

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARIES OF NOMINEES FOR YWCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following individuals are nominated to serve their first three-year term as a member of the Board of Directors of the YWCA Central Massachusetts:

Patricia Leary

Patricia is a passionate nonprofit professional with over a decade of experience in public policy, community organizing, youth development, and fundraising. She recently worked as the Manager of Community Engagement and the Women's Initiative at the United Way of Central MA. She was the Community Advocacy Director for the American Heart Association and the Grassroots Manager at the American Cancer Society's Cancer Action Network, where she was awarded the Grassroots Professional of the Year award for her work to engage volunteers. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of Central & Western Massachusetts and is a member of the Investing in Girls Alliance. She received both her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Master of Arts in Community Development and Planning from Clark University in Worcester and completed a 6-month training program with Emerge Massachusetts, which trains women to run for public office. She resides in Shrewsbury with her husband, daughter, and son.

Jessica McGarry

Jessica McGarry is the First Vice President/East Region Commercial Lending Team Lead with Country Bank and has over 20 years of experience in the banking industry. Beginning as a part-time teller, she worked in the branch system for several years, then spent eight years in the commercial credit department, where she learned commercial lending from the ground up. She has been a commercial lender in the Worcester market for the past ten years. Jessica serves on the Board of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Worcester Business Development Corporation. Additionally, she remains very active in volunteer opportunities, including Habitat for Humanity, Be Like Brit, and the Women's Initiative, a division of the United Way of Central Massachusetts. Jessica earned her bachelor's degree in business from Nichols College, was a recipient of the Forty Under 40 designation in 2014 from the *Worcester Business Journal*, and was a member of the Leadership Worcester class of 2015-16.

Mary Ritchie Murphy

Mary was born in Worcester, Massachusetts and is a proud product of the Worcester Public School system, having graduated from Doherty High School. She studied sociology at UMass Amherst, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree. Mary moved to Boston to work at the Justice Resource Institute (JRI), a non-profit organization that provides clinical, educational, residential, and human services programs for at risk individuals and families. In her 10 years at JRI, Mary has worked with children and teenagers with trauma histories and behavioral challenges, crisis intervention teams, in schools, and in residential settings. Mary earned a Master's degree in social work from Simmons University and is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW). Mary believes in the fight to eliminate racism and to empower women and is passionate about creating a better society. Mary recently returned to Worcester to raise a family.

The following individuals are nominated to serve their second three-year term as a member of the Board of Directors of the YWCA Central Massachusetts:

Amane AbdelJaber

Amane works as a Program Manager in the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General where she has held several positions with increasing responsibility over the past 15 years. She is also a small business entrepreneur in the Worcester area. Amane is actively involved in racial justice both at work as co-chair of the AG's Office Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and in the community. She is a founding board member and secretary of Muslim Community Link (MCL) and is a past member of the City of Worcester Human Rights Commission Hate Crimes Task Force. Amane has received the Attorney General Martha Coakley Award of Excellence twice and the Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson Award of Excellence. She resides in Shrewsbury.

Jeanie Connolly

Jeanie is a Senior Vice President and Commercial Relationship Manager at Bay State Savings Bank in Worcester. In this position she manages a \$79 million portfolio with a variety of clients. She has spent the entirety of her professional career working in the banking and finance industry. Jeanie received a bachelor's degree in accounting and completed post graduate studies in finance at Bentley University. Jeanie is an active community volunteer serving on the YWCA's Finance Committee, ArtsWorcester Finance Committee (where she is Treasurer), and the Tower Hill Botanical Garden Finance Committee. Jeanie is currently a member of the board of directors of YWCA, ArtsWorcester, and the Mt. Wachusett Community College Foundation. Jeanie resides in Princeton with her family. She previously served as treasurer for the Princeton PTA and Princeton Pack 25 Boy Scout Troop, and as a soccer coach with the town's recreational department.

Amanda Gregoire

Amanda is Vice President of Real Estate Services at MassDevelopment, the state's development finance agency and land bank, where she provides technical assistance to communities to plan for growth and solve economic development challenges. Prior to joining MassDevelopment, Amanda was a Senior Project Manager in the Executive Office of Economic Development for the City of Worcester. Amanda is a graduate of Clark University with a Master of Public Administration. She is a member of the Worcester Now | Next Advisory Committee, a graduate of Leadership Worcester, and a volunteer with the Canal Diggers 5K committee.

