



KANSAS WISE
WOMEN IN STATE EMPLOYMENT

Kansas WISE February Newsletter



**February 13th, Galentine's Day is
about celebrating lady friends**

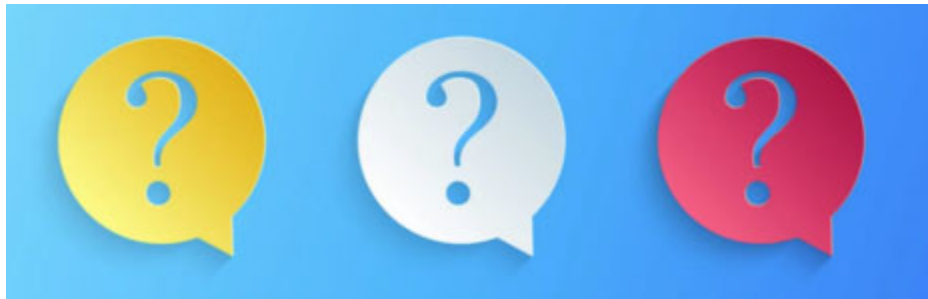
While many individuals might be gearing up for Valentine's Day, this Kansas WISE Steering Committee member is excited for Galentine's Day on February 13. What is Galentine's Day? For the Parks and Rec fans out there, you'll know that Amy Poehler's Leslie Knope used this day to celebrate her most treasured female

friendships with gusto. For the non Parks and Rec fans, this is the day to celebrate your most treasured female friendships with gusto.

From the women you work with to the women you call family and friends, take this holiday to celebrate those who support you, make you laugh, and make your day a little better.

Need some ideas?

- [Parade's 50 Epic Ways to Celebrate Galentine's Day](#)
- [M&Ms is Featuring an All-Female Pack](#) to Celebrate this Year's International Women's Day. Gift it to your favorite gals while knowing that \$1.00 from each pack sold will go to women's charitable organizations.



Question of the Month

Thank you to everyone who responded to January's Question of the Month: *What topics would you like Kansas WISE to cover in 2023 events and newsletters?*

Based on everyone's feedback, the topics receiving the most votes were:

- Financial Planning (9 votes)
- Leadership (9 votes)
- Success in the Workplace (7 votes)
- Personal Growth (7 votes)
- Dealing with Stress (6 votes)
- Healthy Lifestyle (6 votes)
- Getting Your Next State Job (5 votes)
- Resilience (5 votes)
- Communication Skills (5 votes)
- Time Management (4 votes)
- Other topics received 1 vote each.

February Question of the Month: *In one or two words, what skill do you wish you'd taken more time to learn?* Those with ks.gov email addresses can respond [here](#); other state employees can email responses to KansasWISE@ks.gov.

Please respond by February 23.



Black History Month

February officially became Black History Month in 1976 under President Gerald Ford. However, the formal celebration of Black history traces its origins to 1926, when Carter G Woodson established a week in February to celebrate Black contributions to society. He chose February because it is the birth month of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Woodson also founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) which chooses a different theme each year to celebrate. The theme for 2023 is "Black Resistance." Read more behind the origin's of Black History Month as well as the story behind this year's theme at [NPR.org](https://www.npr.org).

In honor of Black History Month, the Kansas WISE Steering Committee celebrates Black female authors whose stories covered issues from racism and sexism to classism, identity, and more.



Born in 1825, Francis Ellen Watkins Harper was a poet, author, and lecturer. Her achievements were numerous and her work made her a household name in the nineteenth century. She became the first African American woman to publish a short story when she published her story about women's education called "The Two Offers."

Her career was spent in the service to others as she fought for equal rights, job opportunities, and education for African American women. She was active with several associations including:

- Co-founder and vice president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs
- Director of the American Association of Colored Youth
- Superintendent of the Colored Sections of the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Women's Christian Temperance Unions

She wrote throughout her life, and additional writings include:

- *Forest Leaves*, first small volume of poetry
- "Eliza Harris," a poem published in antislavery newspapers
- *Poems on Miscellaneous Subjects*, second small volume of poetry

Read more about Francis Ellen Watkins Harper at [WomensHistory.org](https://www.womenshistory.org).

Celebrate Black History Month through Black female authors or look to our events and resources section below for virtual and community events near you. For suggestions on what to read, look to [Oprah Daily](https://www.oprah.com) for it's list of 25 books by Black authors to read in your lifetime, including:

***The Street*, by Ann Petry:** Set in Harlem, it follows Lutie Johnson's struggles to survive as a divorced mother with a young son amid racism and sexism.

***Finding Me*, by Viola Davis:** Viola Davis is the first Black actor to earn an Oscar, a Tony, and an Emmy, known as the Triple Crown of Acting. In her memoir, she revisits her childhood and its pain, and finally answers the question that long haunted her: *How did I claw my way out?*

***Somebody's Daughter*, by Ashley C. Ford:** This New York Times bestseller centers on Ford's coming-of-age story in Indiana and her difficulty growing up with a father in prison, though it takes many years before she discovers why he is there.

***The Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabel Wilkerson:** Published in 2010 and winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Wilkerson's work charts the mass exodus of African Americans in the early 20th century from the Jim Crow South into Northern and Western cities, where they built successful lives amid racism etched in softer shades.

