

# Meet the UMSL, CCC Team working on the Sue Shear Leadership Academy 2021



CENTER FOR  
CHARACTER &  
CITIZENSHIP

University of Missouri-St. Louis—College of Education

## **Melinda C. Bier, Ph.D.**

Co-Director, Center for Character and Citizenship, UMSL



Mindy is currently the Co-Director for the Center for Character and Citizenship (CCC) and Senior Research Fellow in the Division of Educational Psychology, Evaluation and Research, College of Education, University of Missouri, St. Louis. Mindy's expertise spans the fields of Character Education, teacher preparation and professional development, and the design and use of instructional technology for enhanced teaching and learning. She has extensive experience in the adoption of K-12 educational innovations, providing and managing professional development for geographically and culturally diverse teachers, and in the philanthropic sector. Mindy is the principal investigator for a series of cross-disciplinary service learning projects that address the social determinants of health disparities called Youth Empowerment in Action (YEA!).

## **Deborah Sanders O'Reilly, M.A., M.B.A.**

Center Coordinator/Project Support, Center for Character and Citizenship, UMSL



Debbie O'Reilly is the Coordinator for the Center for Character and Citizenship. Debbie has worked over twenty years in higher education in both the College of Management and Business and the College of Arts and Sciences at National Louis University in Chicago. Formerly, Debbie held the position of Assistant Professor in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Department and had experience in academic administration as department chair, also at National Louis University. Prior to academia, Debbie worked in advertising and marketing in St. Louis. Debbie holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. She also holds a Master's Degree in Psychology from Washington University in St. Louis and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Saint Louis University

**Satabdi Samtani, Ph.D.**

Research Scientist, Center for Character and Citizenship, UMSL



Satabdi Samtani is a research scientist for the CViL project at the Center for Character and Citizenship. She completed her doctorate in Human Development and Family Studies from Texas Tech University. Her primary research interests are in evaluation and monitoring of social and community programs. She is keenly interested in social science research designs, methodology, and analysis. A major section of her work includes measure development, data collection both qualitative and quantitative, data management, and data analysis. She also has experience in project evaluation and secondary data analysis. She began working for the center in November 2018, and previously was a senior research associate at Montclair State University for 2 years.

**Tamala Stallings, M.S., M.B.A**

Graduate Research Assistant, Center for Character and Citizenship, UMSL



Tamala Stallings is a Graduate Research Assistant and the Coordinator for the Sue Shear Leadership Academy for the Center of Character and Citizenship at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Mrs. Stallings has served the St. Louis community for over 20 years in the health and human services sector, providing grant and program management, grant compliance, and educational and social services to children, adults, and families. Tamala has a Master's Degree from Kansas State University and earned her MBA from Lindenwood University. She is currently working toward her doctorate at UMSL in Higher Education-Administration and will pair her years of experience with her doctoral degree to continue serving the St. Louis community advocating for educational equity and access.

**Eboni Sterling, M.Ed.**

Graduate Research Assistant, Center for Character and Citizenship, UMSL



Eboni is a Graduate Research Assistant for the Center of Character and Citizenship and a doctoral student. Previously, she served as a Multicultural Student Services Academic Coach and Peer Mentor Coordinator. Eboni also served as an Academic Advisor for UMSL College of Education. A two-time graduate of the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Eboni earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Master of Education from UMSL. Her roots at UMSL are credited to the Welcome Center, where she began as a tour guide in 2008.

**Chloé Risto, M.Ed.**

Graduate Research Assistant, Center for Character and Citizenship., UMSL



Chloé is a first-year doctoral student in Educational Psychology and a Graduate Research Assistant for the Center for Character and Citizenship. With a Master's degree in Higher Education Student Affairs from Indiana University, Chloé has spent the past 10 years in the nonprofit sector with the American Youth Foundation as the Director of the National Leadership Conference, as well as in higher education with the Brown School at Washington University as the MSW Program Manager.