



The Multicultural Leadership Institute proudly presents the

MCLP Class of 2021

Graduation Celebration



Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 11:00 AM CDT
bn-mclp.org/grad2021

Dear Friends,

Thank you for being part of this moment in time. As we recognize the achievements of the MCLP Class of 2021, we also celebrate how they have inspired one another and our community.

The last year in all our lives has been like no other. We have endured a pandemic of health but equally endured a pandemic of the spirit. This group of amazing humans has successfully overcome the uncertainty and isolation that we have all experienced. They have matured personally and professionally as leaders. They have learned where their passions lie and have come to understand their own capacity to adapt and grow. They have come together and experienced MCLP like no other class before them.

The Class of 2021 was the first in our history to be entirely virtual. In a time when we have, out of necessity, traded the opportunities to share our time together in person, this group has not let that challenge be a barrier to the building of the authentic relationships we all need as leaders. They have leveraged their experience and expertise as teams and increased the capacity of five local non-profit organizations to serve those most in need. Their collective impact will change the lives of thousands of individuals and families.

The Class of 2021 has also wrestled with the difficult questions of leaders in transformation. Who am I? What is my place? They have seen the pain that many in our community have and continue to encounter and wondered if they have what it takes to make a difference. They have shared laughter, tears, and experiences that have changed them. Through it all they have acquired the knowledge and tools to grow into the great leaders we need. They have become a community of purpose.

As we look ahead to the work of leadership that the MCLP Class of 2021 will do, we can see them embody the African philosophy of Ubuntu...I am because WE are. Again, they have inspired each other and all of us to take up that same ideal. Let us follow their call.

In service,

Matt Drat

Executive Director

Multicultural Leadership Institute

Graduation Program

A Welcoming from **Sara Keene '20**

Opening Remarks from Board President **Barbara Bouboutsis '19**

Reflecting on Those Who Empower Us with Executive Director **Matt Drat**

Encouraging Words from Our Class Speaker **Linda Randle '21**

Recognizing Our Graduates with the **2021 Facilitators**

Acknowledging Those Who Inspire with Various MCLP Leaders

2021 MCLP Alumni Community Leadership Award

2021 Servant Leadership Award

Celebrating Our Passion, a performance by Gregory D. Hicks

A Coming Together...

Our Foundation with Deanna Frautschi + Willie Brown

Our Present Reality with Gina Defa '12 + Javier Centeno '15

Our Future Vision with Executive Director Matt Drat

Closing Thoughts with **Sara Keene '20**

Save the Date...

April 30, 2021 Class of 2022 Application Deadline

May 4, 2021 Be the Force for Good: Racial Justice Panel

August 12, 2021 Class of 2022 First Learning Event

For more information, please visit www.bn-mclp.org/events

Class of 2021 Graduates

Alpheaus Johnson
Christina M. Evans
Emily R. Nafziger
Jesse James Slater
Kelsie L. Frooman

State Farm
US Bank
Illinois State University
Red Raccoon Games
YWCA

Amanda Papinchock
Kara Kirk
Simran Singh Sandhu
Tony Reis
Valerie Lusk

Illinois State University
YWCA
Illinois Farm Bureau
Illinois State University
State Farm

Ben Wright
Desiray Yeaw
Donnelle L. Pressburger
Jenni Thome
Madheswaran Singaravelu

Bradley University
Illinois State University
Center for Youth and Family Solutions
Illinois State University
State Farm

Brittany L. Perkins
Corey Burgess
Hannah E. Johnson
Ruben Estrada
S. Christy Germanis

Heartland Community College
Illinois State University
McLean County Museum of History
State Farm
YWCA

Harsh Thakkar
Jill Benson
Linda Randle
Mariaton S. Tate
Vivian Kong Doctora

Afni Inc.
Illinois State University
COUNTRY Financial
Illinois State University
State Farm

Jenny Crones

Heartland Community College

2021 Community Projects

Increased volunteer capacity to alleviate workload stress on volunteers and to increase awareness and fundraising efforts.

Project Sponsor: Don Mahannah

Project Liaison: Kristin Manzi

Project Advisor: Jason Heissler



Created an online training program, assessment strategies, and educational resources for Community Navigator Volunteers.

Project Sponsor: Sarah Mellor

Project Liaison: Jeff Crabill

Project Advisor: Ajit Kolekar



Assisted with philanthropic planning and data collection to identify services, promote awareness, and guide fundraising efforts.

