The Springfield Business Journal proudly features 40 leaders who are under the age of 40 in the Springfield and neighboring business communities. These individuals are selected based on their contributions to our local business community and the community in which they reside. They represent, in part, the future of business in our community and in central Illinois.

The selectees’ career paths, educational background, and community affiliations are varied. They represent the best and brightest from a wide range of occupations. You can expect to hear more from and about these leaders in the years ahead. The program is able to continue due to the commitment of local businesses that realize the importance of acknowledging these up and coming business leaders and supporting community business programs.

Visit springfieldbusinessjournal.com to view selectees from previous years.

BRAD LEONARD
Age: 35
Email: Brad_Leonard@ajg.com
Education: Bachelor of Science, Business Administration & Economics
Family: Wife Beiley, son JP and daughter Julia

Affiliations/Community Activities: Chair of the American Lung
Springfield Golf Classic, member of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Springfield Southwest Base-
ball Association coach, flag football coach, member of the Independent Insurance Agents
Association of Illinois Young Agent Board and a graduate of Leadership Springfield.

What’s your guiding principle in life? Faith, family and friends.

Why did you choose your current career? I love helping family, friends and my community. I am able to make their businesses and lives more secure by implementing my organization’s philosophies and ethics.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? I hope that Springfield continues to grow economi-
cally but can keep its small town community feel that I grew up loving.

MELISSA SCHWOERER
Age: 39
Occupation: Owner, Engrained Brewery & Restaurant
Email: melissa@engrainedbrewing.com
Education: Juris Doctor, University of Illinois College of Law
Family: Husband Brent and sons Jack, Wyatt and Mason

Affiliations/Community Activities: Illinois Stewardship Alliance board of directors, Young
Philanthropists, Family Service Center (past), Local First Springfield, Blessed Sacrament Parish.

What’s your guiding principle in life? Family comes first, live with empathy and compassion, be content and grateful while always evolving.

Why did you choose your current career? I studied psychology and law because I wanted to be in a profession where I had an ability to help people when they needed it most. What I love about owning a small business is that we can have a positive impact on our staff, our guests and our community by creating a warm and friendly environment, providing healthy food and con-
tributing our resources whenever possible.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? As a parent of young children, what I want most at this point in my life is for Springfield to grow and thrive to be a place where my kids will want to stay and build their lives. We need to attract new businesses and continue to offer a culture of community, acceptance and innovation.

TODD MILLER
Age: 30
Occupation: General Manager, Springfield Sliders
Email: toddm@springfieldsliders.com
Education: Master’s degree, Venue/Sports and Entertainment Management
Family: Mother Debra Kass-Gerji, father Roger Miller, brother Zachary Kass-Gerji and sisters Robyn Kass-Gerji, Rachel Miller, Jennifer Miller, Marissa Miller and Janine Kovack
Affiliations/Community Activities: North: Grand Improvement Association, Venues Today: International Association of Venue Managers, Jewish Federation of Springfield, Springfield Jaysnites, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Club, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce and host kids camps.

What’s your guiding principle in life? Love what you do so that way you don’t work a day in your life. Don’t stress about anything, be prepared and do what you can; it’s much better to be respected than feared. Exhibit values, have strong values, execute ideas, build a great team around you, be responsible, self-motivated and have a clear vision and goals.

Why did you choose your current career? I always had a passion for sports and wanted to help a team grow and become part of a community. Being the general manager of such a great organization gives me the ability to host community events and many different forms of live entertainment. I enjoy bringing smiles to faces.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? My greatest hope is that we turn Springfield into a destination and remind people that Springfield is still the capital of Illinois. Another hope is the local Springfield businesses step up to the plate and support the local organizations to help our community thrive. In addition, I hope that as a city we progress with the times and become more fiscally responsible.

BRENT SCHWOERER
Age: 29
Occupation: Owner, founder and brewer at Engrained Brewery & Restaurant
Email: brent@engrainedbrewing.com
Education: Master’s degree, human resources, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Family: Wife Melissa and three boys, Jack, Wyatt and Mason

What’s your guiding principle in life? Always be learning and evolving with the goal of having a positive impact on my family, my community, the earth, my employees and the guests my company serves.

Why did you choose your current career? I love the challenge of entrepreneurship and I have found purpose in being so connected to the world of agriculture through the food Engrained serves and the beer I brew. The ability to inspire what people eat and drink and support farmers who share my regenerative agriculture philosophy is rewarding.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? I hope for a community where my sons will want to live, work, raise a family and pursue their passions.
Congratulations 2018 40 Under 40 Honorees

Now is a great time to get started on your future

Are you planning for your future? Is your money working as hard as it could be? Are you and your family protected from the unexpected?

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Cathy Strickly
MBA '10, HR Management graduate certificate ’18
Manager, Communications and Digital Services
Memorial Health System

LEADERSHIP lived

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What’s your guiding principle in life? I try to keep two things in mind—a sense of perspective and a sense of humor. If those fail me, there’s always bourbon.

Why did you choose your current career? I grew up steeped in public service and local government. My dad, Steve Mahrt, was the attorney for the Town of Normal for over 30 years and my mom, Vickie Mahrt, was a schoolteacher and the Unit Five Education Association president. I witnessed firsthand the positive impact you can make in your community by choosing a career in public service. Besides, working in economic development is fun! I am able to see projects from start to finish, whether they are multimillion-dollar developments or homes for individuals. They all contribute to growing Springfield and making it a better place to live and work.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? My husband and I moved around the country, living in Florida, Indiana and Kentucky, before settling in Springfield to raise our boys. What I hope is that I can help to make Springfield a place they’ll be proud to call their hometown.

I want to see my town and local businesses grow and succeed. It’s important to provide quality jobs, entertainment and family opportunities for people to want to live here. I am a born-and-raised Springfield resident who came back after 10 years, this seemed like the right move for me. Combining my nonprofit experience with my love of history, art and beauty are embedded in places all around us. I have always felt a strong connection to place, whether as a child seeing a movie in an art deco theater or attending high school in an 1860s landmark building. History, art and beauty are embodied in places all around us. I love working with people to save the places that make their community special.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? I hope the city will always grow and adapt, and I hope the residents will always remain proud and supportive.

