



**KANSAS WISE**  
WOMEN IN STATE EMPLOYMENT

## Kansas WISE Newsletter | June 3, 2022

A photograph of a surfer in a blue shirt and dark shorts riding a wave. The bottom portion of the image is a dark grey overlay containing a quote in white text, flanked by large white quotation marks. The author's name and a social media handle are also present in the overlay.

“ Courage, sacrifice, determination, commitment, toughness, heart, talent, guts. That’s what little girls are made of; the heck with sugar and spice. ”

- Bethany Hamilton

By Troy Williams [@jennitwalsh](#)

June is a busy month. From vacations and celebrating Father's Day to keeping kids busy, there's no shortage of activities and events.

This month's newsletter reflects the busyness of June and great moments worth celebrating, including the 50th anniversary of Title IX, Pride Month, and Juneteenth. Also this month, United WE begins its economic development town hall series. More information on how to get involved in the series can be found in the events and resources section.

Enjoy the start of summer on June 21 and stay cool!



## **Title IX 50th Anniversary on June 23**

June 23, 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of Title IX prohibiting educational programs receiving federal funding from discriminating on the basis of sex. [Representative Patsy T. Mink](#) of Hawaii is credited as the main author and champion of the legislation, which states:

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

Title IX has had wide-ranging impacts on girls' and women's sports, college admissions, sexual assaults on campus, and more. Most often, it is talked about in the context of sports.

As reported by the [New York Times](#), there's been a significant increase in girls and women playing sports since Title IX was signed:

- Before 1972: about 294,000 girls played high school sports and 30,000 women played college sports
- 2019: 3.4 million girls participated in high school sports
- 2021: more than 219,000 women participate in college sports

Read more about Title IX, how it became a law, and its impacts on athletics at [CBS Sports](#).



Alexandra Emilianov is one of many Kansas women setting collegiate records. During the Big 12 outdoor track and field championships in May, Alexandra became the women's discus champion - her third time earning the distinction.

Originally from Moldova, Alexandra competed in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics. Shortly before she joined the Kansas Jayhawks, she won the discus event at the U20 European Championships in 2017.

Alexandra will compete again at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships June 11-14.

---

### **Title IX: Articles, Videos, and Social Media Resources**

New York Times: [How Women's Sports Teams Got Their Start](#)

New York Historical Society:

- [What Title IX Means to Julie Foudy, former US Women's National Soccer Team captain](#)
- [What Title IX Means to Nzingha Prescod, two-time Olympic fencer and world champion](#)

We Need to Talk: [The first-ever all women's sports show](#)

---



## Pride Month June 2022

Get ready to celebrate and honor the LGBTQ+ community this month with parades, parties, and protests across the country. Many communities are hosting in-person Pride events for the first time in two years, so big turnouts are expected. Check with your community for events local to you.

LGBTQ+ Kansans are breaking glass ceilings everyday, and Kansas WISE wants to put the spotlight on two legislators making a difference for their communities:



In November 2018, Representative Susan Ruiz was elected as one of the first openly LGBTQ members of the Kansas House of Representatives alongside her colleague Representative Brandon Woodard.

Read more about Representative Ruiz, her views, and what she'd like to say to the LGBTQ+ Kansas community in this January 2019 article: [Kansas House Gains Its First Two Openly LGBTQ Members](#).



Representative Stephanie Byers won election to the Kansas House of Representatives in November 2020, making her the first openly transgender member of the Kansas State Legislature.

Representative Byers is a former educator, serving for almost 30 years in Wichita. Read more about her journey here: [Journey as First Openly Transgender Lawmaker](#).

Interested in learning more about the LGBTQ+ activism in Kansas? Check out [No Place Like Home: Lessons in Activism from LGBT Kansas](#).

Written by C.J. Janovy, director of content at KCUR, she tells the stories of LGBT activists in Kansas fighting for the acceptance and respect of their fellow Kansans.

C.J.'s book was chosen by the State Library of Kansas as one of its 2019 Kansas Notable Books. It also won the Stubbendleck Great Plains Distinguished Book Prize and was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award for LGBTQ Nonfiction.



## Juneteenth on June 19th

This year, June 19th marks the 157th anniversary of Major General Gordon Granger's announcement in Galveston, TX that the Civil War had ended and African Americans who had been enslaved were emancipated - two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed.

