



KANSAS WISE
WOMEN IN STATE EMPLOYMENT

Kansas WISE June Newsletter



When you give up
comparing yourself
to other people,
you'll be free to focus
on your best effort.

AMY MORIN

June is a busy month, and it's likely you have no shortage of events to attend and things to do. If you find yourself looking for something to do with family or friends, communities across Kansas will be celebrating Pride Month, Juneteenth, and the anniversary of Title IX. Look for more information on each of these events below.

Enjoy the first day of summer on June 21, and stay cool!



Pride Month June 2023

Through parades, parties, and protests, you can honor the LGBTQ+ community in Kansas all month long. Check with your community for local events near you.

Kansas has a rich history of LGBTQ+ activism. Kansas WISE is spotlighting a few local examples of the movement's historic roots as well as one individual in the Kansas City area supporting the LGBTQ+ business community.



Suzanne Wheeler, Executive Director at Mid-America LGBT Chamber of Commerce, is a lifetime resident of Kansas City. She joined the Chamber in 2019 and brought with her 32 years of experience in the Army and Army National Guard. Retiring as a Colonel in 2016, she was the highest-ranking, out transgender military member at the time. In her current role, she advocates for the success of the LGBTQ+ business community and its allies.

Read more about Suzanne in In Kansas City's profile, "[Five Things You Don't Know About Me: Mid-America LGBT Chamber's Suzanne Wheeler](#)." You can also read about her military background in KCUR's 2017 article, "[Patriotic and Proud of Their Identities, Kansas City's Transgender Veterans Look to the Future](#)." Photo

courtesy of In Kansas City.

History

In downtown Kansas City, take a walk to Barney Allis Plaza. Here you will find a bronze marker honoring the city's LGBT activism. While the Stonewall Uprising in 1969 has often been thought of as the catalyst for the gay liberation movement, many communities, including Kansas City, experienced their own uprisings in the years before Stonewall.

Read more about Kansas City's role in the movement here: "[Kansas City had Foundational Role in LGBT Movement Nationwide](#)."

Visit the University of Missouri-Kansas City online for their exhibit, "[Making History](#)." The exhibit showcases the history of Kansas City's 1966 gathering of national gay and lesbian civil rights leaders.





Juneteenth on June 19th

This year, June 19th marks the 158th 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.



📷 Allison Marker and Romae Isom appear for a May 16, 2023, recording of the Kansas Reflector podcast. (Sherman Smith/Kansas Reflector)

Allison Marker and Romae Isom. Photo courtesy of Sherman Smith/Kansas Reflector.

If you're looking for additional ways to honor Juneteenth, look to the YWCA of Northeast Kansas and their monthlong Racial Justice Challenge. The challenge is a virtual learning tool designed to create dedicated time and space to build more effective social justice habits, and encourage community-building and conversation on four weekly topics:

- Week One: Disability Rights
- Week Two: Housing
- Week Three: Music
- Week Four: Mental Health

The challenge begins **Monday, June 5th, and concludes Friday, June 30th.**

For more information and to register, visit the YWCA online at: [Racial Justice Challenge](#).

You can also listen as Sherman Smith, Editor of the Kansas Reflector, interviews Romae Isom, racial justice and training coordinator for YWCA Northeast Kansas, and Allison Marker, community engagement director for YWCA Northeast Kansas. They discuss the Racial Justice Challenge, growing and learning through discomfort, and what participants can expect. Listen at [Kansas Reflector Podcast](#).



Celebrating Our Achievements

Marla Canfield and Jaicey Gillum named Commerce Employees of the Year!

In May, Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland named Marla and Jaicey as Kansas Department of Commerce's 2022 Employees of the Year.



Marla Canfield, In-State Business Development Project Manager for the South Central region, has been with the State of Kansas for over 11 years, with almost nine of those being at Commerce. She works directly with companies who want to invest capital in our state through expansions and hiring projects by helping connect them to resources within the department and community partners. Her work includes her efforts to elevate the Certified Sites program that has become a national standard for success.



Jaicey Gillum, Program Manager for the Office of Rural Prosperity, joined Commerce in 2022. She assists rural communities with grant applications, connects them with other offices or services, and helps with day-to-day tasks in the office. Jaicey has been instrumental with the administration of both the Historic Economic Asset Lifeline (HEAL) and Strategic Economic Expansion and Development (SEED) grant programs.

