

Harris-Stowe State University

Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program (MSEIP) Conference 2018

Speaker Bios

Nicole Adewale

As a co-founder of ABNA, Nicole is highly involved in the day to day running of AABNA; which has grown from its humble beginnings as a two person firm, to more than 90 professionals and union tradespeople across three offices, performing work in more than 13 states. Nicole began her career at the Illinois Department of Transportation, IDOT, where she was a resident engineer for major roadway and bridge construction projects. Nicole earned her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and is a certified LEED® AP.

ABNA provides Structural and Civil Engineering Design Services for civil facilities such as transportation infrastructure, sewer systems and other public utilities. ABNA also provides expertise for industrial, educational, healthcare and commercial projects. Additionally, ABNA provides Surveying, Geotech, Construction Management, Testing & Inspection and GIS/Planning Services for public and private clientele. ABNA has managed multimillion-dollar infrastructure projects in Illinois, worked on the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District's storm and sanitary systems, the Interstate-64 re-construction, Cross County Metrolink extension, Interstate 55 reconstruction, the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport expansion, Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, as well as BJC's Campus Renewal Project. ABNA also operates a general contracting division focused on the construction of civil infrastructure.

ABNA is known as the "United Nations" of the engineering world; having a staff makeup that is representative of nearly every continent, who speak nearly 20 languages, and represent at least four major faith traditions. ABNA further embraces and supports these diverse populations within the organization by encouraging volunteerism in the community. This active investment includes a host of community organizations including the, National Society of Black Engineers for which ABNA has helped raised over \$100,000 for college scholarships, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) where Nicole has worn many hats to assist young people around the globe explore STEM careers through friendly competition and where Nicole has served as an international emcee for five years.

ABNA Engineering Inc. has made the list of Top 25 Engineering Firms by the St. Louis Business Journal for 18 of its 24 years in business and is consistently ranked among the top 25 African American Businesses by the St. Louis American Newspaper and in 2015 Abe and Nicole were

named Entrepreneurs of the Year also by the St. Louis American. Nicole has been honored as a volunteer of the year by FIRST LEGO League, St. Louis Business Journals Most Influential Business Women, and Upscale Magazine's Top 25 Influential People.

One of Nicole's greatest passions is opening doors of opportunity for young people to pursue careers in architecture, engineering and construction through support of K-12 education such as the School District of University City and support of higher education such as the Parks College School of Aviation, Engineering and Technology at St. Louis University where Nicole previously served as the Chair of the Industry Advisory committee for the School of Civil Engineering and the University of Missouri St. Louis where Nicole recently joined the Chancellor's Advisory Committee. ABNA has also provided internships for dozens of students over the years, three of whom are full time employees.

In addition to her supportive family, Nicole counts encouraging young people and service to the community as a key formula to advancing their vision to create a company which is honest, helps clients solve problems, is profitable, and provides opportunities for professional development while celebrating and honoring families.

Danielle Bowles-Martin

Danielle Bowles-Martin was proudly born and raised in North city St. Louis and educated through the St. Louis Public School System. She was a member of the Gateway Metro Pre-College program for National Society of Black Engineers from grade 5 through 12. Danielle's STEM interest has led her to experience various industries including Nuclear, Oil and Gas, consumer goods, and minerals/materials.

Danielle has attended the Missouri University of Science and Technology where she completed her B.S. in Chemical Engineering and is currently working as a Process Engineer in the Pharmaceutical Industry. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/daniellebmartin>

Laura Ginn

Laura Ginn serves as a Program Manager at St. Louis Development Corporation (SLDC), where she develops and manages projects related to vacancy in the City of St. Louis, particularly those of Green City Coalition – a partnership between SLDC, the City, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, and Missouri Department of Conservation working with dozens of member organizations, institutions, and residents to convert vacancy to vibrancy. Through such collaborative efforts, she strives to increase the use of best practices and data-driven decision-making to support government collaboration, transparency, and accountability. Laura holds a master's degree in Conservation and master's certificate in Geographic Information Systems. She brings a decade of experience in international conversation, research, and project management to the City, combining geospatial and community planning to inform urban land-use decisions and policies that improve community resilience, and public and environmental health.

Don Roe

Don Roe is the Executive Director of the Planning and Urban Design Agency. Don, although increasingly outspoken and at times a cantankerous advocate for planning, has held management positions in the City since 1989 and has reported to five Mayors.

A small city planning staff undertakes urban design and planning projects at both a district and city level interacting with, and vigorously supported by a board range of constituents within and outside of government. The Planning and Urban Design Agency includes the Cultural Resources Office and staffs the Preservation Board and the Planning Commission.

As a private consultant with both for profit and non-profit organizations, Mr. Roe has worked on a variety of planning issues both in older Midwestern inner cities and rapid growth communities of the Western United States. Earlier in his career he was with a consulting firm engaged in planning projects in small New England communities.

He has an undergraduate degree in Environmental Design from the University of Colorado and a Masters in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan. Is active in his professional organization, the American Planning Association (APA) and is the second longest serving Planning Director in the Big City Planners Institute, an invitation only annual convening of about 25 planning directors at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy co-sponsored by the Harvard Graduate School of Design and the APA.