Look for local celebrations near you or attend JuneteenthKC, Kansas City's annual Juneteenth celebration featuring live entertainment, a cultural parade, food, and more! Learn more at [Juneteenth-KC.com](http://Juneteenth-KC.com).



We celebrate Black women in Kansas this Juneteenth by recognizing Wichita-based sisters Angela Muhwezi-Hall and Deborah Gladney. Together, they founded QuickHire, an app to help service workers more easily find jobs.

Angela first had the idea in 2017 when a student with paper job applications asked for assistance. With her sister

Photo Credit: QuickHire

Deborah, they searched for ways to provide resources to individuals looking for work in the service industry.

Their idea came to fruition in April 2021 when they launched QuickHire. They raised more than \$1 million in funding, making them the first Black women in Kansas to achieve this feat for a startup. QuickHire serves more than 11,000 job seekers in Wichita and the Kansas City metro areas.

Read more about their success at CNBC: [Sisters Launch App to Help Service Workers Find Good Jobs](#).



## Celebrating Our Achievements



In May, Brianna Johnson joined Governor Kelly's office as her new Director of Communications.

Prior to joining the Governor's office, Brianna was a manager at Evergreen Strategy Group, a boutique policy communications firm. Additional roles include being a Junior Fellow at the USC Annenberg Center on Communication Leadership & Policy, a research internship at UNESCO, and a Field Organizer for the Nevada Democratic Coordinated Campaign.

A graduate of the University of Southern California, Brianna earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

Congratulations, Brianna, and welcome to the State!

---

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.**



## **Kansas WISE Personal Development, Self-Care & Wellness Subcommittee Presents:**

### **Putting Yourself First: Ensuring Your Needs are Met**

Join Kansas WISE for a conversation about Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. After a short video, participants will move into breakouts to discuss topics ranging from identifying needs to discovering oneself.

To accommodate your busy schedules, two sessions will be offered. Choose the one that works best for you or feel free to attend both!

#### **Session 1**

Date: Tuesday, June 7

Time: 10:30am-11:30am

[Register here](#)

#### **Session 2**

Date: Tuesday, June 14

Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm

[Register here](#)

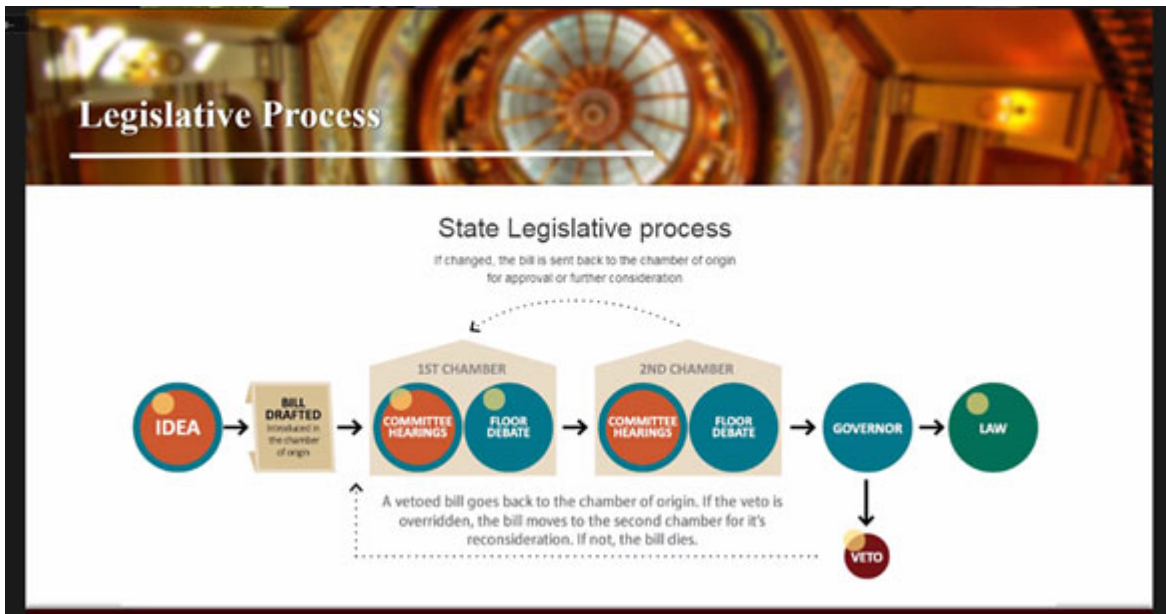
*We understand people are busy and schedules may prevent you from attending Kansas WISE events. Other information and opportunities are forthcoming so stay tuned!*

---

## **Kansas WISE: Advocacy 101**

Thank you to our featured speakers during the May 17th event, "Advocacy 101." More than 200 individuals participated, which shows how much passion there is for advocacy among state employees.

