

2014 Leadership in Action (LIA) Cohort

Rhonda Benson



Rhonda Benson is the director of After Care Express in North Little Rock. During her four years in the afterschool field at the center, Rhonda has made several accomplishments including doubling her center's number of youth participants as well as completing a university capstone project on emergency planning in an afterschool program, which she was later able to implement in her own program.

Rhonda has taken part in a number of TAPP trainings in the areas of Observation and Coaching, Delegation, Staff Meetings and Improving Quality. She is currently applying for Arkansas Out of School Time Credential by ASU Childhood Services.

Gayle Brown



Gayle Brown works with the Monticello and Drew Central School District in Southeast Arkansas. She currently serves as the 21st Century Community Learning Center Project Director for both districts where she is responsible for the overall management of seven 21st CCLC 5 year grant programs and all of the programs' related staff.

Gayle also serves as the Monticello School District Safety Coordinator, Health Coordinator, Grant Writer and Campus Administrator for City Park School.

Spencer Chastain



Spencer Chastain is the 21st CCLC Site Coordinator and Education Director at the Boys and Girls Club of Saline County. In this role, he designs and implements programs for students enrolled in the three 21st CCLC grants at the Boys and Girls Club. He is in charge of identifying and hiring potential staff members, collaborating with school staff and administration, engaging with parents and community members, and coordinating enrichment and intervention programming for the club participants, ages 6-18.

Before joining the Boys and Girls Club, Spencer was the Director of Student Ministries at Ridgecrest Baptist Church where he created engaging content for Middle and High School students planned summer camps, and planned and executed weekly worship services.

Shanon Ford



Shanon Ford is the Regional Admissions Director for City Year Incorporated. In this position, Shanon has been a driving force to help establish the mission and goals of City Year that have effectively led admissions teams spanning 5 major cities within the southeastern United States. She manages multiple admissions departments, evaluates data and implements structure systems that include benchmarking, collaborative feedback and progression-to-goal ratings.

Shanon's areas of expertise include organizational leadership, strategic planning, employee retention, operations management and program development and management, among other skills.

Sylvia Halliburton



Sylvia Halliburton is self-employed as the director of Cottage of Knowledge in Brinkley, Arkansas. Her organization focuses on early childhood learning supports and community services. Her overall goal in this work is to provide her community with more resources that will enhance their ability to thrive.

Prior to starting her own business, Sylvia served as the Literacy Coordinator for the Save the Children Program within the Lee County School District at Whitten Elementary in Marianna, Arkansas. There she oversaw the implementation of a literacy block in the in-school, afterschool and summer programs.

Anthony Hampton



Anthony Hampton is the Founder/Executive Director of a Little Rock nonprofit called The Impact Zone. The mission of this organization is to reach out to those who are spiritually, emotionally, physically and mentally broken by the different circumstances they face in life.

Anthony has been a commissioner for LR Parks and Recreation, board member for More Than an Option, Inc., a local mentoring program for young women, and a contractor to help with work for enhancement programs at Department of Youth Services-Alexander.

Brittany Hughes



Brittney is a Program Manager for the Department of Youth Services for Pulaski County. In this position, Brittney recruits and helps community groups and neighborhood organizations plan educational activities and measure program effectiveness and performance outcomes.

Brittney has more than ten years of experience in leadership and working with youth. She has worked with Methodist Family Health in Little Rock and Youth Villages in Memphis, Tennessee.

Kyle Meredith



Kyle Meredith is the Bella Vista Unit Director for the Boys and Girls Club of Benton County. He has been with BGC for two years, during which time he has made it a mission to 'raise the bar' on quality of afterschool programming. He has taken part in over 50 hours of training relative to afterschool care (many with the AOSN). His goal in being a part of the Leadership in Action Cohort is to learn all that he can in order to better serve youth in BCG programs.

Kyle is also on the NWA Impact Committee, which is a group of Boys and Girls Clubs in the area that do a regional training once a year. He has taught First Aid and Healthy Lifestyles to other BGC members while serving on this committee.