She previously served as Executive Director for Academic Outreach at Independence Community College.

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 Presents

"The Power of Resilience"

Join Kansas WISE for a reflective conversation on The Power of Resilience. Conversation will center on what resilience means to you and how it shows up in your day-to-day life.

- **Date:** Wednesday, June 28
- **Time:** 10:00am-11:00am
- **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!

Kansas WISE Happenings



Kansas WISE Mentoring Pilot Program

Mentee Applicants

Mentoring relationships have powerful positive effects on people professionally and personally. Mentees can expand their knowledge and skills, gain valuable advice, and build their professional networks.

The Mentorship Program offers the following types of activities:

- 1:1 mentorship: Traditional model of mentoring where one mentor is paired with one mentee.
- Group mentoring: One mentor meets with a group of mentees (5-7)
- Peer mentoring: Mentorship between employees in an organization to foster knowledge and skills transfer.
- Bring your own mentor: Mentee identifies a mentor and asks them to participate in the program.

Start your mentee journey today by applying [here](#).

Mentee spaces are determined by the number of volunteer mentors.



Events and Resources

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

Both Pride and Juneteenth will be celebrated throughout the month across Kansas communities. Below are just a few of the events Kansas WISE has highlighted. Look to your community or those nearby for events close to you.

Juneteenth Celebrations:

- Overland Park, KS - Saturday, June 10, 10:00am-1:00pm: The Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center is hosting its 2nd Annual Juneteenth commemoration and celebration. This family-friendly event, built with community partners, provides an opportunity to honor the history and celebrate Juneteenth with art, music, food, and more! - More information [here](#).
- Kansas City, MO - Saturday, June 10, 10:00am-4:00pm: The Nelson Atkins Museum will host its annual Juneteenth celebration featuring dance and music performances, art activities, and more. - More information [here](#).
- Lawrence, KS - Saturday, June 17, 11:00am-8:00pm: Join the Lawrence community in South Park for a parade kickoff, oral histories, an underground

railroad tour, food, live music and more! There will also be a kids corner with free activities. - More information [here](#).

- Leavenworth, KS - Saturday, June 17, 6:00pm-Evening: Juneteenth Twilight Parade & Festival hosted by the Leavenworth County NAACP Branch Unit 4036. Event takes place at Haymarket Square with live music, games, vendors, food and fun. Parade will start at dusk. - More information [here](#).

Pride Celebrations:

- Kansas City, MO - Friday, June 9-Sunday, June 11: Kansas City PrideFest will feature a parade, local acts, recording artists, food, family activities, and more. Located at Theis Park, across from the Nelson Atkins Museum. - More information [here](#).
- Wichita, KS - All Month - Wichita Pride will host events all month long! Beginning June 9 with a PrideGrass Film (in partnership with the Tallgrass Film Association), events throughout the month include a unity march, teen skate party, an interfaith service, and parade & festival. - More information [here](#).
- Hutchinson, KS - Friday, June 16-Saturday, June 17: Hutchinson Salt City Pride is excited to host its annual two-day festival! More information [here](#).
- Garden City, KS - Saturday, June 17, 10:00am-3:00pm: Join Better Together GC for GC Pride 2023! Located in Stevens Park. - More information [here](#).

National Women's History Museum Presents! The Continued Legacy of Title IX: Join NWHM for a conversation on the ongoing importance of Title IX with historian Eileen Tamura and journalist Sherry Boschert. NWHM will reflect on Title IX's history and legacy, the vital role it still plays, and their two new books, *We Too! Gender Equity in Education and the Road to Title IX* and *37 Words: Title IX and Fifty Years of Fighting Sex Discrimination*. - Virtual Event - Thursday, June 15, 5:00pm - More information [here](#).

Central Exchange Emerging Leaders Program: This year-long course brings together women from wide-ranging professions for networking and leadership development. Class of 2024 applications are open with both virtual and in-person opportunities available. In-person opportunities will take place in Kansas City, MO at UMKC. - **Applications due August 15** and there is a fee to participate. More information [here](#).

Did You Know?

The Sunflower Summer, a program through the Kansas State Department of Education, provides a wide variety of ways for families to get out, explore something new, and enjoy time together. Kansas families can visit museums, zoos, historic landmarks, and more for free! The program runs May 26-August 13 and is available to Kansas residents with students enrolled in Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. More information [here](#).

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

