



**KANSAS WISE**  
WOMEN IN STATE EMPLOYMENT

## Kansas WISE Newsletter | March 4, 2022



March is many things - from March Madness and Saint Patrick's Day to the coming of spring - it's a month filled with fun and celebrations, the biggest being Women's History Month and International Women's Day!

While Kansas WISE supports and recognizes women year-round, we honor you, our colleagues, by hosting [Kansas WISE 2022: The Power of You](#). On March 8, join your colleagues from across Kansas as we hear from women about their experiences as public servants. Following the panel, spend the afternoon investing in yourself through a series of skill building sessions. Look for more details below.

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The word "Celebrate" is rendered in a large, white, 3D sans-serif font. It is surrounded by a dense cloud of multi-colored confetti in shades of red, blue, yellow, and green, creating a festive and celebratory atmosphere.

Initially celebrated across the United States in 1909 as National Woman's Day, [International Women's Day](#) (IWD) was first celebrated in 1911 in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland. Bringing together more than one million women and men, IWD events promoted women's rights including the right to vote and work. By 1913 and 1914, women around the world from the United Kingdom to Russia were hosting their own IWD rallies.

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Kansas women, past and present, continue to lead the way in their fields, giving voice to the untold stories of others.

This IWD, Kansas WISE highlights the **Kansas Racial Equity Collaborative**. Launched in September 2021, the Kansas Racial Equity Collaborative was formed by women, many working for the State of Kansas, to address inequalities in the child welfare system and their long-term impacts on Black and Brown children. Several of the Collaborative's creators sat down with Kansas WISE for a virtual event in February to share their stories about how it all came together.

Click below to view the event.



Learn more about the Kansas Racial Equity Collaborative [here](#).

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## Kansas WISE: The Power of You

# One Day – Three Events

Panel discussion 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Moderated by Department of Administration Secretary DeAngela Burns-Wallace



*Vicki Schmidt*  
Insurance Commissioner



*Joan Wagnon*  
Retired Public Servant



*Natalie Yoza*  
Associate General Counsel  
Board of Regents

Looking for ways to celebrate International Women's Day locally? Join us **March 8** for:

**"Kansas WISE 2022: The Power of You"**

This year's virtual event is designed to let you take a break and focus on what you want.

Kicking off in the morning with a panel discussion of inspiring women, we will transition to an afternoon of breakout sessions where you choose your path. From improving your interview skills to finding your spark, the afternoon is all about developing the skills and confidence to achieve your dreams!

- When: Tuesday, March 8
  - Panel Discussion - 10:00-11:30 am
  - Session 1 Personal Development Breakouts - 1:00-1:50 pm
  - Session 2 Professional Development Breakouts - 2:00-2:50 pm
- Where: Zoom
- Registration: FREE and open to all State of Kansas Employees, [Register Online](#)

Each event has a separate registration, and you will receive a confirmation email for each event you register to attend that includes your unique link and the option to add the event to your calendar.

Have questions or need help registering? Contact us at [KansasWISE@ks.gov](mailto:KansasWISE@ks.gov).

*We understand people are busy and schedules may prevent you from attending Kansas WISE events. Other information and opportunities are forthcoming so stay tuned!*



The U.S. Congress recognized March as [Women's History Month](#) in 1987. Prior to its monthly recognition, it was celebrated in communities across the country as Women's History Week. Receiving national recognition in 1980, Women's History Week became

National Women's History Week through a Presidential Proclamation issued by President Jimmy Carter.

As we look at women who give voice to untold stories, Kansas WISE recognizes the contributions of **Lawrence filmmakers Lourdes Kalusha-Aguirre and Marlo Angell**. Through interviews and archival resources, Lourdes and Marlo tell the stories of Mexican American railroad workers and their families who lived in the housing unit of La Yarda in East Lawrence from the 1920s-1951. For more information about Lourdes and Marlo, as well as the background of this project, go to: [The Lawrence Times](#).