ABBY POWELL
Age: 39
Occupation: Tax Increment Finance Manager, City of Springfield Office of Economic Development
Education: Master of Public Affairs, Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs
Family: Husband Dathan and sons Finn and Oscar

What’s your guiding principle in life? Be thoughtful, kind and persistent.

Why did you choose your current career? A great career matches your skills with something the community needs. My research and storytelling abilities match the need for people to know what their government is doing and why.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? I hope that every Springfield resident will at least attend a city council meeting and vote in municipal elections.

MARY HANSEN
Age: 30
Occupation: Reporter, NPR Illinois
Email: mhansen@npr.org
Education: Master of Arts, Public Affairs Reporting
Family: Fiancé, Frank Butterfield
Affiliations/Community Activities: University of Illinois Springfield alumni, Springfield Art Association volunteer

What’s your guiding principle in life? I try to keep two things in mind—a sense of perspective and a sense of humor. If those fail me, there’s always bourbon.

Why did you choose your current career? I grew up steeped in public service and local government. My dad, Steve Mahrt, was the attorney for the Town of Normal for over 30 years and my mom, Vickie Mahrt, was a schoolteacher and the Unit Five Education Association president. I witnessed firsthand the positive impact you can make in your community by choosing a career in public service. Besides, working in economic development is fun! I am able to see projects from start to finish, whether they are multimillion-dollar developments or homes for individuals. They all contribute to growing Springfield and making it a better place to live and work.

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What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? I hope the city will always grow and adapt, and I hope the residents will always remain proud and supportive.

ADAM PALLAI
Age: 35
Occupation: Civil Engineer, PE (Professional Engineer) and Vice President, Martin Engineering Company
Email: apallai@martinengineeringco.com
Education: Bachelor’s degree, Civil Engineering, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (Go Cougars!)
Family: Mother Rayne Pallai and father Steve Pallai (deceased)
Affiliations/community activities: Illinois Society of Professional Engineers Capital Chapter president, Sangamon County Engineer in the Classroom program planning committee member, Council of Lake Springfield Clubs president and member of the Lake Springfield Safety Committee, planning committee for the National Night Out celebration in the south side of Springfield, and adviser to the Southwest Science Exploration Club.

What’s your guiding principle in life? I want to see my town and local businesses grow and succeed. It’s important to provide quality jobs, entertainment and family opportunities for people to want to live here. I am a born-and-raised Springfield resident who came back after college. Springfield is a great little town. We have a lot to offer and are at the junction of major interstates if you need to run in any direction for business or pleasure.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? My husband and I moved around the country, living in Florida, Indiana and Kentucky, before settling in Springfield to raise our boys. What I hope is that I can help to make Springfield a place they’ll be proud to call their hometown.

I want to see my town and local businesses grow and succeed. It’s important to provide quality jobs, entertainment and family opportunities for people to want to live here. I am a born-and-raised Springfield resident who came back after 10 years, this seemed like the right move for me. Combining my nonprofit experience with my love of history, art and beauty are embedded in places all around us. I have always felt a strong connection to place, whether as a child seeing a movie in an art deco theater or attending high school in an 1860s landmark building. History, art and beauty are embodied in places all around us. I love working with people to save the places that make their community special.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? I hope the city will always grow and adapt, and I hope the residents will always remain proud and supportive.

JARED OWEN
Age: 39
Occupation: Grant Manager, Illinois Department of Corrections
Email: owenjared@gmail.com
Education: Bachelor’s degree, Applied Science and Technology, Illinois State University
Family: Wife Tara and daughters Lily and Josie
Affiliations/Community Activities: Spark-Philanthropic and Outreach Committee chair, Spark board member, immediate past president for the Lincoln Land Down Syndrome Society, Lincoln Land Down Syndrome Society golf outing chair, and the PGA Tour Fan Council committee member.

What’s your guiding principle in life? Be kind to everyone because you never know who will work for/with one day.

Why did you choose your current career? I believe in civil service. My role in state government is to bring resources to those who lack them. My work with the various charitable groups I am a part of awards me with the same mission. Remaining engaged as an employee and as a member of society is paramount to professional and personal success.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? I hope the city will always grow and adapt, and I hope the residents will always remain proud and supportive.

AMY VOILS
Age: 39
Occupation: Executive director, MERCY Communities, Inc.
Email: amy@mercycommunities.org
Education: Bachelor of Arts, Communications, University of Illinois at Springfield
Family: Husband Kevin and sons Tyler and Ethan
Affiliations/community activities: I am currently involved in Junior League of Springfield, serve on the Sangamon County Emergency Food and Shelter Program board, the United Way Community Impact - Investments committee (as an agency representative), and have volunteered with Sojourner Shelter and Services, Pawnee Food Pantry and Illinois Senior Olympics. I graduated from Leadership Springfield in 2016. I’m currently Mental Health First Aid certified and will soon be a certified poverty navigator for Sangamon County.

What’s your guiding principle in life? Live life one day at a time and to the fullest, because a tomorrow is never promised.

Why did you choose your current career? After working in nonprofit management for the last 10 years, this seemed like the right move for me. Combining my nonprofit experience with my desire to help women become self-sufficient and independent, MERCY is a great fit. I believe in being passionate about your career and working with purpose.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? I would love to see Springfield grow in residents, jobs, resources and visitors, especially downtown.

FRANCIS BUTTERFIELD
Age: 37
Occupation: Director of Springfield Office, Landmarks Illinois
Email: twitterfield@landmarks.org
Education: Master of Science, Historic Preservation, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Family: Fiancé, Mary Hansen
Affiliations/Community Activities: Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway board of directors, Big Brothers Big Sisters volunteer, Springfield Art Association past board member, Edwards Place past board member, Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, Historic Preservation Fund Committee, Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, Steering Council.

