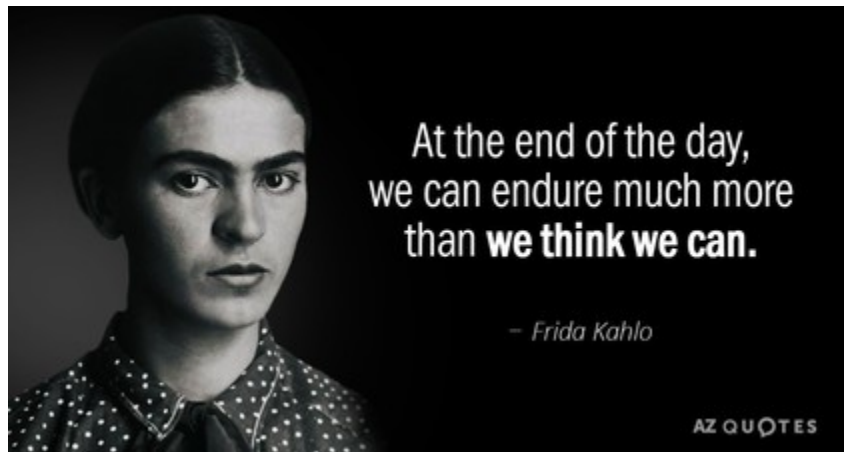




KANSAS WISE
WOMEN IN STATE EMPLOYMENT

Kansas WISE March Newsletter



Happy Women's History Month and International Women's Day from the Kansas WISE Steering Committee! Recently, the committee had a conversation about a lot of struggles we as individuals as well as we as women have encountered over the last few years. While we could have dwelled on what was hard, we spent our time

talking about the perseverance and resilience demonstrated in our stories, each with a unique experience.

This month, we honor you, our colleagues, by hosting **Kansas WISE 2023: Resilience**. On **March 8**, join your colleagues from across Kansas as we hear from women about their experiences with resilience. Following the panel, spend the afternoon investing in yourself through a series of sessions focused on how to Reflect, Reframe, Refocus, and Refresh! Look for more details below.



International Women's Day March 8

[International Women's Day \(IWD\)](#) was first celebrated in 1911 in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland. Clara Zetkin was behind the idea to make it an international celebration after the Socialist Party of America established it as National Women's Day in 1909.

2023 marks the 112th International Women's Day. Bringing together millions of women and men each year, IWD is celebrated differently across the globe. For example, a lot of women receive a half-day off in China while in Italy, women are given mimosa blossoms (a flower). More commonly, it's a day to celebrate the progress women have made politically and economically while continuing to highlight the inequalities that still exist today.

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

Kansas WISE 2023: Resilience



The banner features the Kansas WISE logo on the left and right, which includes a circular emblem with a laurel wreath and the text "KANSAS WISE WOMEN IN STATE EMPLOYMENT". In the center, the word "RESILIENCE" is written in large, bold, blue capital letters, with the tagline "One Day. Three Events." below it. A horizontal line separates the header from the panel discussion information, which reads "Panel discussion 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.". Below this, four headshots of the panelists are displayed in a row, each with their name and title underneath.

RESILIENCE
One Day. Three Events.

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

Stacey Knoell – Moderator
Executive Director
Kansas African American Affairs Commission

The Honorable Rachel L. Pickering
Judge
Kansas Court of Appeals

Dr. Carla Whiteside-Hicks
Director of TANF
Department for Children and Families

Eileen Ma
Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Kansas Office of Revisor of Statutes

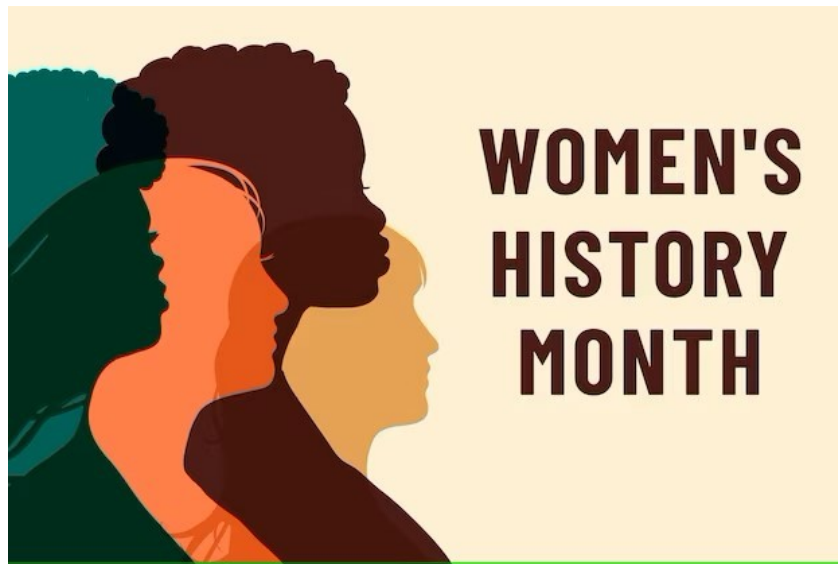
This year's virtual event is designed to emphasize the resilience of women and the different things we can do to build resilience.