Barbara Osborne



Barbara Osborne is Director of Community Programs for the City of Little Rock. In this capacity, Barbara is responsible for the development and implementation of a \$5.5 million annual Budget to implement community programs. In this capacity she is responsible for program design and implementation; supervises various program staff; and acts as the administrative liaison between Community programs, other city programs and the general public.

Barbara also manages/ directs various federal and state funded projects, including Prevention Intervention & Treatment (PIT), Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG), Welfare-to-Work (WtW), Re-Entry Programs, Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), and Tobacco prevention.

Seth Paddock



Seth Paddock is the Executive Director of the J. Austin White Cultural Center in Eudora. In this capacity Seth oversees all aspects of the nonprofit, including year round programming, operations and the Center's annual operating budget, which he secured through grant funding, donations and rental fees. As the Director, Seth has been instrumental in building programs for the Center's children and youth and maintaining partnerships with Teach for America, the Rural Community Alliance, Eudora Reads and others.

Seth is also a founding partner of Healing Hearts - Eudora, a community initiative to improve health outcomes for children, youth and adults. Before coming to Eudora in 2013, Seth worked in the Mississippi Department of Education and taught 12th grade English.

Katherine Robinson



Katherine Robinson is the Community Programs Specialist for Girls Scouts-Diamonds Council in Norwest Arkansas. Before coming to Girls Scouts-Diamonds, Katherine as worked as a Summer Educator with the Amazeum in Bentonville and before that, Katherine spent several years in different parts of India where she was a volunteer teacher, student facilitator and curriculum development consultant.

Katherine has a rich knowledge of and experience in community engagement and youth programming. She was able to put these skills to use in the past academic year while working in rural India. In her work with Girl Scouts-Diamonds, she will be designing and implementing programming that will allow young girls to explore aspects of STEM education as well how to become involved in their communities and innovate in meaningful ways.

Paula Rogers



Paula Rogers has worked in the OST field in Little Rock for more than 20 years. Twelve of those years have been as Education Manager with UALR Children International, where she is currently employed. In this capacity, Paula oversees four school-based afterschool programs and a summer camp, serving children in K-5th grade, in the University District area of Little Rock.

In addition to this, Paula is and was recently honored as a National Child Labor Committee Lewis Hine Award Recipient. She is an Aflatoun Regional Master Trainer and sits on several boards of local and community-based nonprofits as well as school advisory committees.

Jarnisha Savage



Jarnisha Savage is the Community Programs Specialist with Girls Scouts-Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. She works with schools, day cares, and afterschool programs on developing leadership curriculum that best fits students' needs. She has developed a total of five leadership series curriculum for girls in Kindergarten through 5th grade, as well as leadership and training curricula for older girls. She has also helped to develop and implement leadership day camps and has basically started from zero in her program area by adding 14 new programs where there were none before.

Gerry Stewart



Gerry is the Founder/CEO of Wind Beneath Our Wings, a consulting agency that works with youth agencies to develop strategies for recruitment, how to design quality afterschool and out-of-school time programs and how to build strong relationships with program stakeholders. The program also serves youth, ages 10-19, by empowering them to face real life experiences with confidence, as well as through the promotion of physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing, leadership development and community involvement.

Gerry also works as a Mentor/Promoter with the City of Little Rock Community Programs where she conducts trainings for and mentors the Youth Intervention Program (YIP) Providers and Coordinators. Gerry also served as the Female YIP Coordinator for the Go Girl program for six years.

Jonathan Wallace



Jonathan Wallace is the Healthy Out-of-School Time Manager for the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. In this role he is responsible for the leadership and management of thirty OST programs with the goal of increasing healthy food implementation, physical activity and positive youth engagement into afterschool and summer programming.

Through other work and experiences that Jonathan has undergone, he has extensive skills in the areas of Relationship Management, Evaluation and Reporting, Strategic Planning, Service Learning, Visionary Leadership Training, Grant Writing and Project Management.