Keri Lammering

Keri Lammering has been with the Saint Louis Zoo's Education Department for 14 years and previously worked as a Naturalist and a High School Biology teacher. Keri is excited to blend her previous experiences of taking children and learners of all ages into nature to explore the natural world to discover local conservation concerns. She is also passionate about sharing why a "One Health" approach to conservation is the key to success.

Nick Speed

Nick Speed is a St. Louis native and passionate about food access, youth empowerment, and education. With a background in Communications, he graduated from the University Missouri-St. Louis in 2011. Since 2014, Nick completed three years of service as an AmeriCorps member. Two with the United Way of Greater St. Louis as an Americorps VISTA program manager and another as Volunteer Coordinator for EarthDance Organic Farm School. Nick is currently an Educator at Gateway Greening, teaching over 300 students (PreK-8th grade) throughout the year about nature, science, and urban agriculture. He is inspired daily by the greater St. Louis area, his family, close friends, and colleagues.

Lisa Nansteel and Vicki Flier

Lisa Nansteel and Vicki Flier are long time volunteers of St Louis Audubon Society's Education Team. Both have served multiple times as Vice President of Education. The Education Team gives nature presentations to thousands of children and adults every year. The two visit schools, garden clubs, scout troops, senior communities, libraries, and other organizations sharing their knowledge and love of birds and nature to the community

Matt Lebon

Custom Foodscaping is owned and operated by St. Louis native, Matt Lebon. Drawing on over ten years of farming and gardening experience, Matt has become an expert in edible landscaping, organic agriculture, orcharding, and permaculture design. In his role as Farm Manager at EarthDance Organic Farm School, Matt educated hundreds of students in the practices of regenerative food production. He has also transformed his 5,200 square foot yard from grass to abundance by installing a rain garden and planting an urban food forest. Now, with Custom Foodscaping, Matt brings his passion for delivering the joy of “home-grown” food into our most frequented institutions. Custom Foodscaping is dedicated to transforming the everyday places we work, learn and play into beautiful food-producing landscapes.

Timothy Makubuya

Dr. Timothy Makubuya is an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Physical Education and Exercise Science in the Department of Educator Preparation, Innovation and Research in the College of Education at the University of Missouri St. Louis. He serves as a faculty steward for degree programs leading to a B.S. in Physical Education K-12 and B.S. Exercise Science and Wellness, in addition to a Minor in Exercise Science and the Athletic Coaching Minor. He is a faculty mentor for doctoral students in the Ed.D cohort in Heritage Leadership, for Sustainability, Social Justice, and Participatory Culture.

Daniel Hellmuth

Dan is the president and co-founder of Urban EcoBlock, a non-profit whose mission is *Redesigning urban blocks as ecological, social, and economic units through the development of a community model that is centered around shared space and common resources in order to facilitate equity, efficiency, and democracy.* He is also principal of Hellmuth + Bicknese Architects, with 40+ years of experience in sustainable design, government, housing, educational, historic preservation, transit and planning projects and has worked on over 35 LEED projects; he has 2 certified Living Building Projects, one of which was tied as the first certified Living Building.

Rebecca Weaver

Rebecca joined The Nature Conservancy in Missouri in February of 2018, as the Cities Program Manager, where she will work to advance strategies and projects that enhance natural systems in urban landscapes throughout the state, with an initial emphasis on the City of St. Louis. A focus of the program in St. Louis will be to help reduce nutrient pollution in the Mississippi River Basin. Rebecca joins TNC from the Green City Coalition (GCC), a formal partnership between the City of St. Louis and Missouri Department of Conservation – and in collaboration with St. Louis city residents, the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, the St. Louis Land Reutilization Authority, local universities, neighborhood associations, CBOs and more. Rebecca has previously worked as a Protected Species Observer in the Gulf of Mexico, has co-led sustainability and youth leadership development programs in Durban, South Africa, and has studied the role of traditional ecological knowledge in conservation practices in Belize, Mongolia and Guyana. She has a master's degree in Conservation Biology from Miami University's Global Field Program and is passionate about community organizing, civic engagement and grassroots strategies for sustainable community development.

Vasit Sagan

Dr. Vasit Sagan is an Assistant Professor with the Center for Sustainability at Saint Louis University. He has been working in GIS and remote sensing applications for sustainability for over 15 years. He has been PI/Co-PI for a dozen grants funded from NASA, NSF, DOE, USGS, and private foundations. He has authored over 50 peer-reviewed journal publications, one book chapter, and presented more than 40 conference papers and workshops. At Saint Louis University, he is teaching a number of classes in remote sensing, GIS, and unmanned aerial systems.

Brittany Tate-Beaugard

Britt Tate is an elementary school art teacher for the St Louis Public Schools. After her initial year in the district, she became aware of the vast amount of waste that schools were throwing into the landfill and sought out solutions for her individual school. By teaming up with the Missouri Botanical Gardens, the Earthways Center, STL City Recycles, Brightside, STL Composting, Total Organics Recycling, Gateway Greening, the Green Dining Alliance, Earth Day St Louis and many other local organizations, Tate was able to educate the students in her school and empower them to reduce their "waste" line by over 50% in one school year. What started out as trying to recycle more in the art room has grown into Tate working with schools all over the St Louis area to help them reduce their waste and make their community more sustainable.