Monica Thomas-Bonnick

Monica currently serves as a VP, Business Lending Officer at Webster Five and Executive Director/Treasurer at The Webster Five Foundation. She has more than 25 years of experience in providing financing solutions to both for-profit and nonprofit businesses, including start-ups, women-owned businesses and automotive franchises. She was recently named to the Worcester Business Journal's Power 50 Class of 2020. She earned her BA in finance from the University of Oklahoma and her MBA from Simmons University. Monica is active in the Worcester community and serves on the boards of Edward Street Child Services, YWCA Central MA, QCC Foundation, Worcester Area Mission Society and EforAll Worcester. Additionally, she serves a Corporator of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation and a Finance Committee member of the Regional Environmental Council.

Rubby Wuabu, J.D.

Rubby is an Assistant District Attorney in the Office of District Attorney Joseph Early Jr. Born in Ghana, she attended South High Community School, went on to Simmons University, and then Suffolk University Law School. In addition to her involvement on the YWCA Board of Directors, Rubby is a member of the City of Worcester's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women, and Co-Chair of the Worcester County Bar Association's Committee for Anti-Racism and Equality.

The following individuals are nominated to serve a one-year term as a member of the Board of Directors of the YWCA Central Massachusetts:

Christienne (Christie) Bik

Christie joined Fallon Health in 2011 and currently leads its government relations department. In this role, she supports Fallon Health's business objectives and mission by focusing on strategic public, community and government relations opportunities. Before Fallon, Christie spent eight years in the Worcester County District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney. Previously, she was a legislative assistant for Congressman James P. McGovern and legislative aide for State Representative Robert Spellane. Christie is a graduate of American University and received her Juris Doctor from Suffolk University Law School. She is a member of the Massachusetts Bar Association. In 2007, Christie received the Massachusetts District Attorney Association's Spotlight Award, and in 2014, she was honored with Worcester Business Journal's 40 Under Forty award. Christie has served on the YWCA's Board of Directors for eight years and on the Boards of the New England Council and the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans. Christie lives in Shrewsbury with her husband, Paul Belsito and their daughter, Isabelle.

Kristin DeSousa

Kristin DeSousa is Vice President, Operations Support NE for National Grid where she has held positions of increasing responsibility over the past 22 years. Kristin leads an operations team that is responsible for National Grid's fleet, facilities, inventory and warehouse management, environmental response, and rights of way survey and engineering. Prior to her current role, Kristin had the responsibility for Customer Delivery US, a 850+ team working toward a low-effort, high-impact customer experience. Kristin also held prior roles in Business, Planning and Performance for the US

Electric business and the Massachusetts Jurisdiction, Finance and Executive Operations. Kristin has a Bachelor of Science degree in accountancy from Bentley University.

Alexizendria (Zena) Link

Zena is a public school educator who serves on the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) and National Education Association (NEA) board of directors and chairs the NEA Professional Standards and Practice committee. Zena coordinates a number of coalitions and community-based efforts to reduce inequities and promote inclusion within collaborative leadership spaces. Additionally she serves as a senior strategist to a broad range of steering committees and boards, from national to local grassroots groups.

Kristin Sawash

Kristin works as a Vice President of Commercial Lending for UniBank for Savings in Whitinsville. She began her career as a teller at the bank and has moved up through the ranks serving as an Assistant Branch Manager and Branch Manager in the retail division. She joined the Commercial Team in 2014 and currently oversees a \$150 million commercial portfolio. She received both her undergraduate and master's degrees in Business Administration from Anna Maria College. Previously, she held volunteer positions with Blackstone Valley Technical High School, where she was a Business Tech Advisor, Dress for Success, Center for Women & Enterprise, Women's Initiative of the United Way of Central Massachusetts, Uxbridge Lions Club, and Waters Farm Preservation. She was named a recipient of 40 Under Forty by the Worcester Business Journal in 2004.