What’s your guiding principle in life? Listen to reason and be willing to change your mind.

Why did you choose your current career? I have always felt a strong connection to place, whether as a child seeing a movie in an art deco theater or attending high school in an 1860s landmark building. History, art and beauty are embodied in places all around us. I love working with people to save the places that make their community special.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? I hope for the reuse of buildings to be given the benefit of the doubt and for demolition to face rigorous scrutiny.
CHELSEY MOORE

Age: 34
Occupation: Optometrist, Prairie Eye Center
Email: chelseybrickweg@gmail.com
Education: Doctor of Optometry
Family: Husband Brian and daughter Elise
Affiliations/Community Activities: Chatham Jaycees past treasurer, Sweet Corn Festival chairperson, winner of the Jaycee of the Year award, Chatham Area Public Library trustee, Illinois Optometric Association trustee, Midstate Optometric Association treasurer.

What's your guiding principle in life? "Great works are performed, not by strength, but by perseverance."

Why did you choose you current career? I grew passionate about optometry at a very young age. I had poor vision in elementary school and frequent trips to the eye doctor were necessary. These early visits helped foster a love and appreciation for the complexities of the visual system. As an optometrist, I spend my workday examining, diagnosing, treating and managing ocular diseases. My eight years at Prairie Eye Center has only helped to expand my passion for the profession.

What's your greatest hope for Springfield? I love Springfield. It offers so much more than similar sized cities in terms of health care, entertainment, food and drink, cost of living, education and safety. I hope Springfield continues to promote the historic downtown area and encourage future development.

JEREMY BREDEMEYER

Age: 30
Occupation: Barber/ business owner
Email: jbredemeyer@gmail.com
Education: Barber college
Family: Wife Allison and son Nash
Affiliations/Community Activities: Supporting our community on the grassroots level that really makes a difference -- youth sports, bowling teams, various community activities. We are currently planning a fundraiser and pet adoption for Friends of Sangamon County Animal Control.


Why did you choose your current career? The historical aspect of barbering was very appealing. Plus, straight shaving is pretty cool.

What's your greatest hope for Springfield? To rebuild downtown. I hope one day people will see the value of our city.

DAN WILCOXEN

Age: 39
Occupation: Chief Financial Officer, United Community Bancorp, Inc.
Email: dwilcoxen@ucbbank.com
Education: Master’s degree, Accountancy, University of Illinois Springfield
Family: Wife Angela, daughters Carly and Emma, and son Ben
Affiliations/Community Activities: Chair of the 2019 Springfield Old Capital Art Fair and board member since 2007. I previously served on the board of Senior Services of Central Illinois. I am a coach, manager, scorekeeper and timekeeper for youth sports.

What's your guiding principle in life? Life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.

Why did you choose your current career? Accounting is something that always just made sense to me.

What's your greatest hope for Springfield? I would like to continue to see small businesses thrive and grow in Springfield, providing opportunities for families to do the same.
CHRIS DAVIS
Age: 37
Occupation: Account manager
Email: cdavis2@resourceoneoffice.com

Education: Juris Doctor, John Marshall Law School
Family: Wife Jennifer and stepson Jaylan
Affiliations/Community Activities: Foundation Leadership council at HSHS St. John’s, American Business Club, DSI Better Blocks committee
What’s your guiding principle in life? Be authentic. The most valuable gift you have to offer is yourself.
Why did you choose your current career? I was never great at “choosing” a career - I don’t think a lot of people are. Sometimes you are just lucky enough to have your career choose you. In my case, a lot of things came full circle, and I’m where I know I was meant to be.
What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? I envision a Springfield that is driven by a shared vision, passion and ambition to be a lighthouse to help right the ship of our state. We should be a center of thought leadership for Illinois, not the symbol of what has been done wrong for many years.

TRUMAN FLATT
Age: 32
Occupation: Vice President of Truman L. Flatt & Sons and Executive Officer of Buckhart Sand & Gravel, Lincolnland Concrete, Pana Limestone Quarry and Litchfield Bituminous
Email: Truman@Trumanlflatt.com
Education: Associate’s degree, SIU Carbondale
Affiliations/Community Activities: National Rifle Association, Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Associated General Contractors, Operating Engineers Local 965, Island Bay Yacht Club.
What’s your guiding principle in life? Never receive without giving back.
Why did you choose your current career? Although Truman L. Flatt & Sons is a family company, I never felt pressured by my family to learn the business. I started taking an interest during my summers in college working at Buckhart Sand & Gravel. The more I learned, the more it sparked an interest in the paving side of the business. In 2013 we were able to open Lincolnland Concrete. Tradition and history are important to me. With these companies, I am blessed to be a part of a 90-year family tradition while making a historic mark on Springfield by paving its roads, highways and businesses.
What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? To help it grow and prosper.

KATIE DAVISON
Age: 39
Occupation: Executive director, Innovate Springfield
Email: kdavison@innovatespringfield.org
Education: Bachelor of Science, Speech Communication – Specialization in Organizational Communication from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
Family: Husband Ryan Davison, sons Arthur, Isaac and Jacob, and parents Michael and Linda Dunbar
Affiliations/Community Activities: Board member of the MacArthur Boulevard Association, founding committee chair of Bites on the Boulevard, advisory board member for the Old Capital Farmers Market, member of Young Philanthropists, Downtown Springfield, Inc., the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce and Illinois Women in Leadership.
What’s your guiding principle in life? Get up, dress up, show up and never give up — stolen from a great woman (who was also a Katy).
Why did you choose your current career? A position that helps startup companies and nonprofits be successful and ultimately supports a vibrant and thriving community? In. All In.
What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? My greatest hopes are that it continues to grow in an inclusive way, it supports new ideas and cultivates the tremendous assets we have.
JEREMIAH WILLIAMS
Age: 36
Occupation: Construction company owner, operator and CEO
Education: Bachelor’s degree, Clinical Psychology, Eastern Illinois University;
Certified Financial Planner™ designation, College for Financial Planning
Family: Wife Daniele, parents John and Jackie and brother Zac (wife Maria)
Affiliations/Community Activities: President of Rotary Club of Springfield South, Springfield Jaycees treasurer, Brother James Court board trustee, member of the National Customer Service Association, Central Illinois Chapter.

