

2017 SANGAMON COUNTY YOUTH MENTORING SUMMIT

SPEAKERS & PARTNERS:

Cheryl Howard-Neal, Director of Programs & Partnerships - MENTOR Illinois

Email: CHNeal@ilmentoring.org

Cheryl comes to MENTOR Illinois with more than 20 years of service in the non-profit sector working with mentoring programs and volunteers. Most recently, Cheryl worked at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago (BBBSMC) for five years holding various positions including Director of Community Based Programs and Program Support Specialist. Prior to BBBSMC, Cheryl served as Director of Mentor and Volunteer Services for Chicago Youth Centers. Cheryl also lived in Houston for five years and worked at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Texas where she managed both Community and Site-Based programs. She has additionally served as a trainer and consultant to Prevention First in Illinois and Mentor TEXAS! in Houston. Cheryl is a native of Chicago. She graduated from Hyde Park Career Academy and DePaul University. At DePaul, she obtained a BA in Political Science with a minor in Communications. She lives on the south side of Chicago with her husband and three-year-old son.

David Racine, Director - UIS Center for State Policy & Leadership

Email: DRaci2@UIS.edu

David Racine, Ph.D., is the Director of the Institute for Legal, Legislative and Policy Studies (ILLAPS). He currently oversees research and evaluation projects that focus on improving linkage between mental and criminal justice systems, testing instruments for improved detection of high risk DUI offenders, strengthening the design of services for adults with autism, and disseminating mobile crash reporting technology among police departments. He also oversees state training systems for probation officers and DUI management, customized management and leadership training services for public and nonprofit employees, and the Illinois Legislative Internship Program.

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Sarah Tapscott, Director of Statewide Partnerships - Forefront

Email: STapscott@MyForefront.org

Sarah Tapscott joined Forefront in December 2014. She provides leadership and support for Forefront's network of community foundations and operating nonprofits in east-central Illinois. She has more than ten years of experience in the nonprofit sector including community impact work and fundraising. Sarah has worked for national organizations including United Way, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the American Lung Association. Sarah earned a BA in Community Health Education from Illinois State University. She is a graduate of Leadership Springfield and is a recipient of the Springfield Business Journal's 40 Under 40 award. Sarah also serves as an Ambassador to the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, having served as President.

Mia Woods, M.S. (Panelist), Executive Director - Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Illinois Capital Region

Email: MWoods@BBBSICR.org

Mia Woods is the current Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Illinois Capital Region (BBBSICR). She has a passion for serving communities in need and providing consistent, ongoing support for youth. Mia has served as the Shelter Director for Contact Ministries and the Director of Operations for Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Illinois. In December of 2016, she became the Executive Director of BBBSICR. Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) has focused on professionally supported one-on-one mentoring in Springfield for over 40 years and has grown to serve five surrounding counties, inclusive of over 45 schools. In 2016 Big Brothers Big Sisters matched over 500 children with caring adults who will make lifelong connections and impacts throughout the course of their pairing. Mia is a native of Chicago, a graduate of the University of Virginia and Hampton University, and has lived in Springfield for the past 6 years. Mia is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Midtown Rotary, Young Philanthropists, Illinois Women in Leadership, Koke Mill Christian Church, and a 2017 graduate of Leadership Springfield. She is the mother of a fifth grader at Iles School and has loved making Springfield, IL home for the both of them.

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Katie Davison, Executive Director - Innovate Springfield

Email: kdavison@innovatespringfield.org

Katie Davison joined Innovate Springfield as Executive Director in February of 2016. Katie has led the organization through its own startup phase. Since opening its doors to members in May 2016, Innovate Springfield has welcomed over 13 businesses for incubation, launched programming for those companies, and hosted a number of community events in the space. Prior to Innovate Springfield, Katie spent 13 years at Northern Illinois University's Center for Governmental Studies where she gained extensive experience in strategic planning, economic development, and public policy research. She received her Bachelor's degree in Speech Communication from Southern Illinois University - Carbondale. She grew up in Springfield, IL and returned in 2013 where she lives with her husband and three sons.

Nadia Gronkowski, Social Innovation Program Coordinator - Innovate Springfield

Email: Nadia@innovatespringfield.org

Nadia Gronkowski is the Social Innovation Program Coordinator at Innovate Springfield (iSPI), Springfield, Illinois's business and social innovation incubator. In that role, she coordinates community partners in implementing the "Sangamon Success" report as a strategy for supporting local non-profits and service providers in maximizing their positive impact on less-advantaged youth by leveraging data and high-quality research. Nadia joined the Innovate Springfield team in October 2016 after earning her MA in Environmental Conservation Education at New York University. During her time at NYU, she focused on environmental education of grass-tops stakeholders and interned with the Healthy Schools Campaign's Public Policy team and the Clinton Foundation. She is passionate about the connections between healthy kids, healthy communities, and a healthy planet. Nadia is a native of Chicago and holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies, Education, and Legal Studies from Lake Forest College.