

## PROFILE

Passionate about community and economic development in the City of Milwaukee. A track record of being a highly sought individual for strategic planning and leadership development, an expert in cultivating and building relationships for coalitions and partnerships. Excellent communicator with an approach to nurture and empower people into action. Extensive experience with qualitative and quantitative data to make data informed decision making.

## EXPERIENCE

### **Co-Lead, Chancellors Committee for Hispanic Serving Institution**

Office of the Chancellor, Mark Mone

UWM | 2016 – Present

- Appointed by Chancellor Mone to create campus-wide committee for UWM to become Hispanic Serving Institution.
- Analysis of enrollment, retention and graduation data, connections with top feeder high schools, understanding of high impact practices, and increasing development opportunities.
- Assessment and strategic planning with Deans in all schools/colleges to support HSI plan.
- Key team member of Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) Network of Wisconsin, a regional effort of two-year, four-year, public and private institutions working collectively on supporting, retaining and graduating Hispanic students. Continual assessment and planning related to enrollment, retention and graduation efforts.
- Strong understanding of how UWM must continually improve student learning, assessment and planning with academic degree programs.

### **Director of Partnerships and Development**

Electa Quinney Institute

UWM | 2014 – Present

- Awarded over \$ 3 million in grants to support Native American students. Responsible for developing budget, managing staff (graduate assistants and undergraduate students).
- Responsible for leading and creating partnerships along with memorandums of understandings between three tribal colleges in Wisconsin and Great Lake Region. Creation of innovative programs that discover, value and examine traditional ways of Native Americans.
- Competent at forging relationships with executive management, faculty, students and families.
- Asked to bolster Multi-Cultural Network utilizing strong interpersonal skills to build community between African American, Hispanics, Asian-American and Native American groups.
- Manage the EQI Research Fellowship program to foster experiential learning, faculty supported research initiatives and community building activities.

## **Associate Director of Engagement**

Center for Urban Initiatives and Research

UWM | 1998 – 2014

- Requested to convene and facilitate strategic planning with seven municipalities adjacent to Milwaukee International Airport because of expertise, experience and track record of building public-private partnerships. The goals were retaining and attracting business, improving the aesthetic environment near Mitchell International Airport and supporting regional economic development of Milwaukee 7 effort.
- Asked to lead strategic planning efforts with the Zilber Neighborhood Initiative, a \$50 million grant making program to improve the quality of life and neighborhoods. Adept at initiating, engaging and building relationships with stakeholders comprised of residents, youth, school leaders, clergy, business owners and elected officials. Outcomes were Quality of Life plans with Layton Boulevard West Neighbors, Clarke Square, and Lindsey Heights.
- Provided program evaluation for community partners in diverse areas including: arts, diversity and inclusion, economic development, public safety and workforce development initiatives.
- Created and managed the EQI Fellowship program supporting undergraduate and graduate students in their academic disciplines. This program was the precursor to the Office of Undergraduate of Research.

## **Director of UWM and United Community Center Embedded Research Partnership**

Office of the Chancellor, Carlos Santiago and Michael Lovell

UWM | 2006 – 2014

- Appointed by Chancellor Santiago to forge partnerships between UWM and UCC in educational services, senior support, mental health, and cultural arts.
- Architect of the Embedded Research Program. Outcomes were awards of \$3.1 million to support programs, increase pipeline of elementary students to college, and stabilizing home ownership. *This model was replicated by Marquette University, University of Wisconsin – Madison and the Medical College of Wisconsin.*

## **Director of Outreach and Engagement, Milwaukee Idea**

Office of Chancellor, Nancy Zimpher

UWM | 1998 – 2003

- Asked to engage with in over 100 collaborations with UWM and community leaders on transformational change on seven focus areas: Education, Economy, Health, International, Environment, Research and Quick Wins. Results were the support for individual Big Ideas but more importantly each plan had the following elements: vision, launch strategy, organizational structure, diversity plan, interdisciplinary collaborations, resource needs, funding needs, and outcomes.

## **Community Organizer**

Milwaukee Inner-city Congregations Allied for Hope (M.I.C.A.H)

Gamaliel Foundation | 1992 – 1998

- Created city-wide membership of MICAH, bridging the racial gap between Milwaukee’s North and South side.
- Planned, led and provided training to church membership and clergy on community empowerment and change.
- Led strategic campaigns for homebuyer initiatives, improving public safety, increasing educational scholarships, enhancing training for workforce development initiatives.

## **EDUCATION**

- PhD, Urban Studies | University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- M.S., Urban Studies | University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- B.S., Economics | University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

## **CIVIC and VOLUNTEER APPOINTMENTS**

- Board Member, Street Angels | 2020
- Board Member, 27<sup>th</sup> Street Business Improvement District with the City of Milwaukee and the City of Greenfield | Appointment by Mayor Tom Barrett | 2017- 2019.
- Board Chair, City Plan Commission | 1999 - 2019
  - Appointment by Mayor Tom Barrett, original appointment Mayor John O. Norquist (1999). Elected by peers to serve as Chair for the past ten years, recognized for political acumen and ability to lead and manage contentious meetings.

## **LEADERSHIP POSITIONS**

- Parent Governance Officer with Milwaukee Public Schools District | 1998 – 2019. As an engaged parent throughout my children’s schooling, I advocated for the needs of Spanish Speaking parents and children.
- Board membership with over 20 nonprofit organizations in the Greater Milwaukee Area (1991- Present). Strong understanding and experience of serving and reporting to Boards of Directors.

## **EXECUTIVE CONSULTING**

- Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative (CSNI) 2020

## **REFERENCE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**