What's your guiding principle in life? People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care," a quote from one of my mentors, John Graham, CLU®. In order to be an effective financial advisor, my clients need to know I understand their situation and their financial goals. So when I present a solution, they know I have crafted that solution with their priorities and objectives in mind. If I can help my clients in managing their assets, then we can work to achieve those financial goals. They will worry less, and, ideally, lead a more fulfilling life.

Why did you choose your current career? I enjoy helping people and making a difference in their lives. As I was completing my master’s degree in clinical psychology, I knew clinical counseling was not going to be the right career choice for me, but I still loved doing research, crunching numbers and helping people. Working as a financial advisor fulfills those requirements for me, and my clients and I get to see the progress we have made by working together.

What's your greatest hope for Springfield? I hope Springfield becomes a hub for young professionals and families to live, work and play. We offer a lot of big-city amenities without the added cost. I have enjoyed growing up in Springfield. I hope other young professionals and families will take advantage of the same benefits Springfield has to offer.

CLINT CARTER
Age: 36
Occupation: Co-owner Carter’s Fish Market and business development for Silverfin Group, Inc.
Email: carterfish83@gmail.com
Education: Midwest Technical Institute
Family: Parents Mary Carter and Barry Carter, brother Brian and sister-in-law Jen Carter
Affiliations/Community Activities: Environmental philanthropy (invasive species control)

Guiding principles in life: I do my best to abide by the Golden Rule – treat others as you want to be treated. I also hope to never lose my creative enthusiasm and vision.

Why did I choose my career? I didn’t choose my career. My career chose me. Why did you choose your current career? I didn’t choose my career. My career chose me. My family’s business was somewhat successful and I began my career by implementing processes and procedures to improve it. While doing so, I began to see the potential in the business. So I decided to do everything within my power to begin creating it into the business that I knew it had the potential to become.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? My greatest hope for the city of Springfield is for our community members to support and respect one another so that the city can thrive and small businesses can continue to grow.
VANESSA FERGUSON

Age: 30
Occupation: Office Manager and Events Coordinator, Hoogland Center for the Arts
Email: vferguson@hcfa.org
Education: Bachelor of Arts, Communication
Family: Husband Vladimir Slaninkovski
Affiliations/Community Activities: Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony board member, co-host of “Beyond the Mouse” podcast, part of the Front Row Network

What's your guiding principle in life? In any situation strive to understand how the machine works, not just which buttons to push.

Why did you choose your current career? As a young performer on stage at the Hoogland Center for the Arts, I wanted to understand the business side of theater. The last eight years have been nothing short of entertaining. Where else can you see ballerinas, magicians or a serenading quartet during the 9-5 work day?

What's your greatest hope for Springfield? I hope the community will continue to support the arts in downtown Springfield. A thriving arts scene with murals, creative crosswalks, outdoor music and quality performances greatly impacts the downtown and makes it a destination location.

THAO RING

Age: 35
Occupation: Financial Planner/Operations Manager, Sikich Financial
Email: Thao.Ring@Sikich.com
Education: Bachelor's degree, International Business and Marketing, Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. Professional Designation: CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™
Family: Husband Joshua and daughter Addison
Affiliations/Community Activities: Compass for Kids treasurer, Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln investment committee, Illinois Women in Leadership, Young Philanthropists, past volunteer tax preparer for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, past micro grant committee member with the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln.

What's your guiding principle in life? “Hard work does pay off.” My parents, two younger brothers and I moved to the United States from Vietnam when I was 14 years old. As the oldest child, while knowing limited English, I had to work extremely hard to not only achieve my own goals, but also to help my family. I devoted my time to school and to become the first person from my father's side of the family to graduate from college. My childhood experience has shaped me into the person I am today and my education has allowed me to have successful career and the ability to travel the world.

Why did you choose your current career? As a young performer on stage at the Hoogland Center for the Arts, I wanted to understand the role of a trusted adviser and helping my clients grow and prosper is very rewarding.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? Springfield continues to attract and retain young professionals and families and continues to invest in the next generation of leaders. We need to continue to focus on economic development and attracting businesses that want to invest in Springfield.

THAO RING AND JOE KULEK

SIKICH SALUTES THAO RING AND JOE KULEK

SIKICH is proud to congratulate Thao Ring and Joe Kulek and all the Springfield Business Journal 2018 40 Under 40 Winners. Thank you to each nominee for your leadership and for driving Springfield forward.

Congratulations, Thao and Joe!

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Congratulations, Thao and Joe!
DR. KIRSTEN DAVIN

Age: 39
Occupation: Occupational Therapist, nationally renowned speaker and educator, entrepreneur, clinical consultant and real estate investor

Email: kirs10k@aol.com
Educator: Doctorate, Occupational Therapy, Rocky Mountain University
Affiliations/Community Activities: Deputy fire chief and medical training officer for Pleasant Plains Fire Protection District where I have served for 16 years as a firefighter and EMT.

What's your guiding principle in life? I actually have three, all of which have served me well. “Never get so busy making a living that you forget to make a life,” “Life is too short to be living someone else’s dream” and “You can’t steal home with your foot on third.”

Why did you choose your current career? I wish I had an amazing, motivating story to tell. The truth is my great grandma fell over a hose in her garden and broke her leg when I was 16. I went to therapy sessions with her and thought I liked it. Then, in college, the prerequisites for the physical therapy program included math, physics and chemistry (no thanks) which I did not need for occupational therapy (OT) as the OT requirements were mostly psychology, anatomy and physiology. So, OT it was.

What's your greatest hope for Springfield? My hope is that the city will aim to support and encourage both residential and commercial property improvements, and also promote and sustain the return of retail to the area, starting with The Pasta House!

