

KANSAS CITY KANSAS  
**FOUNDATION**  
FOR EXCELLENCE

SEPTEMBER 2021



**ERIC WILKINSON**

Kauffman Scholars, Inc  
KCKSFFE-Board President

**CHRISTAL WATSON**

2021 Women Who Mean  
Business Honoree







**03** Meet Eric Wilkinson,  
Foundation President

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Save The Date

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# MEET KCKSFFE NEW FOUNDATION PRESIDENT, ERIC WILKINSON



Eric Wilkinson, Director of Operations for KC Scholars, Inc., and a graduate of the Sumner Academy of Arts and Sciences is no stranger to the Greater KC community. Mr. Wilkerson's dedication to organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater KC and The Family Conservancy makes him a superb choice as the next KCKSFFE Board President.

Mr. Wilkinson brings to KCKSFFE his experience from Kauffman Scholars, Inc. (KSI), where he oversees administrative support for all KSI programs and provides day-to-day management and facilitation of the KSI scholarship. During his time with KSI, Wilkinson has served in various roles ranging from an entry-level student adviser to his current role as Director of Operations.

Prior to returning to Kansas City to join KSI in 2009, Wilkinson worked for Pittsburg State University (PSU) as an assistant director for both the Office of Admissions and the Office of Student Diversity.

With over a decade of experience working in various areas of postsecondary education, Wilkinson brings with him a wealth of knowledge in diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives as well as relationship building and ecosystem creation/curation across postsecondary attainment and career readiness platforms.

KCKSFFE is excited to welcome Wilkinson to the position of Board President.



# MEET OUR BOARD & STAFF



Eric Wilkinson  
President



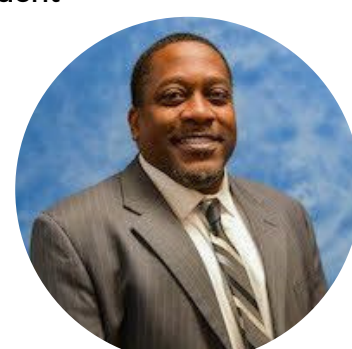
Matt Krull  
Vice President



Stephenie Smith  
Secretary



Debbie Swearingen  
Treasurer



Edwin Birch  
Ex-Officio



Marian Augustus.



Lolly Cerda



Marcus McLaughlin



Edgar J. Palacios,  
MSW



Michael Simmons Jr



DeJ'on Slaughter



Christal Watson  
Executive Director



Lindzy Smith,  
Development  
Manager





Please join us to celebrate our 2021 Honorees

11.11.2021

5:00 PM

Virtual Event

*Save the Date*

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS**

# 2021 WOMEN WHO MEAN BUSINESS HONOREE



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Special congratulations to the KCK School Foundation for Excellence Executive Director Christal Watson on being awarded as a 2021 Women Who Mean Business Honoree with the Kansas City Business Journal! For 22 years, the Kansas City Business Journal has recognized hardworking, dedicated, and committed women to be honored with such an award. The Women Who Mean Business Award Luncheon was held on August 20th at the Overland Park Convention Center, where Watson was celebrated and supported by many of her fellow KCKPS representatives. We are proud to have such an outstanding leader serving our illustrious school district. We look forward to Watson's continuous efforts as she strives to achieve the goals of the Kansas City, Kansas Public School District!



SAVE THE  
*date*



October 6, 2021  
8 am



Friends,

With students and educators returning to in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year, they need the support of their community now more than ever.

Show them that their community believes in them and their futures by supporting the Kansas City Kansas School Foundation for Excellence's We Believe campaign.

Funds from We Believe will provide vital support for students, families, and educators through programming that supports academic achievement, grant opportunities for teachers and families, and scholarships for graduating seniors.

We believe in Kansas City's public schools and the teachers who lead our children to success. Your donation today will show that you believe in them too.

**DONATE**







KCKPS uses highly engaging interactions with students by reimagining education via live streaming online learning. The technology utilizes recording with 180° and 360° cameras, and VR headsets to allow for virtual learning inside & outside of the classroom. Using district standards, KCKPS seeks to provide all learners with curriculums and experiences to expand their knowledge within and beyond 21st-century learning skills. The goal of the project is to provide one more opportunity to teach students regardless of the classroom design, language, or academic barriers they may encounter. Advantages of Using High-End Virtual Reality in The Classroom:

- Provides outstanding visualizations that are not possible in the traditional classroom
- Creates interest in learning
- Increases students' engagement
- Does not feel like work! (according to feedback from youth)
- Improves the quality of education in different fields; in 2016, innovative doctors took advantage of VR technology to explore new aspects of medicine and teach others better.
- Eliminates the Language Barrier; with virtual reality, implemented within the software most every language is available. Therefore, languages will no longer represent a barrier to student's education plans. Currently, there are over 60 different languages spoken in KCKPS.



KCK Engage virtual reality learning program delivers content from outside (virtually) and inside their classrooms without wires or behind computers or desks. Students immerse themselves in learning that would allow them to travel to Rome, Tokyo, the moon, and even back in time with dinosaurs without leaving the classroom or their home. Teachers have the ability to offer high-end, analytical experiences that can be recorded and uploaded for future use. Research shows that virtual reality simulations increase student motivation and improve collaboration and knowledge construction.







KANSAS CITY, KANSAS SCHOOL  
*Foundation for*  
**Excellence**  
HIGHLIGHTS

# \$21,867.23 WENT TO SUPPORT LOCAL FAMILIES



**WE CARE ★ WE ACT**

The funding Kansas City, Kansas School Foundation for Excellence receives allows KCKSFFE to partner with the district's Student Services Department to help support local families. As of today, the Foundation has paid \$21,867.23 in utilities, rent, electricity, gas, internet connectivity, clothing, and more.

## KCKSFFE PROVIDED 10 DISTRICT BUS DRIVERS WITH \$50 GIFT CARDS



KCKSFFE provided ten district bus drivers with \$50 gift cards to show appreciation to the drivers with perfect attendance from March 31st, 2021 to the end of the school year. Special thanks to all distinct bus drivers for their dedication to the safety of our children.

## THE WYANDOTTE COUNTY BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR



The KCK School Foundation for Excellence is now the fiscal agent for the Wyandotte County Back to School Fair (BTSF), and they are donating \$5,000 to the event. The BTSF was held on August 7th from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the KCK Public Schools Central office. Students received school supplies, backpacks, and hygiene kits. Due to concerns over the risks of the COVID Delta Variant, health screenings and other services were not available.

Kansas City, Kansas School Foundation for Excellence distributed 2,400 backpacks and 800 hygiene kits.

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# INCENTIVES WORTH OVER \$3,000 FOR EMPLOYEES



In partnership with the Human Resources Department, we were able to provide incentives worth over \$3,000 to those employees who participated in the Classified Incentive Training Program for professional development.

## ADDITIONAL KANSAS CITY, KANSAS SCHOOL FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Served as the fiscal agent for the Zak Family Scholarship to Wyandotte High School Students. This scholarship awarded 5 students, \$1,250 for each recipient.
- Sponsored the keynote speaker and promotional bags for the 2021 Trauma-Sensitive & Resilient Schools Initiative.
- Sponsored the keynote speaker, Morris Morrison, at the 2021-22 Opening of Schools Convocation.

Thank  
you

We at KCKSFFE, believe in Kansas City's public schools and the teachers who lead our children to success. Thank you to everyone who believes in KCKPS too!