

Duke Water Innovation and Leadership Development Program

2021 Program Fellows



Jonathan Allen

Director, Business Operations, Broward County Water and Wastewater Services
Broward County, FL

Jonathan Allen serves as the Director of Broward County's Water and Wastewater Services (WWS) Business Operations Division. Mr. Allen holds a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Kansas and a Bachelors in Economics from Florida A&M University. He has more than 25 years of experience in the field of city/county government management. He has provided leadership and direction in the daily operations of many local government jurisdictions. Mr. Allen came to WWS in 2015. He has previously been awarded the National Forum of Black Public Administrators South Florida Chapter (NFBPA-SFC) Rising Public Administrator Award and is active in both NFPBA and the International City/County Management Association.



Derek Anderson

Assistant Director, Department of Public Utilities
Columbus, OH

Derek Anderson serves as the Department Assistant Director of Public Utilities for the City of Columbus. Previously he served as the city's Executive Director for the Community Relations Commission, where he actively oversaw enforcement of the City of Columbus Civil Rights Code, The New Americans Initiative, Community Police Relations, and Internal and External Diversity and Inclusion Training. Prior to being appointed by the Mayor of the City of Columbus to this position, Mr. Anderson served as the Assistant Administrator of the City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities Division of Sewerage and Drainage. He also has the distinction of serving as the Department of Public Utilities Assistant Director for Diversity and Inclusion, a first for any City of Columbus Department. Mr. Anderson additionally serves in leadership positions for numerous local and national organizations and has been honored as a 40 under 40 awardee from Rejuvenate Magazine and highlighted in Who's Who in Black Columbus.



Jorge Barrera

General Manager, Eagle Pass Water Works
Eagle Pass, TX

Jorge Barrera Jr. has served as the General Manager of Eagle Pass Water Works system since 2011. He began working for Eagle Pass Water Works System as the Regional Water Treatment Plant process engineer in 2006, later becoming operations manager. Currently Jorge is President of the Board of Trustees of the Eagle Pass Independent School District, member of the Rio Grande Watermaster Advisory Committee, Vice President of the Eagle Pass Chamber of Commerce and a Board Member of the Eagle Pass/Maverick

County Economic Development Alliance. He holds a Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering from Texas A&M University.

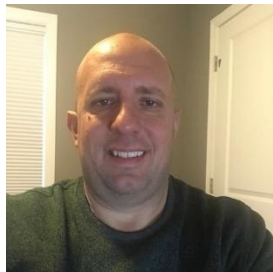


Carl Clark

Deputy Director of Environmental and Technical Support, Las Cruces Utilities Department
Las Cruces, NM

Carl Clark has served at the Las Cruces Utilities Department since 2011 and as Deputy Director of Environmental and Technical Support since 2014, where he manages a staff of Engineers, Environmental Experts, and Technicians.

Previously he held engineering and management positions at the City of Las Cruces Public Works Department since 2003, the Benham Group, a Top 10 Architectural & Engineering firm, and Bohannon Huston Inc. He holds a Bachelors in Agricultural Engineering from New Mexico State University.



Jonathan Earle

Supervisor of Engineering Services, Maine Water Company
Saco, ME

Jon Earle has over 20 years of progressively responsible engineering experience in both consulting engineering and water utilities. Prior to his current role with Maine Water, he was the Distribution System Manager for the Portland Water District, overseeing the operation and maintenance of approximately 1,000

miles of distribution infrastructure. In his current role as Supervisor of Engineering Services, he manages the Capital Improvement Program, Developer Services, and Technical Services including GIS statewide for 11 systems serving approximately 80,000 customers.



Kari Foy

Utility Engineer
Hampton, SC

Kari H. Foy is a registered Professional Engineer in South Carolina and serves as a Utility Engineer at Lowcountry Regional Water System (LRWS). She holds a Bachelors in Civil Engineering from Clemson University and a Masters in Environmental Engineering from Virginia Tech. After working for 12 years as a consulting engineer with BP Barber & Associates (now AECOM) in Charleston, SC, she spent two years as an educator in the public school system. She returned to the field of water and wastewater in 2013

when LRWS, a joint municipal system comprised of 5 small systems and 3,400 customers, was established. She is active in her local community and served as a School Board Trustee for Hampton District One from 2016-2020.