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. In the theme of resilience, breakout sessions will focus on how to Reflect, Reframe, Refocus, and Refresh!

- When: Wednesday, March 8
 - Panel Discussion - 10:00-11:30 am
 - Session 1 Breakouts - 1:00-2:00
 - Session 2 Breakouts - 2:30-3:30
- Where: Zoom
- Registration: FREE and open to all State of Kansas Employees

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.

Registration for each event can be found on the Kansas WISE events calendar at [Kansas WISE Upcoming Events](#).



Throughout the year, the Kansas WISE newsletter tries to highlight stories of women who made history or are making history. Please use the resources below to learn the stories of women from around the world who are leaving their mark.

- [Encyclopedia Womannica Podcast](#) - In 5-8 minutes each day, learn the story of a trailblazing woman in history. Each month covers a different theme:
 - March - Movers and Shakers: Pioneering women who used their physical prowess to shake things up. Check in each day for a new story.
 - February - Tastemakers: Celebrating Black chefs, cooks, and food historians who created new food waves and preserved important culinary stories of the past.
 - January - Rebels with a Cause: Women who broke rules that were meant to be broken.
- [BBC's 100 Women of 2022](#). Comprised of influential women from around the world, a few names include:
 - [Activist Judith Heumann \(USA\)](#) - Recognized internationally as a leader of the disability rights movement.
 - [Indigenous activist Alice Pataxó \(Brazil\)](#) - A climate campaigner, journalist, and influencer, Alice raises awareness about how Brazil's recent environmental and agricultural policies threaten indigenous land rights.
 - [Activist Velmariri Bambari \(Indonesia\)](#) - Velmariri fights for victims of sexual violence in Central Sulawesi. Due to her campaigning, she is often the first person contacted by police when sexual violence is reported.
 - [Journalist Kristina Berdyskykh \(Ukraine\)](#) - An award-winning journalist for 14 years, Kristina has traveled Ukraine, reporting from areas that were under Russian shelling. Her stories include details of daily life in a city in conflict.



Celebrating Our Achievements



In January, Rukayat Nwokocha in the Office of Information Technology Services (OITS), was promoted to ServiceNow Business Analyst. In her role, she identifies process improvement opportunities; always striving to increase efficiencies and effectiveness.

Rukayat first joined OITS in September 2022 as an ITIL Processor Specialist. She's made a big impact in a short amount of time with the agency, working hard on developing tools and solutions that provide for a better customer experience.

Congratulations on your promotion!



In February, Brandy Bearse in the Office of Information Technology Services (OITS), was promoted to Senior O365 Collaboration Engineer.

Brandy has been with the State for almost 30 years. Her first role was as an Office Assistant for the Department of Revenue's Titles and Registrations. In this role, she fielded out of state calls regarding car titles and told a lot of people that Kansas City is not the capital of Kansas. She came to OITS in 2019 where she joined the Cloud Messaging team.

Congratulations on your promotion!

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

Women's History Month Events

In recognition of Women's History Month, Kansas WISE will host weekly virtual events called conversation starters.

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

Personal Development Subcommittee

How to Use Earth, Pets, and Humor to Manage Stress

- **Date:** Tuesday, April 11
- **Time:** 2:30pm-3:30pm
- **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!



Events and Resources

For Women's History Month and International Women's Day, please look to your local community for celebrations, art exhibits, and other great ways to acknowledge women. Below are just a few examples of things you can see and do.

- **Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission Mural:** Painted by Erika Nelson in 2021, the mural celebrates 100 years of women's right to vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment. The mural is one of only 6 in the country selected to tell the story of the suffrage movement through public art. - Norton, KS - More information [here](#).
- **Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum:** Born here in 1897, the museum contains family heirlooms, displays, and photographs. - Atchison, KS and virtual tours available - More information [here](#).
- **Brown v Board of Education National Historic Site:** Lucinda Todd, a former teacher in Topeka, was an advocate for quality education and increased educational opportunities for Black children. The decision to move forward with a lawsuit - Brown v Board of Education - to desegregate Topeka schools was made at her family's dining room table. - Topeka, KS - More information [here](#).
- **KC Current Soccer Team:** KC Current women's soccer team kicks off the 2023 season later this month. They're coming off an historic season where they had their first playoff appearance and went on to play in the championship game. While they were defeated in the championship, they're looking to build on their success. Consider a trip to Children's Mercy Park in Kansas City, KS for one of their 2023 home games beginning April 1. - Kansas City, KS - [Game schedule here](#).

Did You Know?

The Kansas Hero's Scholarship Act (K.S.A. 75-4364) provides an opportunity for eligible dependents and spouses of certain deceased/disabled public safety officers and military personnel to attend an eligible public Kansas postsecondary

educational institution without payment of tuition and required fees. See https://kansasregents.org/scholarships_and_grants for more information.

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.

This email was sent to 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

