

MODERATOR



JOANNA SCHOOLER

JoAnna Schooler is the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Community & Local Government Relations at Washington University in St. Louis. She is responsible for the day-to-day management of relationships with elected and appointed officials and neighborhood organizations in Clayton and University City, Missouri. She develops and communicates university positions on local policy initiatives and issues. Additionally, Ms. Schooler advises and guides University groups about engagement with the local communities and elected officials.

Ms. Schooler has extensive experience in community and government relations, public affairs and issues management. She joined Washington University in July 2018.

Prior to her position at Washington University, Ms. Schooler was responsible for community relations, state public policy, local government relations and corporate communications at Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals in St. Louis and Washington, DC. Previously, she also served in internal and external communications roles for Lucent Technologies and Agere Systems, a spin-off of Lucent, while based in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the United Kingdom.

JoAnna Schooler received a Masters of Art in Strategic Communications from Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey and a Bachelors of Journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

PANELISTS



Deborah Dubin

Deborah Dubin is CEO & President of the Gateway Center for Giving (GCG), a regional philanthropic organization that encourages strategic and impactful charitable giving.

Deb possesses more than twenty-five years of experience in the public, private and nonprofit sectors, having worked as an attorney, business executive and university educator. Prior to assuming her leadership position at GCG in 2013, she served for five years as a Vice President at a venture capital firm focused on investing in underserved communities across the country. For seven years, she served as an adjunct instructor at

Washington University in St. Louis, teaching a course on the nexus between business and public policy. Before settling in St. Louis, she worked for more than a dozen years in San Francisco as an

attorney, senior political aide and community outreach liaison. Deb earned her undergraduate degree from Harvard University and her law degree from U.C. Berkeley.

Actively engaged in civic life, she is an alumna of the Coro Women in Leadership program and has served as a gubernatorial appointee to a statewide commission focused on economic development. She currently serves on the boards of several organizations that are committed to fostering community impact and is a member of the United Philanthropy Forum's Racial Equity Steering Committee.

JAIME GIL



Jaime Gil, is the Director of the Office of Religious Education and Youth Ministry for the Catholic Diocese of Belleville in Illinois. He was born and raised in a small town in central Mexico. In 2000, he and his family became residents of the United States and moved to Idaho when he was 18 years old. Jaime graduated from a small college in Oregon and then began work ministering in multicultural communities for several years before attending Boston College where he graduated with a Master's degree in Theology and Ministry in 2017. Jaime's biggest accomplishment in Boston, however, was meeting the person who is now his wife. Jaime relocated to St. Louis after graduation to be closer to her. Jaime and Michelle married last October and have made St. Louis our home!



KATIE JACKSON

Katie Jackson is a senior studying Psychology and Education. She was first introduced to the Gephardt Institute and St. Louis community through the pre-orientation program "Leadership Through Service", and later became a Sophomore leader. She volunteers with the Campus Y as a soccer coach with Koaches for Kids. Over the summer Katie interned with Touchy Topics Tuesday (an organization which facilitates interracial dialogues within St. Louis), and this coming semester she will be a Legal Aid intern at Arch City Defenders (a St. Louis-based legal advocacy organization). After graduation Katie hopes to continue working in social justice, policy, and advocacy.



MICHAEL JONES, PH.D

Michael F. Jones, II Ph.D., a native of Saint Louis, Missouri is the Associate Director for Community Science at Washington University Brown School of Social Work in the Race and Opportunity Lab. His primary focus in the lab includes providing data-informed infrastructure to The HomeGrown STL project that seeks to improve the social mobility of Black Males between the ages of 12-29. He also serves as a youth and young adult minister at a local church and an adjunct instructor at Missouri Baptist University in the Department of Higher Education Administration.

Dr. Jones is a proud graduate of Saint Louis University, earning bachelor's degrees in African American Studies, Sociology, Theological Studies, and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration. As an undergraduate, Dr. Jones was very active on campus. He was a member of the men's basketball team, started a grassroots Black Male retention initiative before joining Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

Dr. Jones's research interests include the exploration and intersection of the historical faith and spiritual traditions among African American college students. Jones views his professional role(s) as an opportunity to engage and ignite vitality among our next generation.