Click below to watch the documentary "Searching for La Yarda" followed by a prerecorded Q&A with the filmmakers.



Women throughout history have made their marks as scientists, visionaries, innovators, musicians, and more! Regardless of the fame or attention their work garnered, they paved the way, often quietly and humbly, for other women to follow.

For the lesser known stories of these phenomenal women, like Ada Lovelace, the first known computer programmer, listen to [Encyclopedia Womannica](#).





## Celebrating Our Achievements



Susan Gile was appointed the Acting Executive Director for the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts (KSBHA) in January 2022. She first joined KSBHA in 2019 and served as the Operations Manager until she was named Interim Executive Director in October 2021.

Susan is a licensed social worker with a degree from the University of Kansas. She began her career in 1991 at the then Social and Rehabilitation Services (now the Department for Children and Families) as a foster care social worker. Susan worked her way up to Deputy Secretary at DCF where her achievements include bringing a national database to Kansas to help manage interstate placements for Kansas children placed in other states.

During this time, Susan and her husband raised two children and she has one grandson who she enjoys spending as much time with as possible.

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Have you, your colleagues, or your department been nominated for or won an award? Do you want your colleagues to be recognized for their achievements? We want to hear about it! **Please submit awards or achievements to [KansasWISE@ks.gov](mailto:KansasWISE@ks.gov) for inclusion.**

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## Kansas WISE: Women's History Month Events

In recognition of Women's History Month, Kansas WISE will host weekly virtual events called conversation starters. Some topics to look forward to include what women's empowerment means to you and women's health.

Kansas WISE will send an email to all newsletter subscribers with additional details following the March 8 event.



## Events and Resources

- **9to5: The Story of a Movement:** Join Emily Taylor Center for women & Gender Equity in the Jayhawk Room of the KU Memorial Union for an International Women's Day screening of "9to5: The Story of a Movement," followed by a conversation facilitated by Neill Esquibel-Kennedy. - This is an in-person event located in Lawrence, Tuesday, March 8, 6:30pm - [Learn more here](#).
- **Phoenix Rising:** For HBO subscribers, *Phoenix Rising* is a two-part documentary following actress and activist Evan Rachel Wood as she takes her experience as a survivor of domestic violence to pursue justice, heal generational wounds, and reclaim her story. Premieres March 14 and 15 - [Learn more here](#).
- **Women's Forum hosted by Greater Topeka Partnership and Go Topeka:** The Women's Forum includes a keynote from Wendy Doyle, President & CEO of United WE, a presentation of The State of Women in Kansas Report, a panel discussion, and more. - This is an in-person event located at The Beacon in Topeka, Wednesday, March 16, 9:00-1:00 pm - [Purchase tickets here](#).
- **Topeka EmpowHERment Summit:** Women leaders share their stories and experiences in honor of Women's History Month. Hear from women who are leading the Topeka community in many different fields. - This is an in-person event located at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, Saturday, March 19, 1:00-5:30 pm. - [Learn more here](#).

- **National Women's History Museum (NWHM):** NWHM has put together a Women's History Month Toolkit 2022 filled with resources, programs, and events for every day of the week. - [Access the toolkit here.](#)

## Did You Know?

The American Heart Association has awesome resources available for women related to heart health: <https://www.heart.org/en/news/category-womens-health>.

Women of every age are impacted by these issues, including high blood pressure, preeclampsia, congestive heart failure, heart attack, and stroke. Educate yourself on the difference between women's symptoms which are often different than men's. Making simple changes to your eating, fitness, and mental health can make a big difference in combating heart disease which is still the number one cause of death in women in the U.S. (CDC). Talk to your doctor if you have questions or concerns!

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State employees can subscribe or manage your subscription settings [here](#).

Questions and feedback can be sent to [KansasWISE@ks.gov](mailto:KansasWISE@ks.gov)

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