KATIE KEIM

Age: 37
Occupation: Vice President of Finance, Memorial Health System
Email: keim.katie@mhsil.com

Education: Master’s degree, Accounting Science, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Family: Husband Aaron Williams, daughter Anastasia and baby boy due October 2018
Affiliations/community activities: Fellow in the Healthcare Financial Management Association, treasurer for two central Illinois nonprofit equestrian associations, Centerline Dressage and Arab Riders and Breeders, Inc.

What's your guiding principle in life? I actually have three, all of which have served me well. “Never get so busy making a living that you forget to make a life,” “Life is too short to be living someone else’s dream” and “You can’t steal home with your foot on third.”

Why did you choose your current career? I followed in my mother’s footsteps as a CPA. I worked in public accounting after college, but felt that I wanted to help people in a greater way. My father is a physical therapist and I’ve always been intrigued with health care. I really believe in Memorial Health System’s mission and I feel personal fulfillment by being able to serve those who directly care for patients and their families. I feel as though I am able to make a difference in the lives of people.

What's your greatest hope for Springfield? A healthier community for both adults and children in all forms, including physical, mental, economic, educational, environmental and spiritual.

JAY ROSZHART

Age: 33
Occupation: Vice President, Ambulatory Networks and Clinical Integration, Memorial Health System
Email: roszhart.jay@mhsil.com

Central Illinois’ Health Vision Council member, United Way of Central Illinois’ Venture Grant Committee member, American College of Healthcare Executives fellow.

What's your guiding principle in life? Keep questioning to keep learning. Keep confident, but be humble. Keep truthful, but do so with grace. Keep challenging yourself and your beliefs to keep living a fulfilled life. Boldly go where no one has gone before.

Why did you choose your current career? My family has always been involved in health care and I knew early on that I wanted to be involved as well. My parents instilled in me a drive to work hard, be humble and help those who need it. Through early jobs in health care, college and grad school, I found the best way for me to fulfill that drive and have a successful career was by being involved in the administration of health systems. I believe that using my skills in leadership, analytics, team building and process design is how I can best heal, improve the health of individuals and help to make my community a place of wellness.

What's your greatest hope for Springfield? That through engaged partnerships, Springfield and its surrounding area becomes a beacon for improving the health and wellness of its residents across all aspects, be it physical, mental, behavioral, spiritual, social, emotional or financial.

Congratulations

All of us at Memorial Health System are extraordinarily proud to contribute to the health of our community. And now, we’re delighted Jay Roszhart, Katie Keim and Kirsten Davin, OTD, are Forty Under 40 recipients. This achievement is a symbol of their dedication and commitment to our mission to improve the health of the people and communities we serve.
Congratulations Sara!

Sara Grahek, MHA, HSHS Medical Group Director of Clinic Services

40 Under 40 Recognition!

“HSHS Medical Group congratulates our very own Sara Grahek for her recognition as one of Springfield Business Journal’s 40 under 40 recipients.

Sara, Director of Clinic Services at HSHS Medical Group, is an outstanding colleague with a dedication to patient-first care. Her recognition is very well-deserved.”

- Melinda Clark, CEO HSHS Medical Group
What’s your guiding principle in life? I was taught some simple principles as a child that I have carried with me and which I also try to pass along to my children. They are to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly.

Why did you choose your current career? My passion for my career comes from wanting to help others. I have always liked working with numbers and I enjoy the ever-changing financial markets. I am able to use both of those strengths to help my clients reach a comfort level in the pursuit of financial security. My team and I do whatever we can to help our clients plan and achieve their personal and financial goals.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? My greatest hope for Springfield is to see the younger generation thrive, which will come from a strong work ethic and love for the community.

SARA GRAHEK

Age: 35
Occupation: Director of Clinic Services, HSHS Medical Group
Email: sara.grahek@hshs.org
Education: Master’s degree, Healthcare Administration
Family: Husband Kyle, children Brooklyn and Kyle, and parents Rick and Karen Sronce
Affiliations/Community Activities: I enjoy giving back to the community and to those who are less fortunate or who may be facing a difficult time in their life. I have a particular interest in giving back to organizations within the health care field. Among my favorite interests are the Children’s Miracle Network and HSHS St. John’s Children’s Hospital. St. Jude Research Hospital, the Ronald McDonald House and HSHS Mission Outreach. I also enjoy participating in events and that raise awareness and funding for various illnesses.

What’s your guiding principle in life? My dad has always told me, “Tough times don’t last. Tough people do.” Though I consider myself to be very fortunate in that the tough times I have had to endure have been limited, I have used this statement to help guide me through some challenging and difficult situations. I hope to be a resource and an advocate for the less fortunate who have to endure tough times.

Why did you choose your current career? The health care industry can be a difficult and challenging environment to navigate. I strive each day to make this environment easier to navigate and to be a resource and advocate for our patients. I believe that creating a more patient-friendly environment and positive experience will lead to improved health outcomes and a better quality of life for our patients and the members of the communities that we serve.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? I hope that Springfield can continue to build a strong economy that offers a vast and diverse opportunity and further develop an environment that offers professional and personal growth and comfort for its residents and guests.

TIFFANY MATHIS

Age: 35
Occupation: Director of Development and Community Relations, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Illinois and facilitator of Youth Services, The Phoenix Center (part time)
Email: tmathis@bgccil.org
Education: Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, Ashford University (graduated magna cum laude)
Family: Husband Frank Mathis, Jr., daughters Aveny-Jonae and Nyiah-Nicole, and son August-Sebastian (due Aug. 6)
Affiliations/Community Activities: Illinois Commission on Voluntarism and Community Service commissioner; Governor’s Service Awards Committee chair; Rotary Club of Mid-Springfield president-elect; board member and member of the Executive Committee; annual parent of the month for the 2017-2018 school year at Maryville Academy Class of 2018, Springfield Pridefest Committee public relations chair, Order of Eastern Star, Pasea Chapter 3 chapter member, Molina Healthcare community stakeholder, AmeriCorps alumna, entertainment selection committee Jacksonville Main Street.

