in White Plains. Bev received a BSED at CCSU, a Masters in Counseling from the University of St. Joseph, and participated in the Women's Leadership Institute at Hartford Seminary. She holds American Montessori Society certificates in management and middle school teaching. Bev's adult son (NYC) and daughter (LA) are both Montessori graduates. Her interests are wide and varied, including nature walks, photography, visual media and yoga.

## **Seth Van Essendelft**

Senior VP and Chief Financial Officer  
Connecticut Children's Medical Center  
svanessendelft@  
connecticutchildrens.org  
860.545.8544



Seth built nearly 20 years' experience in the financial services component of the healthcare/insurance industry before Connecticut Children's. His most recent prior position was Senior Vice President of Finance for Lawrence + Memorial Delivery Network (CT), an affiliate of Yale-New Haven Health, where he managed all aspects of financial operations, strategic planning and investments. He also served in a variety of financial leadership roles at Vidant Health (an eight-hospital system headquartered in Greenville, NC), Doctors Hospital, a major component of Baptist Health South Florida, and Cigna. Seth received his BS from the United States Coast Guard Academy and MBA from The Graduate School of Business at College of William and Mary. He is a retired US Coast Guard commander, having served for 20 years in active duty and reserve assignments.

## **Abby Warren**

Associate  
Robinson & Cole, LLP  
awarren@rc.com  
860-275-8215



Abby practices labor and employment law at Robinson & Cole in Hartford. She defends companies in actions such as discrimination, harassment, wage/hour issues, etc. She also counsels her employer clients in their compliance with local, state, and federal labor and employment laws, including training, policy revision, counseling, and other activities. And as a trained workplace investigator certified by the Association of Workplace Investigators, she conducts and supervises investigations into workplace issues such as sexual harassment, ethics, professionalism, policy violation and safety, among others. Abby earned her BS in International Business Management from SCSU (CT) and her JD from the Dickinson School of Law, Pennsylvania State University. Having lived in the New Haven area prior to becoming a Downtown Hartford resident, Abby is eager to see Hartford transform itself from a commuter city to one with more vibrant, 24/7 cultural, recreational, and entertainment opportunities.

## Leadership Learning Experiences:

**Quest:** Set your sights on greater accomplishment and engagement by setting off on Quest, our signature year-long leadership training program for mid-career professionals.

**Executive Orientation Program:** Provide newly arrived or newly promoted executives a more complete picture of the Greater Hartford area, from cultural attractions to opportunities for civic engagement.

**Summit:** Develop a more advanced understanding of leadership principles by sharing challenges and insights with peer-level leaders representing a range of disciplines.

**Consulting and Training:** To assist corporate, governmental, educational, and nonprofit entities take the lead in determining their own direction, Leadership Greater Hartford offers a variety of consulting and training services. Thousands of participants representing more than 600 different organizations have utilized the proven methodologies of our approach. Finding ways for groups to be more effective working together to overcome shared challenges has been central to our mission and expertise for decades.

**Lessons in Leadership:** Spend your morning breakfasting with other business and nonprofit leaders while deepening your leadership skills and understanding.

**The Leadership Challenge:** This unique, two-day, intensive and interactive experience in a highly personalized setting can form crucial building blocks for leadership development within your organization. Empower your team to achieve! The Leadership Challenge is structured around the widely recognized Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership®, a leadership development model based on more than 30 years of rigorous research by Jim Kouzes and Barry Posner.

## Community Connections:

**Leaders on Board:** Train to serve on the board of a local nonprofit. Join the hundreds of other Leadership Greater Hartford participants who have embraced the rewards and responsibilities of board membership.

**Hartford Encounters:** Energize your teams, leadership groups, or recruitment efforts with these customized guided tours that highlight what's important to your organization's role in the community.

**Leadership By The Bite:** A convenient and accessible way to energize your organization, these on-site events can cover one of dozens of topics. Lasting 60 to 90 minutes, Leadership By The Bite addresses areas such as leadership skill development, personal growth, or organizational change and development.



**LEADERSHIP  
GREATER  
HARTFORD**

**Like  
Leadership Greater Hartford**



**Connect on**



**Follow @leadershiphtfd**



**Follow @leadership\_greater\_hartford**



**Watch on**