***Beloved*, by Toni Morrison:** This Pulitzer Prize–winning novel is arguably Morrison’s most well-known. It tells the story of Sethe, a former slave who escaped to Ohio in the 1870s—but, despite her freedom, finds herself haunted by the trauma of her past.



Celebrating Our Achievements



Melissa King was promoted in January to the position of Director of Appointments in the Governor's Office. Previously serving as the Appointments Manager, Melissa has been with the administration for several years. In her role, she connects qualified Kansans to serve on state boards and commissions. She graduated from Washburn University in 2020 with a Bachelor of Political Science and Mass Media.

Congratulations, Melissa!

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 for inclusion.**



Kansas WISE

Being Part of a Multigenerational Team

Join the Kansas WISE Career Development Subcommittee and ComPsych for a conversation about working in a multigenerational team!

"True leadership is having multiple generations working together successfully and passionately to create significance." - Farshad Asl

- **Date:** Thursday, February 23
- **Time:** 1:30pm - 2:30pm
- **Location:** Zoom
- **Registration:** Free and open to State of Kansas employees. [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!

SAVE THE DATE

Kansas WISE Presents "Resilience"

In conjunction with International Women's Day, Kansas WISE will host its 3rd annual forum on March 8, 2023. This year's theme: Resilience. More information to come, and we hope to see you there! It will be virtual.





Events and Resources

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

- **Topeka & Shawnee Co. Library: African Americans in Manhattan, Kansas:** David Baker will tell his story through the lens of historic Manhattan, KS & Yuma St, where he grew up. Yuma St is registered as a historic district in Manhattan. - February 6, 6:00pm - Register for Zoom link [here](#).
- **Pittsburg State University: Black History Month Activities for Campus and Community**
 - **February 6-17:** Bicknell Family Center for the Arts gallery exhibit, 1711 S Homer
 - **February 8:** Performance celebrating the life and legacy of Eva Jessye, 7:00-8:00pm, Bicknell Family Center for the Arts gallery exhibit, 1711 S Homer
 - **February 9:** Jazz Poetry Night open to students and community members, 6:00-8:00pm, Overman Student Center, 302 E Cleveland Ave
 - **February 11:** The 7th annual MLK Ball open to students and community members is formal and masquerade masks are encouraged! The ball will include catering, a DJ and dance floor, speeches, and performances. 6:00-9:00pm, Overman Student Center, 302 E Cleveland Ave.
 - More information about each event and how to RSVP is [here](#).
- **Kansas Department of Revenue: Respecting Differences in the Workplace:** This course provides participants an opportunity to learn about unconscious bias and ways to ensure our workplace is a respectful one for all. By the end of the session, participants will be able to: identify the consequences of disrespectful behavior and the benefits of respect in the workplace, identify unconscious bias, recognize and prevent harassment, and demonstrate respect strategies. - **February 8, 8:30am-12:00pm** - Provide your SHARP ID #/Employee # when requesting to enroll

through KDOR_LearningCenter@ks.gov. Free to attend, the course is in-person at the Zibell Bldg, Topeka.

- For more State events, check out the Statewide Training Calendar [here](#).
- **Dole Institute of Politics: First Ladies and Power: Influential First Ladies You Might Not Know Much About:** Anyone asked to list the top first ladies usually draws on their own experience studying or knowing about the women during their lifetimes. A few first ladies were far more powerful than history classes typically reveal. This program centers on three of those women: Sarah Polk, Florence Harding, and Edith Wilson and the power they wielded, each in her own way. - **February 9** at 7:00-8:15pm - Virtual and In-person at the Dole Institute, Lawrence. More information [here](#).
 - Moderated by Diana Carlin. Featuring:
 - Rebecca Roberts, author, "Untold Power: The Fascinating Ride and Complex Legacy of First Lady Edith Wilson"
 - Katherine Sibley, editor of both "Southern First Ladies: Culture and Place in the White House History" and "A Companion to First Ladies"
 - Teri Finneman, author, "Press Portrayals of Women Politicians, 1870s-2000s"
- **Black Legislative Day at the Capitol:** Hosted by the Kansas African American Affairs Commission, Black Legislative Day will be filled with education and advocacy. Various speakers will be on hand to talk about what is making its way through the Kansas Legislature that will have an impact on the Black community. Lunch will be provided and there will be opportunities to meet legislators and see the Kansas Capitol. More details, an agenda, and ticket prices will be announced closer to the event (no more than \$15). - **February 14**, 10:00am - 3:00pm. - More information [here](#).
- **KU Medical Center: Black History Month Driving Tours:** Take time with friends and family to explore sites in Kansas and Missouri and learn about their importance to Black and African American History.
 - [Kansas and Missouri Black History Sites Tour](#)
 - [Salina Black History Sites Tour](#)
 - [Wichita Black History Sites Tour](#)

Did You Know?

Did you know you can watch committee meetings of the Kansas legislature virtually? Watch online via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@KSLegislatureLIVE> or through the legislature's website <http://sq001-harmony.sliq.net/00287/Harmony/en/View/Calendar/20230123/-1>.

State employees can subscribe using their state email address [here](#).

Anyone wishing to subscribe using their personal email address should email KansasWISE@ks.gov with their agency name.

Please email us with any questions and feedback.

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