You can find the event recording on the Kansas WISE website and linked in the image below.



## Kansas WISE Mentoring

Kansas WISE has extended the deadline for mentor applications to **Wednesday, June 15**. If you're interested in applying but have questions, please reach out to mentor co-chair Mary McAferty at [Mary.J.McAferty@ks.gov](mailto:Mary.J.McAferty@ks.gov).

Mentoring is a great opportunity to form lasting relationships while supporting individuals on their personal and professional journeys. If you are interested in learning new ideas, improving the workplace, and potentially building a lasting connection, fill out the application linked in the image below.

Mentoring relationships have powerful positive effects on people in a variety of personal and professional ways. Mentors benefit from fulfillment and the satisfaction of helping others.

This is it; apply [HERE](#) to start your mentoring journey.



# MENTORS NEEDED





## Events and Resources

Events are virtual and last one hour unless otherwise stated. Times listed are central time.

- **United WE Economic Development Town Hall Series:** United WE, a nonpartisan nonprofit with a mission to advance women's economic and civic leadership, is hosting a Town Hall Series across Kansas to identify barriers impacting women in the workplace and entrepreneurship, including childcare, paid family leave, broadband access, and more. United WE will provide free lunch and free professional childcare at in-person town halls. Attendees will also receive a \$10 gift card for their time. Register for an event closest to you:
  - Topeka: Thursday, June 23 from 11:30am-1:00pm - [Register here.](#)
  - Hays: Tuesday, June 28 from 11:30-1:00pm - [Register here.](#)
  - Garden City: Wednesday, June 29 from 11:30am-1:00pm - [Register here.](#)
  - Wichita: Thursday, July 14 from 11:30am-1:00pm - [Register here.](#)
  - Pittsburg: Wednesday, August 3 from 11:30am-1:00pm - [Register here.](#)
  - Statewide Virtual: Wednesday, August 24 from Noon-1:00pm - [Register here.](#)
- **Grand Circus - Virtual Free Intro to Coding Workshop:** This free Intro to Coding Workshop is open to everyone and is designed for those who are curious about coding, but who have very little or no coding experience. Never seen a line of code before? No problem! Basic computer knowledge is required -- that's it. - First Saturday of the month, 9:00-11:00am and Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00pm - [Register here.](#)
- **International Association for Human Values - Online Healing, Resilience & Empowerment (HRE) Workshop:** You will learn more about the body, breath, and mind to instantly eliminate stress, trauma fears, anxieties, and manage your emotions. In this 60-minute workshop, you will pause, take a breath, and clear your mind with the help of physical exercises, energizing and calming breathing

techniques, and a guided relaxation process. - Tuesdays in June, beginning June 7, 12:00pm - [Register here](#).

- **EAP Webinar - Mindfulness: Being Present in Your Work and Life:** Mindfulness is about waking up to the present moment and paying attention to our experience. Learning mindfulness is not difficult; however, it is difficult to remember to do it. This training discusses mindfulness and how to incorporate its practice into your life. - Wednesday, June 8, 1:00pm - [Register here](#).
- **EAP Webinar - Connecting Mind and Body for Healthy Living:** Your body responds to the way you think, feel, and act. Good emotional health can have positive impacts on your physical health while poor emotional will have adverse effects. Join the webinar to learn more about the “mind/body connection.” - Wednesday, June 22, 1:00pm - [Register here](#).

## Did You Know?

The State provides a Car Pool Ride Matching Service (CPRMS) to save commuters money! Van Pools are also available and many have openings at this time. Learn more at: [Car Pool Ride Matching Service](#).

---

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

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

---

This email was sent to [kansaswise@ks.gov](mailto:kansaswise@ks.gov) using govDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Kansas Department of Administration · Curtis State Office Building · 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 500 · Topeka, KS 66612-1300