Shannon Harty

Deputy Commissioner of Water Environment Protection

Onondaga County, NY

Shannon Harty serves as the Deputy Commissioner of Water Environment Protection for Onondaga County, where she is responsible for overseeing the Onondaga County Sewer Consolidation initiative, working with 18 local municipalities in the County Consolidated Sanitary District. Additional responsibilities include overseeing Collection System CMOM program, regulatory compliance and coordination, operating and capital financial planning and interdivision coordination. She has over 20 years of experience in the field. She holds a Bachelors in Chemical Engineering from Clarkson University and a Masters in Environmental and Water Sources Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin.



Ericka King-Betts

Strategy & Performance Manager, Greater Cincinnati Water Works
Cincinnati, OH

Dr. Ericka King-Betts is a Strategy & Performance Manager for Greater Cincinnati Water Works in the City of Cincinnati. In this position, her responsibilities have included: overseeing the effort to create a multi-million dollar / multi-year Customer Assistance Program, implementing GCWW's Strategic Business Plan and leading Business Process Improvement initiatives. Ericka holds dual Bachelor degrees in Psychology & Multicultural Studies from Purdue University, a Masters degree in Family Science from The Ohio State University, and a PhD in Consumer & Family Science from Purdue University. She has received numerous awards, including the 2014 Business Courier Forty Under 40, 2014 and 2013 Who's Who in Black Cincinnati, and membership in the Cincinnati Chapter of the National Association of 100 Black Women. She additionally serves in leadership positions for numerous local and national organizations. She genuinely believes in giving back to a community who has given her so much.



Amanda Jones

Business Services Coordinator, Town of Marana Water
Marana, AZ

Amanda Jones currently serves as the Business Services Coordinator for Marana Water, where she oversees customer service, finance, and community engagement for a growing water and water reclamation utility. She has 6 years of experience in the water industry and serves in several leadership positions. She is a Trustee-at-Large on the AZWater AWWA board, active on the UMC Young Professionals Summit programming committee, co-chairs the Water For People golf event in the Arizona section, is the 2020 AZWater Young Professional of the Year, and most recently has created a Womxn in Water professional development group. Amanda holds Bachelors and Masters degrees from the University of Arizona.



Kyle Leon

Operations Manager, Pueblo of Laguna Utility Authority
Laguna, NM

Kyle Leon serves as the Operations Manager for the Pueblo of Laguna's Water Utility Authority, one of the 19 indigenous Pueblos in New Mexico. With ten years of experience with the Water Utility Authority, he has resided on the Pueblo of Laguna his entire life and has dedicated all his years to helping his community as a sovereign Pueblo.



Yajaira Morphonios

Capital Program Controls Manager, Louisville Metropolitan Sewer Authority
Louisville, KY

Yajaira Morphonios is a civil engineer and entrepreneur. Yajaira was born in Puerto Rico where she worked in several leadership roles in the construction industry in the private and public sector. She arrived in Louisville, Kentucky in 2013 to work as the Contracts Manager for a \$1.2B construction project, the Ohio River Bridges Project. Today, Yajaira is the Capital Program Controls Manager for a utility company in Louisville overseeing the \$4.2B 20-Year Facility Plan for Jefferson County. In addition, she is a partner for Strategic Alliance Consultants, a construction project management firm that helps minority and small businesses grow. She is highly active in the Latino community in Louisville and is an ambassador of the JobUp Loan program, which assists immigrants validate their credentials.



