



Sebrena Chambers

Director, Strengthening Families Division
Lead, Racism and Resilience Action Response Team,
Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Sebrena is the Strengthening Families Division Director and lead for the Racism and Resilience Action Response Team for the Tacoma- Pierce County Health Department. Sebrena has been with the health department for almost twenty years. She was raised in Tacoma and has always been active in her community. She has served on many community boards and been on the Board of Directors for United Way of Pierce County for eight years and is currently the board secretary. Sebrena graduated from the University of Washington and has Master of Business Administration and Public Administration from City University. As the lead for the Racism and Resilience Action Response team, Sebrena works collaboratively with staff, leadership, and community partners. To develop strategies to address systemic racism and apply a racial equity lens to all Department work. We strive to achieve racial equity by becoming an anti-racist organization.



Wendy Ellis, DrPH, MPH

Director, Center for Community Resilience
at the Milken Institute School of Public Health
at George Washington University

Dr. Ellis is the Director of the Center for Community Resilience at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University. The Building Community Resilience (BCR) collaborative and networks are implementing the BCR process -- a strategic approach for cross-sector partners to align resources, programs and initiatives with community-based efforts to address adverse childhood experiences and adverse community environments -- or "The Pair of ACEs". Dr. Ellis has spent the last decade developing and working to grow a 'resilience movement' to address systemic inequities that contribute to social and health disparities often transmitted in families from generation to generation.



Lawrence Garrett

Consultant at The Eight Twenty Eight Group

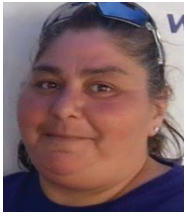
Lawrence is considered a modern-day cultural savant. Known by many for his knack of decoding cultural behaviors that either support or undermine values and performance, Lawrence has grown a reputation for getting to the heart of the matter by identifying specific behaviors that are directly impacting business outcomes. Over the last 15 years, Lawrence was able to hone these skills through his current consulting practice, Eight-Twenty-Eight, LLC., focusing on Equity Leadership and Inclusion, primarily in the greater Puget Sound area, his prior role as Executive Director of Advancing Leadership, as well as his numerous partnerships and consultative work with various non-profits within the community. His talents, temperament and tenure as a leadership trainer, performance coach and equity and inclusion practitioner provide a unique combination of results, relationship, and emotional quotient enhancement. In his recently published book, *The Equity Starter Kit: How to Build Equity in High Schools*, Lawrence shares how to strategically and tactically assess, design and shift culture for maximum impact. A colleague and friend said it best about Lawrence, "He knows how to 'change the weather' in any environment he's in."



Steve Harlow

Senior Vice President and Private Client Advisor,
Bank of America Private Bank, Tacoma

Steve Harlow is a Senior Vice President and Private Client Advisor with Bank of America Private Bank in Tacoma, Washington. For more than 30 years, he has leveraged his wealth of experience to provide personalized banking solutions to his clients in the South Puget Sound and beyond. Steve puts a premium on frequent communication with clients designed to inform and educate. In offering focused attention, he and his dedicated team provide private banking, intergenerational wealth planning, cash flow planning, disciplined investment management, business transition planning, philanthropic guidance, and access to customized lending solutions. An active listener and responsive problem solver, Steve finds it fulfilling to help individuals, families and endowments address their financial challenges and explore opportunities. Steve received a B.B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and serves on the boards of the United Way of Pierce County and Trauma Trust. He is also a member of the Tacoma Estate Planning Council, Washington Planned Giving Council, and the American Leadership Forum – Tacoma/Pierce County Chapter (Class XVIII). Previously, Steve served on the boards of the Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma Country & Golf Club, Pacific Northwest Ballet and Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce.



Juanita Maestas

Board President, Statewide Poverty Action Network, Vice Chair, Governor Inslee's Poverty Reduction Work Group

Juanita serves on Statewide Poverty Action Network's advisory board and is the current board chair. She is the proud mother and grandmother of two children and two grandsons. Juanita's lifelong journey began when she joined Solid Ground Washington's advisory council in the hopes that sharing her story would inspire others to share theirs. She continues to advocate to create a better future for her children and grandchildren. Juanita founded the Human Dignity Support Project, a program that lends support to people trying to navigate the public assistance system in our state. Juanita currently serves on Governor Inslee's Poverty Reduction Workgroup and is the co-chair of the Poverty Reduction Workgroup Steering Committee. You can always find Juanita in Olympia during legislative session advocating for progressive anti-poverty policies alongside her two grandsons.



Dr. Divya McMillin, PhD

Professor of Global Media Studies, Associate Vice Chancellor for Innovation & Global Engagement, University of Washington Tacoma

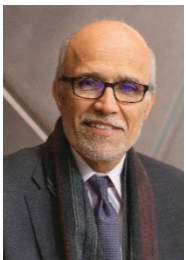
Dr. Divya McMillin (Ph.D. 1998, Indiana University Bloomington) is Professor of Global Media Studies and Associate Vice Chancellor for Innovation and Global Engagement at the University of Washington Tacoma. McMillin's three critically acclaimed books, *International Media Studies* (Blackwell 2007), *Mediated Identities: Youth, Agency, and Globalization* (Peter Lang, 2009), and *Place, Power, Media* (Peter Lang, 2018) have transformed global media studies by interrogating ideologies and audience/user agency. Her participatory design methods in development communication and her analyses of soft power, global "smart" cities and convergence technologies, are widely published in top tiered journals and anthologies, meriting her Top Paper Awards from the International Communication Association. Known as "The Builder," McMillin has pioneered innovative curriculum and helped shape the mission of UW Tacoma. McMillin is recipient of the UW Distinguished Research Award (2012) and the Distinguished Teaching Award (2017). She serves on various international journal editorial and book publishing review boards, as well as the Tacoma Pierce County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the Charles Wright Academy Board of Trustees.