What’s your guiding principle in life? My guiding principles are the Rotary motto, “Service Above Self” and the quote, “Be the person you needed when you were younger.”

Why did you choose your current career? I have always been passionate in my advocacy for and support of youth and families as well as my unwavering support as an ally for the LGBTQ community and other marginalized populations. Serving as an AmeriCorps volunteer provided me with a great deal of clarity and the conviction that I wanted to spend the rest of my life serving my community and being a voice for others. Working for two amazing nonprofit agencies that serve in those areas has been both fulfilling and rewarding beyond measure.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? My hope is that we as a community continue to embrace each other’s differences and create positive and safe spaces to gain a deeper understanding of one another as we continue to work together.

ZACH BROMLEY

Age: 32
Occupation: Financial Advisor, Managing Director of Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors
Email: zach.bromley@wellsfargo.com
Education: Bachelor of Science, Business
Family: Wife Erin, son Cal and daughter Sloan
Affiliations/Community Activities: Active member of West Side Christian Church, Habitat for Humanity president, Women for Women sponsor, baseball coach for my son’s team, American Business Club, volunteer and sponsor events for Springfield Christian School.

What’s your guiding principle in life? I was taught some simple principles as a child that I have carried with me and which I also try to pass along to my children. They are to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly.

Why did you choose your current career? My passion for my career comes from wanting to help others. I have always liked working with numbers and I enjoy the ever-changing financial markets. I am able to use both of those strengths to help my clients reach a comfort level in the pursuit of financial security. My team and I do whatever we can to help our clients plan and achieve their personal and financial goals.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? My greatest hope for Springfield is to see the younger generation thrive, which will come from a strong work ethic and love for the community.

Professional Women’s Calendar of Events

You play a key role and we thank you for your contributions to our community.

Illinois Women in Leadership (IWIL)

IWIL will hold the 2018 ATHENA Leadership Award gala on Thursday, July 28 at Erin’s Pavilion. Check in begins at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m., followed by the awards presentation. The ATHENA Leadership Award is presented to an individual who is honored for professional excellence, community service and for actively assisting women in their attainment of professional excellence and leadership skills. This year’s nominees are: Rose Amon, Molly Berndt, Dr. Evelyn Campbell, Cindy Denby, Karen Hauser, Elena Kerelli, Terri Nold, Danielle Outlaw, Gwen Smith, and Karen Witter. RSVP by July 10 at www.iwil.biz

Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois (WE-CE)

Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois (WE-CE) WE-CE is a non-profit organization based in Central Illinois created with the goal of supporting women entrepreneurs through promoting economic development, creating innovative changes in business culture and building strategic affiliations. Our monthly meetings are designed to promote networking and feature speakers with topics relevant to women in business today. Our regular monthly meetings will resume in August, for more information visit www.weci.wildapricot.org

Association for Women in Communications (AWC)

AWC members earn free admission to national webinars, receive reduced prices for luncheons and programs, job updates, member resources and opportunities to serve on the local and/or national board and develop leadership skills. For more information, visit www.awcspingfield.org

To have your event added to the Women’s Calendar of Events, please email your information to info@springfieldbusinessjournal.com

We congratulate

Zach Bromley
Managing Director - Investments
for being named to the
Springfield Business Journal’s 2018 Forty Under Forty

At Wells Fargo Advisors, we recognize the importance of excellent service and trusted investment advice. Contact us to learn more about our focus on helping clients achieve their financial goals.

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TOP LAWYERS
SPRINGFIELD AREA

These LEADING LAWYERS have been recommended by their peers to among the TOP LAWYERS in Illinois.

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These EMERGING LAWYERS have been identified by their peers to be among the TOP LAWYERS in Illinois who are age 40 or younger OR who have been admitted to the practice of law for 10 or fewer years.

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Family
AMY BARRY
Age: 36
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Email: amy.senate@po.gov
Education: Bachelor of Arts, Rhetoric, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign
Family: Husband Patrick and two children, Amelia and Beau
Affiliations/Community Activities: Communications Chair, Springfield Chapter of International Communication Association for Women

What's your guiding principle in life? Do the best job that you can on everything that you do.

Why did you choose your current career? I have found my position with the Illinois Senate to be the most fulfilling way I have been constantly challenged in my career, both from political and policy perspectives, as well as in the communications field where we have had to respond to tremendous changes and innovations over the last 15 years. However, I can say without a doubt that my Statehouse family is the reason I have remained at the Senate. I have the pleasure of working with dedicated, hardworking individuals whom I enjoy and respect. I cannot say enough good things about the fantastic professionals I have been able to learn from and work with over the years.

What's your greatest hope for Springfield? I would like to see Springfield continue to flourish. Whether by drawing additional employers and jobs to the region, continuing the already impressive revitalization of our downtown district or investing in the area's unique historical gems, I am hopeful that Springfield will experience sustained growth and continued development due to the innovative thinking of community leaders and an engaged and enthusiastic public.

JENNIFER CRESAYE
Age: 56
Occupation: Senior Director of State Relations, Office of Governmental Relations for the University of Illinois System
Email: jrcresayeuillinois@illinois.edu
Education: Master of Arts, Political Studies, University of Illinois, Springfield
Family: Husband Justin, son Mac and daughter Quinn
Affiliations/Community Activities: YMCA board member, Edgar Fellows Program Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln Young Philanthropists, University of Illinois alumni in government and Blessed Sacrament Church

What's your guiding principle in life? I try to remember that the only real failure in life is not trying or asking for what you want to achieve. Do not be afraid to take on new challenges and risks. I try to stay positive that good will come from my focused efforts and any idea is worth trying.

Why did you choose your current career? In fourth grade, I went to “take your daughter to work day” with my uncle who was working in the State Capitol. I loved the importance of the House and Senate floors, and the idea that I was surrounded by elected officials doing the work on behalf of the state’s residents. From there, I focused on political science and government. I applied for the U.S. House of Representatives in high school. After numerous internships, I graduated from UUC with a degree in political science and speech communications. I received the Dunn Fellowship in the Governor’s office and built my career from there. Afterwards, I worked for AARP Illinois. I am now in my dream job representing the U of I system in state government and strive to represent and tell the amazing story of the university’s students, faculty, staff and alumni.