Kacey Paul

City Engineer
Marble Falls, TX

Kacey Paul serves as the City Engineer for Marble Falls, where she is responsible for multiple programs and projects, including the disaster recovery team, grant procurement, project management, multi-agency coordination and plan review. She has over 7 years of experience in water resources, civil and environmental engineering experience on projects throughout the states of Texas, Arizona, and California. She is a professional engineer and a certified floodplain manager. Ms. Paul has served in numerous leadership roles throughout the engineering community. She currently serves on the Texas Water Development Board in the Regional Flood Planning Group and the ASCE Texas Section as the Strategic Planning Committee Chair. She holds a Bachelors in Civil Engineering from New Mexico State University and She holds a Bachelors in Civil Engineering from New Mexico State University and attended graduate school at the University of New Mexico for Civil Engineering.

Patekka Pope Bannister

Commissioner, Plant Operations
Toledo, OH

Patekka Pope Bannister has twenty years of experience protecting natural resources. She has experience in wastewater, drinking water, air, hazardous materials, emergency planning, and stormwater programs. Since August 2017, she has been providing oversight to the City of Toledo Collins Park Water Treatment Plant and Bay View Water Reclamation Plant, as the Commissioner of Plant Operations. Her prior assignments included oversight of stormwater and industrial pretreatment water quality programs, for the City of Toledo, in that capacity she developed policies and programs for environmental compliance, actively encouraged green infrastructure projects, and supported efforts to engage the community. Ms. Pope Bannister continues to work to advance regional sustainability and climate adaptation efforts. She holds both a Bachelors and Masters degree in Environmental Management from the University of Findlay.



Jorge Rodriguez

Deputy Director, Utility Services
Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
Laurel, MD

Jorge Rodriguez serves as the Deputy Director for Utility Services for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, where he provides leadership, assistance and support for planning, directing, coordinating and supervising the repair and maintenance of water distribution and wastewater collection systems assets as well as meter operations. He has over 16 years of experience in project oversight, management and engineering in the water/wastewater industry. Mr. Rodriguez holds a Bachelors in Civil Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico - Mayagüez.



Maylinn Rosales

Utility Services Engineer
Henderson, NV

Maylinn Rosales serves as a Utility Services Engineer in the Infrastructure Planning Group for the City of Henderson, NV. Originally from Nicaragua, she attended University in Idaho and subsequently moved to Las Vegas. She has resided in Vegas for the past 17 years where she has become an active part of the Engineering community, first as a private consultant working for a global firm and more recently for the public sector working in the Infrastructure Planning Group for the City of Henderson. She is passionate about helping others while using her knowledge, and is very active with Engineers Without Borders, as well as the American Society of Civil Engineers, where she has served on the National Legislative Committee and the leadership of the ASCE Southern Nevada Branch.



Chris Sharrock

Utilities Superintendent
Pataskala, OH

Chris Sharrock serves as the Utility Director for the City of Pataskala. His career began in the United States Army as a chemical operations specialist. After his

service with the Army, he joined the local Utility Department as a meter reader and progressed into leadership positions over the years. He is passionate about water and wastewater treatment over the course of my career. Under his leadership the Pataskala Utility has been awarded the 2020 OWEA Safety Award and the 2017 Ohio Water Environment Association Outstanding Operator Award.



Tiffany Stewart

Assistant Director and Attorney, Department of Water Utilities
Newark, NJ

Tiffany Stewart serves as the Assistant Director and Attorney for the City of Newark's Department of Water Utilities. Ms. Stewart is a Newark native who holds a Bachelors in Public Health from George Washington University and a Juris Doctorate from Seton Hall University School of Law. Following law school, she worked as a law clerk for the Honorable Bonnie J. Mizdol, began her own firm where she predominantly practiced civil litigation, and then continued her career in public service at the City of Newark as Attorney for the Department of Water and Sewer Utilities. In her current role she handles regulatory compliance, various legal aspects of the Department's operations, as well as administration, personnel, procurement, contract management, capital improvement and infrastructure projects. She also assists the Director with managing the Utility's nearly \$150 million budget. Ms. Stewart was also responsible for the development, creation and launch of the Department's first educational program for students of Newark, the Newark Watershed Science and Leadership Academy. She continues her career in public service and looks forward to making her mark in the community in which she was raised.