



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FOCUS St. Louis® Announces the 36th Leadership St. Louis® Class**

**ST. LOUIS, August 30, 2011**—FOCUS St. Louis has selected 67 outstanding professionals for the 36<sup>th</sup> 2011-2012 Leadership St. Louis® class. These participants join a prestigious and diverse group of more than 1,900 community leaders who have graduated from the LSL program since its inception in 1976.

Leadership St. Louis® is a highly respected program for emerging and established leaders who have demonstrated a deep commitment to improving the St. Louis region. The 18-day, 9-month curriculum explores such issues as economic development, education, poverty and social services, racism, arts and culture, and the criminal justice system. Participants visit key sites in the bi-state region, engage in face-to-face dialogue with regional decision makers and gain a deeper understanding of the array of leadership approaches that produce results.

"I am truly excited to have such a forward-thinking and diverse group of participants in the program. In the year ahead, these participants will be challenged to learn more about themselves, each other and how they can best make a positive impact on our region," said Christine Chadwick, FOCUS St. Louis Executive Director and Director of the Leadership St. Louis program.

Leadership St. Louis is one of many programs and initiatives that FOCUS St. Louis provides to achieve its mission to create a thriving, cooperative region by engaging citizens to participate in active leadership roles and to influence positive community change. To learn more about FOCUS St. Louis, visit [www.focus-stl.org](http://www.focus-stl.org).

**Individuals Selected for the 2011 - 2012 Leadership St. Louis Class:**

**John Armstrong**  
Managing Director  
HotCity Theatre

**Jeanine Bermel**  
Partner  
Husch Blackwell LLP

**David Brown**  
President  
Datotel

**Matthew Coble**  
Senior Vice President and Partner  
Fleishman-Hillard

**Tammy Craig**  
Chief Financial Officer  
Parents as Teachers National Center, Inc.

**Matt Dace**  
Senior Vice President  
St. Louis Area Foodbank

**Heather Bixler Dawson**  
Vice President, Tri-County Division  
United Way of Greater St. Louis

**Cindy Erickson**  
Regional Chief Executive Officer  
American Red Cross, St. Louis Region

**Karl Guenther**  
Community Development Specialist, Public Policy  
Research Center  
University of Missouri –St. Louis

**Quintinus Henry**  
Assistant Director of Operations  
Graybar

**Courtney Hill**  
Partner  
Husch Blackwell LLP

**Caroline Battles**  
Chief of Staff  
U.S. Representative Russ Carnahan

**Nicole Blumner**  
Project Manager  
US Bancorp Community Development Corporation

**Fred Christen**  
President  
Hallmark Stone Company

**Margaret Cole**  
Director, Environmental Safety & Health  
Monsanto Company

**Timothy Curran**  
Manager, St. Louis Learning Center  
Nestlé Purina PetCare Company

**Mark Darrell**  
General Counsel, The Laclede Group, Inc.  
Senior Vice President and General Counsel,  
The Laclede Gas Company

**Dustin Deschamp**  
Director, Human Resources  
Saint Louis Zoo

**Rodney Francis**  
Executive Director  
The Youth and Family Center

**Fred Helfrich**  
Partner  
BKD National Health Care Group, BKD, LLP

**Allison Hewitt**  
Executive Director of Development  
The Marianists Province of the United States

**Aliah Holman**  
Senior Manager, Marketing and Communications  
Express Scripts Canada

**Michael Indelicato**  
Chief Investigator  
St. Louis Attorney's Office

**Sarah Javier**  
Vice President of Development and Marketing  
Crider Health Center

**Kristy Kight**  
Vice President, Grant Management Services  
Area Resources for Community and Human  
Services

**Marilu Knode**  
Director  
Laumeier Sculpture Park

**Steve Kuehl**  
Partner  
Edward Jones

**Mike Loyet**  
President  
St. John Vianney High School

**Matthew Miofsky**  
Head Pastor  
The Gathering United Methodist Church

**Anisha Morrell-Charles**  
Special Assistant to the Chancellor  
St. Louis Community College

**Douglas Nieder**  
Partner  
Lewis, Rice & Fingersh, L.C.

**Shanti Parikh**  
Associate Professor of Anthropology  
Washington University in St. Louis

**Jorge Perez**  
President/CEO  
YMCA of Southwest Illinois

**Jill Indovino**  
Executive Director  
Girls on the Run

**Dawn Morville Johnson**  
Attorney/Shareholder  
Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, P.C.

**Kathleen Killion**  
Executive Director- Health Literacy  
BJC Healthcare

**James Kolker**  
Assistant Vice Chancellor, Campus Planning  
Washington University in St. Louis

**Darren Lamb**  
Director of Community and Economic  
Development  
City of Washington

**Kayla Mays-Madkins**  
President  
Ability Building & Restoration

**Caprice C. Moore**  
Director of Operations, Business and Technology  
Webster University

**Kitty Nangle Lohrum**  
Development Director  
Saint Louis University

**Elizabeth Noonan**  
Vice President, Business Development- Bioscience  
and Technology  
St. Louis County Economic Council

**Shashi Pathak**  
Director of Economic Development  
City of O'Fallon

**Jeff Potthast**  
Senior Vice President, Director of Human  
Resources  
Commerce Bank

**Robert Powell**

Founder/Executive Director  
Portfolio, Inc.

**Wendy Richardson**

Senior Business Leader  
MasterCard Worldwide

**Leslie Ridgley**

Vice President, Strategic Initiatives  
Wells Fargo Advisors

**Viji Samikannu**

Corporate Training Manager  
Enterprise

**Karen Seibert**

Professor of Pathology and Immunology  
Washington University in St. Louis

**TC Slater**

Senior Accounts Manager  
New Horizons

**Darlene Sowell**

President and CEO  
Neighborhood Houses

**David Strom**

Owner/President  
David Strom, Inc.

**Jason Thein**

Partner  
Thompson Coburn LLP

**Scott Walker**

Executive Director  
Kingdom House

**Reverend Starsky Wilson**

Pastor and Teacher  
St. John's United Church of Christ

**Rhae Yancey**

Market Development Manager- East Region

**Karlos Ramirez**

Executive Director  
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

**Laura Richter**

System Director, Workplace Spirituality  
Ascension Health

**Aaron Robinson**

Network Director of Strategic and Business  
Development  
SSM Health Care

**David Scott**

Chief Technology Officer  
Global Drug Testing Service

**John Shaw**

City Manager  
City of Ferguson

**Timothy Sommer**

Manager, Corporate Communication  
Graybar Electric

**Bruce Steinke**

Vice President, Controller  
Ameren

**Stacy Tew-Lovasz**

President  
Alzheimer's Association, St. Louis Chapter

**Jennifer Tyus**

Associate  
Lashly & Baer, P.C.

**Gail Wechsler**

Director, Domestic Issues/Social Justice  
Jewish Community Relations Council

**Darryl Wise**

Vice President, Quality and Operations  
Annie Malone Children and Family Service Center

US Bank

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