Project Sponsor: Dana Enger

Project Liaison: Hillary Pacha

Project Advisor: Stephanie Stone



Fostered community awareness of housing discrimination and connect potential clients to related services.

Project Sponsor: David Wolowitz

Project Liaison: Emily Petri

Project Advisor: Ravi Duvvuri



Developed an employer engagement plan for STRIVE, helping individuals to secure or retain living-wage employment.

Project Sponsor: Liz German

Project Liaison: Kate Brunk

Project Advisor: Ashley Love

**eliminating racism
empowering women**

ywca

Jenny began the MCLP journey in 2020, working with Dreams Are Possible.

2021 Servant Leadership Award

Faye Freeman-Smith



Faye Freeman-Smith is a model servant leader to those who know her. She gets things done by collaborating with others. And when done, those involved “grow as persons...becoming healthier, wiser, freer,” the classic measure of a true servant leader.

Faye dreams of a better world, especially in the mental health community. Her accomplishments show she is more than a dreamer. She is an organized problem solver. Her projects are planned, tracked and delivered on time. She is an outstanding listener; empathetic, patient, and proactive toward those who need support. She is a servant leader.

Faye has volunteered in our community for over 25 years. She currently serves as Advisory Board Member for Lincoln Christian University Master’s Counseling program (CACREP Standards reviewer) She is a Mental Health Advisory Board member for Mclean County Health Department. She is a founding member of the Black Business Alliance and is a past president. Faye helped establish the first African American Radio Station WXRJ 94.9FM in Bloomington-Normal. She is a Founding Board Member for MCLP, the Multicultural Leadership Program. She has also served on over 9 other boards.

Faye established Heartland Community College’s counseling center and services in 2011. She is now the Director of Student Counseling Services. She also owns and operates a private practice, Counseling Resource Institute. In 2017 Faye received the YWCA 2017 Women of Distinction award for Excellence in Social Services.

2021 MCLP Alumni Community Leadership Award

Jeff Crabill



Jeff Crabill graduated from MCLP in 2017 (the best class ever, of course!). The experience helped change his life. MCLP gave Jeff the tools to serve as a servant leader. He immediately wanted to help the Program continue to succeed.

Since graduation, he has since served as an advisor for a project team for the 2018 class and helped facilitate the 2019 and 2020 classes. In 2021 he served as the liaison for The Immigration Project team. He continues to make monthly donations so that others may enjoy this wonderful experience and he actively recruits new members.

Jeff has served on boards for Heartland Head Start and The Immigration Project. He and fellow facilitator Terri Helregel helped start a food bank at Kingsley Junior High for the Promise Council. MCLP gave Jeff the courage to speak up against injustices and eventually run for Bloomington City Council in 2019. While on council he has advocated for individuals with disabilities, for those in our immigrant community and for equitable distribution of Covid relief.

Most importantly, he uses his skills learned in servant leadership to try be always be there for his constituents, including having monthly town halls. In 2020, he participated in the Black Lives Matter protests and has become a member of the Democratic Socialists of America.

Celebrating Our Passion

*a spoken word
performance by*

GREGORY D. HICKS



When not on stage, performing virtually, or on the BIG screen, Gregory D. Hicks is: doing puzzles or playing Chess with his daughter, Olivia Grace Hicks, or playing with the MANY cars that Noah Gregory Hicks, aka Junior has.

His theatrical credentials include (but not limited to): Lucius Andronicus in The Den Theatre's TITUS ANDRONICUS, Bud the Bus Driver in Director's Haven's PEOPLE IN THE WIND, and Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in New Route Theatre's (Coalescence Theatre Project) THE MOUNTAINTOP. Joann Monroe (his loving mother), Levy Cedric Dawson, Jr. (his "loc-ed" brother), and other loving family members continue to shower Gregory with their support for his passion!

Gregory is very pleased to be working with Matthew Drat, Executive Director of the Multicultural Leadership Institute and MCLP, as a guest artist at the Class of 2021 MCLP graduation ceremony!

Now it is time for the Bloomington-Normal community to "see the strength" that MCLP sees in YOU!"