What's your greatest hope for Springfield? My vision for Springfield is that it can be the home of innovation and policy through leadership. The capital city is where innovative ideas should come together. Springfield can and will be a place where professionals and families can live affordably in an environment that is thought-provoking, forward-thinking, entertaining and comfortable. The Springfield community is uniquely positioned to be all of these things.

JOSEPH HOUSER
Age: 56
Occupation: Environmental lawyer
Email: Joseph.Houser@heplerbroom.com
Education: Juris Doctor
Family: Wife Page and daughters Grace, Genevieve and Ginny
Affiliations/Community Activities: Lincoln Land Down Syndrome Society president, Sangamon County Bar Association member, Illinois State Bar Association member, South Carolina Bar Association member

What's your guiding principle in life? Do the best job that you can on everything that you do.

Why did you choose your current career? I have always been interested in the natural sciences, so I earned my bachelor’s degree in biology and chemistry for several years after college as an ecologist and environmental consultant. During those years, I worked with my company’s client representatives, including their environmental lawyers, and through that experience I developed my interest in environmental law. That interest led to my decision to attend law school to become an environmental lawyer. Working in private practice provides me with the opportunity to continue working with a variety of companies on a wide range of environmental issues, which I really enjoy.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? As a husband and the father of three children, my hopes for Springfield today tend to focus on opportunities for kids and families. There are many things about Springfield that help make it a good place to raise a family. I hope to see the community continue to grow, as the soon-to-open Kibbeum, continue to develop here.

AMANDA BROTTR
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Education: Master of Science, environmental management, University of Maryland University College
Family: Son Ori, parents Robert and Dixie Deering, and sisters Tammy, Jenika, Tara, Kyrstt and their families
Affiliations/Community Activities: Den leader and treasurer for Cub Scout Pack 320 in New Berlin, Certified Member (CJM) of American Association of Airport Executives, member of the International Right of Way Association

What's your guiding principle in life? Treat others the way you would want to be treated, be honest and fair, approach all you do with integrity, step out to a challenge, when needed, as well as know when to step back and let others prevail.

Why did you choose your current career? I think it chose me. I originally pursued professional piloting which then morphed into aeronautical science. After graduating from college, I took an aviation planner position at GMT and began learning how airports develop and expand and the regulations they are mandated to follow. This led to a master’s degree in environmental science as it is imperative to understand how development impacts the environment. Ultimately, development impacts people and at times requires land acquisition. Therefore, I began learning how to acquire land and/or easements under the federal Uniform Relocation Act. My career has been challenging, rewarding and ever-changing.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? My greatest hope is for Springfield to continue to strive to be the quintessential Midwest community that offers families a wonderful place to call home.

SHAWN GREGORY
Age: 39
Occupation: Green Family Store Business Development Lead
Email: wcgj1984@yahoo.com
Education: Attended Lincoln Land Community College
Family: I am the son of the late Niece McNeil and the father of Kayleia, Jashawn, Aleyah and Harper, who is due early in September.
Affiliations/Community Activities: The Outlet, Springfield Lions Youth Basketball chief executive officer, Southeast Football assistant coach, director of the Juneteenth Community Celebration, founder of the Willie Cares Youth Foundation

What's your guiding principle in life? To be a positive light to all I meet.

Why did you choose your current career? It chose me.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? To put the same effort into all communities for a greater Springfield.

AMBR3 KNOX
Age: 34
Occupation: Lead
Email: jknox@csu.csi.edu
Education: Bachelor of Science, Behavior Analysis and Therapy
Family: An abundance of family who are also friends, friends who are more like family and two children, Samuel and Matilda
Affiliations/Community Activities: Member of Illinois Autism Task Force, Education Committee for Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities

What's your guiding principle in life? My guiding principle is to live a life of love. In all decisions and choices I make, I try to challenge myself to ensure that those decisions are made with love at the forefront. Personally and professionally, love isn’t always the easiest way out or the simplest decision to make. However, if love guides you, the pieces will likely fall into place.

Why did you choose your current career? It fell into the field of human service quite by accident. At 14, I began working at a camp for children and adults with developmental/physical differences. From that point on, I knew that I needed to do. People will often say that it takes a special person to work in this field. I actually feel pretty selfish getting to go to work loving what I do every day. Who else gets to feel this good, make these differences and have this much fun? We get to be purposefully and meaningfully silly every day. I am truly the lucky one.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? I genuinely hope for inclusion. Not just those with developmental or physical differences, but for all people. At Hope, we often say that we are not only preparing our kids for the world, but preparing the world for our kids. My greatest wish is that Springfield be on the leading edge of that, being prepared to welcome and include all people into its fold.
JUSTIN ROSE

Age: 29
Occupation: Student Affairs, Diversity Center, University of Illinois Springfield
Email: jrose22@uis.edu

Education: Master’s degree, Public Administration (Ed.D in progress)
Family: Both my nuclear family and ‘outside’ family matter to me. My mom and brothers (middle and older brother) are central and influential forces in my life. My grandmother played a pivotal role in my upbringing. Dad has had some impact. Mentors have enriched my values on life.
Affiliations/Community Activities: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Big Brothers Big Sisters mentor and occasional mentorship with Boys & Girls Club and Sangamon County Metro 4-H Program. Various levels of outreach and support to the NAACP and Urban League. Support the Lincoln Home National Historic Site on occasional events.

What’s your guiding principle in life?

Why did you choose your current career?

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield?

CHRISTY JOHNSTON

Age: 38
Occupation: Speech language pathologist and owner of Time to Talk
Email: cbeyers@yahoo.com

Education: Master of Arts, Speech Language Pathology, Northern Illinois University
Family: Husband Aaron and kids Madeline, Kate and Lyle
Affiliations/Community Activities: American Speech-Language Hearing Association member, former board member of the Pregnancy Care Center, Christ The King Parish member, Christ The King School classroom and activities volunteer, Girls on the Run of Central Illinois volunteer and coach, Capital Area Volleyball Club coach.