Carol C. Mitchell, J.D.

Founder, Institute for Black Justice

Carol holds a Juris Doctor from Seattle University School of Law, a Master of Arts in Organizational Systems Renewal from Seattle University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Washington Seattle. She founded the Institute for Black Justice (IBJ) in September, 2020. The purpose of the IBJ is to relentlessly pursue equity and justice for all. Mitchell has more than 20 years of public sector leadership experience, having served most recently in Pierce County, Washington. Her primary responsibility was to improve outcomes for individuals with behavioral health and substance use conditions who were caught in the grip of the criminal justice system. She has significant organizational and human resources experience, having served as the Chief HR Officer for the Port of Tacoma, Chief Organizational Development and HR Officer for Metro Parks, Public Relations Officer for Pierce Transit, and as Executive Consultant for her own preventive law firm. Mitchell spent 17 years as the host of TV Tacoma's "CityLine," a public affairs talk show. Her volunteer activities include an appointment to the Board of Trustees of Clover Park Technical College, Past President of the Fair Housing Center of Washington Board, past member of the Palmer Scholars Board of Directors, and Past President of the Tacoma City Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. She is proud to be in service to her community, to her soon-to-be-85-year-old mother, her 3 adult children and her 6 grandchildren.



Dr. Ali Modarres

Dean, School of Urban Studies, Assistant Chancellor for Community Partnership at University of Washington Tacoma

Ali is the Dean, School of Urban Studies, Assistant Chancellor for Community Partnerships at University of Washington Tacoma. For eight years, he served as the Editor-in-Chief of *Cities: The International Journal of Urban Policy and Planning*. He earned his Ph.D. in geography from the University of Arizona and holds masters and bachelor's degrees in landscape architecture from the same institution. He has published in the areas of social geography, immigration, urban development, planning, and policy. A significant portion of his public scholarship focuses on economic development through an equity lens.



Dr. Lori Pfingst, PhD

Senior Director, Economic Services Administration,
Washington Department of Social and Health
Services (DSHS | FSA)

Dr. Lori Pfingst is a Senior Director for Economic Services Administration in the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS|ESA). In this role, Lori is a leading expert on the state's poverty reduction efforts and facilitator for Governor Inslee's Poverty Reduction Work Group. She is the former Chief of Programs & Policy for Community Services Division, in which she managed the state's major cash and food assistance programs. A data geek and lifelong advocate for economic and social justice, Lori's body of work has spanned a broad range of areas, including poverty, income inequality, labor markets, early learning, criminology, and epidemiology. She is a published author and storyteller, using the power of data paired with community voice to foster long-term, systems-level policy and program change for children, families, and communities throughout the state. Lori is a 2018 recipient of the Aspen Institute's prestigious Ascend Fellowship, which is supporting her work to build greater public-private alignment to advance intergenerational child and family well-being across Washington state. Prior to joining DSHS|ESA, Lori was the Research & Policy Director for the Washington State Budget & Policy Center, where she worked on advancing social, economic, and fiscal policies to strengthen the foundation of opportunity all Washingtonians need to thrive. Earlier in her career, she served as a Research Scientist with Public Health-Seattle & King County, and was the Assistant Director of Washington KIDS COUNT in the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington. Lori received her PhD in Sociology from the University of Washington in 2010. A proud native New Yorker, she migrated west after college and settled in Seattle, where she has lived for the past 20 years exploring the beauty of the Pacific Northwest with family and friends.



Dona Ponepinto

President, CEO, United Way of Pierce County

Dona has been the President and CEO for United Way of Pierce County since 2014 and has been with the United Way movement for more than 30 years. Locally she led a groundbreaking tristate research project on the financial stability of families, deployed navigation specialists for South Sound 211, launched seven Center for Strong Families sites and served on the Governor's Poverty Work Group. Dona has consistently been very engaged in her community and has demonstrated strong leadership through service and board membership. She is a member of the Junior League Tacoma and most recently she was a member on the board of directors and chair of the Governance Committee for the Association of Junior Leagues International. In addition, she serves on boards of the Pierce County Aids Foundation (PCAF), Tacoma Art Museum, Wellfound Behavioral Health Hospital and the Workforce Development Council. In 2019, she was appointed by Governor Jay Inslee to serve as a Board of Trustee for Tacoma Community College. Dona holds a BA in Psychology and a Masters in Counseling with an emphasis in children and families from Creighton University.



Ann Shankle, MSW, LICSW

Director of Behavioral Health, HopeSparks

Ann is the Director of Behavioral Health at HopeSparks in Tacoma, WA. She has over twenty years experience working in Community Mental Health. Ann is one of only a handful of licensed therapists in Washington State who is credentialed as an ethnic minority mental health specialist for African American, Latino, Asian-American, and Pacific Islander populations. Ann has spent the past several years providing leadership and training on integrating trauma-informed care in mental health service delivery.