MCLP Alumni

2010

Margarita Alvarez
Jamaal Crayton
Carl L. Davis
Michael Donnelly
Marisanta Hidrogo
Karen Kapella
Lauren Kim Carapella
Daniel Liu
Macaria Lopez
Jhun Medina
Tom Moy
Bert Neptune
Nina Olvera
Don Paul
Vani Prasad
Teena Rajan
Mandava Rao
Roshanda Ross
Ken Starks
Mark Walcott
Gary Williams
Monica Williams
Joe Zacharias

2011

Vicente Adams
Erika Arnhart
Rahul Bafna
Sandeep Davalbhakta
Munjil Dave

Carolyn Davis
Rearn Dotson
Leslie Harding
Lori Harvey
Iwin Huang
Paul Hursey Jr.
Matt Johnson
Nida Kazim
Renee Lafontaine
Jon McWhirter
Anita Moore
Sharonna Owens
Brian Peacher
Kimberly Pfeifer
Latha Rao
Peter Stroyan
Theresia Taylor
Cavell Walcott
Yoon Yim
Denise Younge

2012

Anand Bhende
Carrie Broquard
Nicole Clemmens
Brian Cunningham
Gina Defa
Laura Duvendack
Juan Garcia
Sagar Gollapudi
Tim Golliday

Janet Hood
Craig Lutchefeld
Tina McCormick
Johnny Nguyen
Grace Pagowska
Janine Peacher
Henry Ramsey
Santosh Raut
Pretty Reji
Kristen Sand
Kari Sandhaas
Shleah Scarborough
Heather Stella
Henry Walker

2013

Tiffany Cho
Sabrina Coleman
Fernando Cornejo
Tony Curcuru
Chuck DiVerde
Goverdhan Galpalli
Aparna Idate
Emily James
Carlos Miranda
Alex Moncrief
Sudhir Pai
Tereva Parham
Ann Perry
Mary Riddle
Stephanie Kohl Ringle

MCLP Alumni

Mauricio Sadicoff
Kelli Saizon
Erica Scott
Sparsula Simmons
Christa Staley
Missy Thomas
Emily Vigneri
Donald Wiggins
Michael Wolf
Jeff Woodard

2014

Tim Beccue
Shena Bedi
Seena Bhende
Alyssa Bisanz
Linda Bollivar
Joy Born
Tara Brown Carman
Emmanuel Calmes
Stephanie Duquenne
Phyllis Glover-Webster
Ivan Hall
Dipti Hattangady
Cheryl Magnuson
Bobbi Hynes
Tejas Jani
Ajay Kalavala
Lauren Klump
Kiranmayi Konam
Kristin Manzi

Sateesh Nallamothu
Julie Navickas
Dakesa Pina
Jerin Thomas
Lola Thomas-Albright
Tammy Vancil

2015

Neil Alcorn
Olemuel Ashford
Rickielee Benecke
Kyle Buchanan
Javier Centeno
Angela Click
Michael Coleman
Elias Corpas III
Katherine Evans
Eileen Galvez
Nikki Gibson
Jeremy Haley
Ryan Huette
Damian Lewis
Lacey MacLeod
Elizabeth Murry
Dexter O'Neal
Jesse Paul Padilla
Catherine Poffenbarger
Saket Raizada
David Shields
Jen Swearingen
Soujanya Tokala

Jay Tummala
Heather Wagner
Alex Williams

2016

Julie Beer
Nikita Burns
Georgene Chissell
Leslie Clay
Callie Cummings
Hetal Dhirawani
Vanitha Giriprakash
Cindy Hauk
Alex Jackson
Vasudeva Kalla
Phillip King
Angela KupperSmith
Carolyn LaVere
Richard Lozada
Alicia McKeighan
Sunish Menon
Poshlyn Nicholson
Appana Pediredla
Justin Prather
Katie Pratt
Darrell Richards
Allegra Thigpen
Jeffrey Vargo
Lohit Kumar
Reddy Venati

MCLP Alumni

2017

Mohamed Jamal M.
Mohamed Ayub
Kiowna Brown
Allie Browning
Michael Canada
Carol Christensen
Jeff Crabill
Steve Grady
Arthur J. Haynes
Terri Helregel
Heather Johnson
Sheena Keating
Mark Killick
Cherry Lawson
Tommy Navickas
Shena Palmer
Carla Ramos
Laura Severs
Justin Vickers
Eleisha Whitney-Olson
Jocelyn (Joy) Winnell
Susan Wright

2018

Kym Ammons-Scott
Maria Basalay
Barbara Bouboutsis
Abigail Salch
Crystal Bricker
Troy Clark