What’s your guiding principle in life?

Why did you choose your current career?

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield?

JAMIE SINGER

Age: 38
Occupation: Vice President, Treasury Services, Illinois National Bank
Email: jsinger@IllinoisNationalBank.com
Education: Attended Lincoln Land Community College
Family: Husband Brandon, son Braylon and daughter Jayla
Affiliations/Community Activities: I am an avid volunteer for many community events and activities throughout the year. I currently serve as treasurer for my son’s baseball organization, Batbusters Baseball. I volunteer at my children’s school when time allows. Some previous service opportunities include volunteering with The Matthew Project, teaching the kindergarten PSR at my local church and volunteering in District 186 with Girls Scouts where I educated young girls on financial literacy. I am very passionate for the disabled community and youth, and love to devote my time to organizations centered on these groups.

What’s your guiding principle in life?

Why did you choose your current career?

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS | SPRINGFIELD

Congratulations, Justin Rose!

We are proud to claim you as an alumn and, now, as an employee, shaping the lives of students every day.

You are the epitome of leadership lived!

Congratulations to a young professional who steps up and stands out every day.

Congratulations Jamie Singer, INB’s Vice President, Treasury Services.
JOSH CLARK
Age: 36
Occupation: Partner at KEB
Email: joshc@kebcpa.com
Education: Master’s degree, Illinois State University
Family: Wife Lauren and children Jack and Herrin
Affiliations/Community Activities: Member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Illinois CPA Society member, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce member, Illinois Women in Leadership member, Leadership Springfield, former treasurer and board member of the Springfield Art Association, Hope School Style of Hope committee member.

What’s your guiding principle in life? Be genuine and lead with grace.

Why did you choose your current career? I started my career in public accounting with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP in St. Louis. I left public accounting for about eight years to pursue other finance and accounting opportunities, but ultimately returned to the profession because I love being in a role where I am constantly challenged and have the opportunity to help clients and interact with other professionals.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? Springfield is such a wonderful community with much to offer its residents. My greatest hope is that the community continues to grow, both from an economic and social perspective. We have to find creative ways to attract businesses and young professionals to the area and ultimately to support those businesses and retain local talent. Additionally, we need to encourage individuals in the community to get involved by donating their time, talent and treasure. Supporting our local social services and nonprofit organizations ultimately results in a stronger community for everyone.

KIRSTEN KIENZLER
Age: 38
Occupation: Audit partner, Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP
Email: kirstenk@kebcpa.com
Education: Bachelor of Science, accountancy, Southern Illinois University - Carbondale
Family: Husband Joe and children Mae and Will
Affiliations/Community Activities: Member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Illinois CPA Society member, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce member, Illinois Women in Leadership member, Leadership Springfield, former treasurer and board member of the Springfield Art Association, Hope School Style of Hope committee member.

What’s your guiding principle in life? To be a great role model for my children.

Why did you choose your current career? Growing up I always wanted to be an accountant. Once I started at KEB, I knew it was the place I wanted to spend my career.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? Continued economic growth and improved safety throughout the community.

BETHANY JAEGER
Age: 38
Occupation: Management consultant
Email: bethanyj@kebcpa.com
Education: Master’s degree
Family: Husband Eric and children Mae and Will

What’s your guiding principle in life? Be genuine and lead with grace.

Why did you choose your current career? Strategy can help bring priorities into focus and help leaders feel confident in where they should spend their brain power and energy. Bringing clarity to complex challenges is what drives me to serve others, so they can confidently serve their organization’s mission.

What’s your greatest hope for Springfield? I hope that we commit to an inclusive investment and vision for our community’s future.

7th Annual Women’s Symposium
Thursday, September 27, 2018

This empowering full-day event will allow attendees to expand their professional and personal competencies and make relevant connections through networking. The registration fee includes admission to a variety of insightful educational sessions, exhibits, and keynote speaker Cordia Harrington, who shares that “No is not an option”. Cordia, an entrepreneur who has excelled in manufacturing, transportation, the quick service restaurant segment, and real estate and construction, presents a compelling story on how to persevere and focus on the goal.

Breakfast, lunch, and a cocktail reception will follow the event and all are included in the registration fee. Invite a colleague to join you for this dynamic professional development opportunity!

$115 per person before July 31
$140 per person after July 31
Register five people, get the sixth free!
Congratulations Josh Clark, Kirsten Kienzler & Bethany Jaeger!

Springfield Business Journal’s 40 Under 40

KEB is proud to congratulate Josh Clark, Kirsten Kienzler and Bethany Jaeger on being recognized by Springfield Business Journal as three of the 40 under 40 recipients for 2018.

Clark joined the Springfield office of Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP in 2004 and has approximately 14 years of accounting experience. Josh earned his Bachelor of Science and Masters of Proficiency in Accounting from Illinois State University. He is licensed in Illinois as a Certified Public Accountant. Clark has experience with and serves clients that include closely-held businesses, financial institutions, construction companies, not-for-profit organizations and State and local government entities.

Kienzler has been with the Springfield office of KEB since 2013 and has nearly 16 years of accounting experience. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. She is licensed in Illinois as a Certified Public Accountant. Prior to joining KEB, Kirsten held various finance and accounting positions in the healthcare and insurance industries and worked in public accounting for PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. Kienzler has experience with and serves clients that include insurance companies, closely-held businesses, not-for-profit organizations, employee benefit plans and mergers and acquisitions.

Jaeger joined the Springfield office’s management consulting practice of Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP in 2009. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and her Master’s Degree from University of Illinois Springfield. She is a strategy consultant for religious institutes, nonprofit organizations and public agencies. Jaeger collaborates with leadership teams, boards and committees to design and facilitate processes that best fit each organization’s needs, preferences and cultures.

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