Emory Davis
Julie Emig
Chad Fisher
Shrimakarthik
Gopalakrishnan
Lucas Hellmer
Anitha Jayaram
Barbara Little
Beth Marsh
Sandra L. Osorio
Hari Rebba
Raegan Rinchioso
Cecilia Ruffin
Madhura Shenoy
Terrence Smith
Angel Terrell
Stephanie Turrentine
Patricia Valente
Alexis Wolstein

2019

Karthikeyan
Baluswamy
Beth Bradford
Marianela Diaz
Tura Dover
Nayoka Griffis
Court Hruska
Swati Khanna
Lori Marmion
Sarah Moravec
Tiara Randle

BreAune Sanja
Katherine Sawyer
Sameeh Ullah
Sharon Ware
Julia Zuniga Almazora

2020

Sri Bandela
Nicole Boozer
Christy Borders
Ravi Duvvuri
Cheryl Fogler
Jill S. Hanson-Murray
Luminita Hartle
Jason Heissler
Grace Hendricks
Jennifer K. Ho
Tawyna Isaacson
Sara Keene
Ajit Kolekar
Ashley Love
Patrick Lubala
Regina Powers-Lubala
RJ McCracken
Keith Moldovan
Katie Montague
Juliana Nelson
Sharon Peoples
Stephanie Stone
Gig Supanichrattana
Thomas Truong

Thank You for Making it Possible

2021 Facilitators

Erica Scott '13
Nayoka Griffis '19
Nicole Boozer '20

2021 Mentors

Andrea Thorpe
Barb Taft
Becky Hines
Carole Ringer
Carolyn LaVere '16
Cat Woods
Chris Downing
Christina Schulz
Dave Shields '15
David Taylor
Deanna Frautschi
Duane Farrington
Jan Murphy
Jerome Maddox
Julie Payne
Karen Schmidt
Kelli Hill
Mary Campbell
Mercy Davison
Nancy Brady
Rob McDade
Sheri Bane
Sonja Reece
Tejas Jani '14
Tony Coletta
Vasu Gadhiraaju

Virtual Curriculum Task Force

Diana Hauman, *Chair*
Jamal Mohamed '17
Erica Scott '13
Janine Toth
Ani Yazedjian
Julie Emig '18
Nayoka Griffis '19
Nicole Boozer '20

2021 Presenters

Carol Burrell
Christina Schulz
Ed Cimoch
Phani Aytam
Rick Owens
Sandy Bentley
Sharon McFarland
Sharon Peoples '20
Sonya Mau
Tony Torres

2021 Panelists

Adam Houghton
Arthur "Art" Taylor
Barry Reilly
Camille Taylor
Chemberly Cummings
Don Carlson
Lizzy Johnston
Erin Kennedy
Georgia Nugent

Holly Baumann-Ambuehl
Jeff Crabill '18
Joan Hartman
Keith Cornille
Kristen Weikle
Larry Deitz
Len Meyer
Meta Mickens-Baker
Nikita Richards '16
Sally Gambacorta

2021 Moderators

Angell Howard
Holly Baumann-Ambuehl
Paul Sweich

Institute Committees + Action Teams

Sandy Bentley
Willie Brown
Javier Centeno '15
Gina Defa '13
Stephanie Duquette '14
Cheryl Fogler '20
Deanna Frautschi
Donna Gerig
Kristen Grimes
Jason Heissler '20
Bev Hornickel
Dani Kabbes
Sara Keene '20
Damien Lewis '15
Lacey MacLeod '15

Thank You for Making it Possible

Institute Committees

+ Action Teams

Mike Matejka

Sonya Mau

Andrew McAllister

Juliana Nelson '20

Raegan Rinchuso '18

Angel Terrell '18

Eric Varney

Alex Williams '15

Cat Woods

Sally Zuhn

Advisory Council

Tony Coletta, *Chair*

Willie Brown

Heather Drennan

Deanna Frautschi

Roger Hunt

Dale Strassheim

Carl Teichman

Pat Vickerman

Board of Directors

Barbara Bouboutsis '18

President

Sharon Peoples '20

Vice President

Craig Luchtefeld '12

Secretary

Kathy DeWerff

Treasurer

Barb Taft

Past President

Javier Centeno '15

Sonya Mau

Sunish Menon '16

Katie Pratt '16

Santosh Rout '12

Kathy Sawyer '19

David Shields '15

Tracey Siems

Justin Vickers '17

Michael Wolf '13

Ani Yazedjian

Institute Staff

Matt Drat

Executive Director

Micaela Harris

Program Coordinator

Institute Interns

Morgan Anderson, *IWU*

Vasu Chalasani,

University of Illinois

Gabrielle Ghaderi, *IWU*

Cameron Marsh, *IWU*



Graduate Shoutouts

Congratulations Madhesh! Incredibly honored to be your mentor during your servant leadership journey with MCLP Class of 2021. Your friend, **Tejas Jani**

This class faced trials that no other class had endured -100% zoom. Congratulations graduates, you inspire us! **Sandy, Bev, Sonya + Sally**

Shout Out to the Class of 2021. Best class ever. Remember that MCLP gives you wings. Soar high my classmates. Soar high! **Brittany Perkins**

Brittany continue to be a beacon of inspiration to our youth. Following your passions will always lead to great things. **Carolyn LaVere '16**

Congratulations to an inspirational MCLP Class of 2021!! **Catherine J Lowry, State Farm Agent**

Congratulations to Sim and all his classmates! **Duane Farrington**

Thank you for including me twice in this spring's events as moderator and panelist. I applaud your efforts and commitment during a tough year! **Holly Ambuehl**

I am so proud of you Brittany. Continue to walk in your purpose. You are an world changer and an inspiration. I love you!! Your Sister, **Jasmine "Jas" Buckner**

Congratulations and welcome to the Alumni Family! To my ISU friends, I'm so very proud of you for completing your MCLP journey! **Katie Pratt**

Congratulations to Linda Randle. I am so proud of you! We have both grown this year because of our mentoring relationship. **Mary Campbell**

Congratulations Ruben Estrada, Class of 2021! Wonderful getting to know you. All the best in your leadership journey. **Rob McDade**

Congratulations Brittany Perkins! Continue to do amazing things! **Alva Gomez**

Graduate Shoutouts

Congratulations to the MCLP class of 2021 who achieved so much without ever meeting in person! So Inspiring! **Sandy and Bob Bentley**

Shout out to all participants from Illinois State University! So proud of the hard work you have all put into making the most of your MCLP experience!
Ani Yazedjian

Congratulations, Kelsie! Loved being on this journey as your mentor. Excited to see what's next for you! **Becky Hines**

Congratulations Brittany! Love you so much! Brittany/Kameren club for life! Go out and use what you have learned and CHANGE the WORLD!
Dewayne Perkins

Jenni Thome: what a joy to work with you! **Karen Schmidt**

Corey Burgess - thanks for your dedication to servant leadership and inclusion, and for sharing your time and journey with me these past months.
Kelli Hill

So much fun getting to know Amanda through the mentor program! I can't wait to see how she continues to put her passion and drive to work here in our community. Amanda has so much to offer! **Mercy Davison**

Brittany, we are so proud of you!! You're impact is immeasurable!. We love you! **Kaiden, Karsen, Kannen, Shemika and Lamar**

Congratulations Vivian K. Doctora and to the MCLP Class of 2021! Job well done! Now you have an opportunity to put all you've learned into action!! **Sonya Gong Jent**

Congratulations Valerie Langston-Lusk! You have many virtues of a great leader. You are positioned well to achieve whatever you set your mind to.
– Sincerely **Vasu Gadhiraaju**

Inspired Supporters

Avee + Tejas Jani

Bentley, Hornickel, Mau + Zuhn Fund

Brittany Perkins

Carolyn LaVere

Cat Woods

Catherine J. Lowry, *State Farm Agent*

Dee Frautschi + Al Bedell

Duane + Toni Farrington

Georgene Chissell

Jasmine Buckner

Justin Vickers + Mike Wolf

Kathy Sawyer

Katie Pratt

Laura Duvendack

Mary Campbell

Mosaic Collective LLC

Rob + Katie McDade

Sandy + Bob Bentley

Sonya Mau

Tiara K. Randle

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- Career Transition Coaching
- Learning Design & Facilitation

Congratulations!

Dear Graduates,

*May you have the heart
and courage to go out
and make an impact.*

Cheers to You!
~Lacey MacLeod (Class of '15)

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Thank you for showing us that, inside all of us, is
the drive to turn obstacles into opportunities.
State Farm® is proud to celebrate the 2021
graduating class of the Multicultural Leadership Program.



State Farm, Bloomington, IL

Congrats!
**MCLP
CLASS OF
2021**

**BE BRAVE
BE BOLD
BE YOU**

**Fox & Hounds Salon and Spa
200 W. Monroe
Downtown Bloomington
@foxandhoundsbn**

**CRI Congratulates
MCLP Class of 2021!**



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309.530.7758
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**Congratulations
Multicultural
Leadership
Program
Class of 2021!**

Thank you for your commitment to
learning, leading, and creating a
more diverse and inclusive
community!



AT ILLINOIS WESLEYAN, we believe that education in the context of diversity creates the richest learning environment.

We strive to develop the most enriching, progressive, vibrant, and welcoming community possible.

ON OUR CAMPUS, students are encouraged to be themselves in their own fullness, and are challenged to embrace what it means to be one unique being in a closely connected web of exceptional individuals.



WE'RE PROUD to be part of the McLean County community. We salute the exceptional 2021 graduates of the Multicultural Leadership Program.

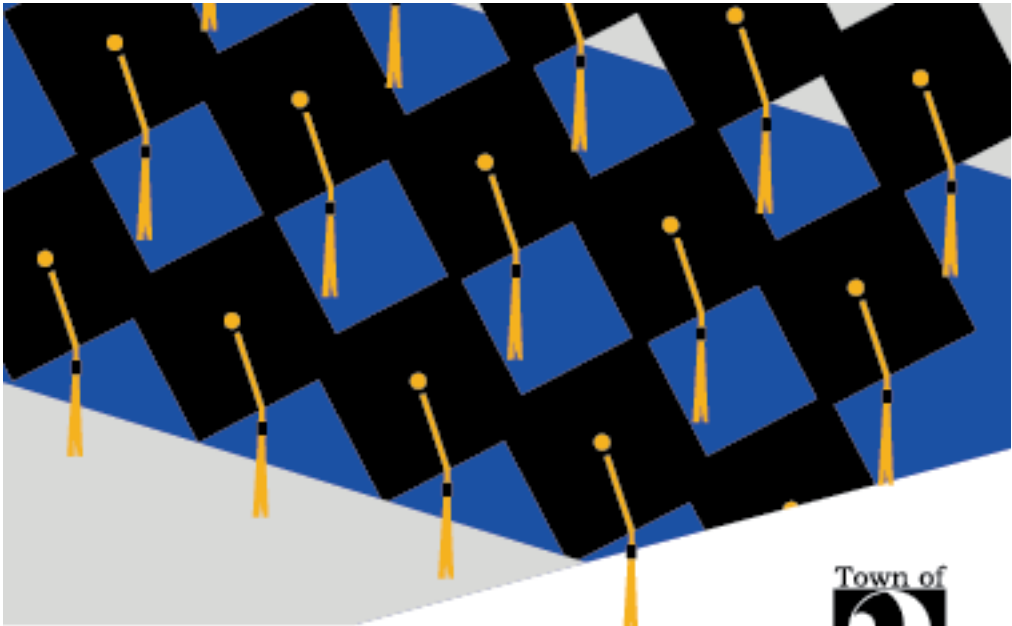
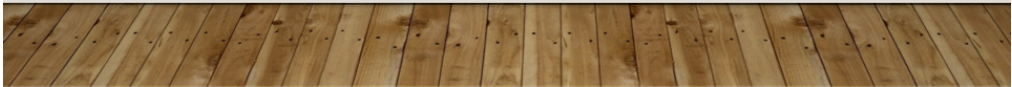


CONGRATULATIONS MCLP GRADUATES!



Sim Sandhu

Linda Randle



Congratulations, MCLP Graduates!

**UNITED WAY OF
MCLEAN COUNTY
CONGRATULATES
THE MCLP
CLASS OF 2021!**



**TOGETHER, WE'RE
CHANGING LIVES IN
MCLEAN COUNTY.**

UWmclean.org



Mission

We develop leaders to engage the power of diverse perspectives to improve our world.

Vision

Leadership that fosters a thriving, inclusive world.

Imagine connecting to a group of like-minded leaders, working together to serve and impact the community... NOW YOU CAN.

Become an Associate Member of the Multicultural Leadership Institute today!

In this community of members, there are no competitors, only people who pursue a common goal. Members learn from each other and co-create to solve problems and impact the lives of those around them.

Join our community of purpose to...

- Improve your leadership skills.
- Expand your network of authentic relationships.
- Reframe your perspectives on social impact.
- Increase your understanding of service to others.

Learn more at www.bn-mclp.org/membership
or contact us at membership@bn-mclp.org

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call 309-556-3589

visit www.bn-mclp.org

