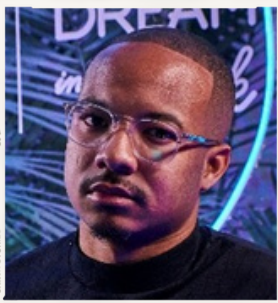


# W Y M A N

## Wyman Welcomes Five New Trustees in 2022

As we begin the New Year, Wyman is excited to welcome five new Trustees to our Board! **Jaylen Bledsoe, Javier Gonzalez, Christopher Hicks, Kyle Lopez, and Carolyn Seward** each bring an array of expertise and experience to their roles as Wyman Trustees. We are excited to partner with each of them in 2022 and beyond, as they help move the organization forward and strengthen our commitment to young people and our community.

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**Jaylen Bledsoe**  
**Chairman, The Bledsoe Collective, Inc. & Managing Director, Flare Partners**

Jaylen D. Bledsoe is a Wyman alum and leads the Bledsoe Collective (investments) & Flare Partners (advisory and consulting firm). At 12 years old, Jaylen started Bledsoe Technologies, an I.T. Consulting Business. With a dream and what he defines as hustle, he scaled a \$100 gift from a family member and a few free projects for friends into a multi-million-dollar global I.T. service provider hiring over 150 employees. Bledsoe Technologies is now the “Information Technology” division of Flare Partners, a consulting firm providing Information Technology, Marketing & Communications, and Management & Operations consulting to a number of Fortune 500 Companies such as AT&T and Ford Motor Company, and celebrities like Steve Harvey and Jordin Sparks.

Beyond his leadership at the Bledsoe Collective, Jaylen is committed to preparing future generations for success with access to every necessary tool and experience in the areas of Entrepreneurship, Entertainment (Arts), Financial Literacy, and Technology. Driven by this mission, he founded the Bledsoe Foundation, making the task a reality through investments, research, and programming. In addition to his work at the Bledsoe Foundation, Jaylen has served on the board of several organizations, including Mathews-Dickey Boys’ & Girls’ Club, the Biome School, Multitasking Hearts Corp, Breach, Jordin Sparks’ The M.A.D. Girls, Inc., and the National Youth Rights Association.

Jaylen Bledsoe and The Bledsoe Collective have been recognized by institutions and organizations including the 100 Most Influential African Americans by Ebony Magazine (alongside President Barack Obama, Oprah, Beyonce, and Steve Harvey), 40 under 40 (Business Journal), St. Louis’ Top 25 African American Businesses by the St. Louis American, and a Presidential Academic Excellence Award by President Barack Obama.

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**Javier Gonzalez**  
**Vice President of Operations & Supply Chain, Emerson**

Javier Gonzalez is Vice President of Operations & Supply Chain for Emerson Commercial Residential solutions, headquartered in St. Louis. He leads the manufacturing and procurement teams for Tool Company, the Emerson business unit responsible for producing and marketing retail and commercial vacuums under the RIDGID and Pro Team brands. Prior to his current role, he held operations and engineering roles at Emerson, and two major protein manufacturing corporations in Colorado and Virginia. Javier has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Arkansas and a master’s degree in Business Administration from University of Virginia’s Darden School of Business. Javier is originally from Peru and enjoys outdoor activities and volunteering.

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### **Christopher Hicks Consultant**

Christopher Hicks is an experienced, results-oriented, environmental, health and safety (EHS) professional. He has extensive experience and expertise in management systems, regulatory compliance, process/project reviews, auditing, training, inspections, and incident investigations. He has worked for employers in the chemical, pharmaceutical, biotechnology, food, and steel industries.

His strong technical prowess and diverse business background enables him to effectively interface with management, engineers, work teams, contractors, and regulatory compliance agencies. His leadership skills on the job and as a community volunteer provides an additional dimension to his professional background and ability to attain optimum business results.

Chris is active in several professional organizations in the EHS field and served as a past president of the American Society of Safety Professionals St. Louis Chapter, where he was honored with the Safety Professional of the Year (SPY) award. Chris has served on several St. Louis County boards and commissions and on the ISU Alumni Association Board of Directors. He holds a MS degree in Industrial Safety from the University of Central Missouri and a dual BS degree in Safety Management and Environmental Safety from Indiana State University. He is a Certified Safety Executive (CSE) through the Certification and Accreditation Board of the World Safety Organization. Chris has taught as an adjunct professor for the University of Central Missouri and has been inducted into two Athletic Hall of Fame – Indiana State University (ISU) and Withrow High School as a former player.



### **Kyle Lopez Community Leader and Volunteer**

Kyle Lopez is a community leader and volunteer. Previously, Kyle served as the President and CEO of Niehaus Building Services, LLC.

He served on Wyman's Young Leaders Board, and then as a Wyman Trustee from 2011-2018. In addition to his service at Wyman, Kyle is involved in the community through Enterprise Bank and Trust, Clayton Bank Board, The Little Bit Foundation, and Mercy Hospital Foundation. Kyle lives in St. Louis County with his wife, Heather Lopez, and their two sons.

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### **Carolyn Seward Founder and CEO, Family and Workforce Centers of America**

Carolyn Seward is the Founder and CEO of Family Workforce Centers of America and has over 40 years of management experience, with the majority being in corporate America. She has managed field and staff operations for over 35 years and has 20 years of experience in total quality management evaluating and analyzing organizational data at for-profit and nonprofit businesses.

Since leaving corporate America (Southwestern Bell/AT&T) in 1996, Ms. Seward has raised and managed over \$175 million dollars in programming revenues for youth services and adults who are unemployed, underemployed, and dislocated in the region. As Director of the Metropolitan Education and Training Center (MET Center), she developed collaborative partnerships to deliver education/training and supportive services to customers daily. The MET Center has become a premiere workforce center in the region and nation, bringing together two multi-jurisdictional education institutions and community-based organizations to serve over 40,000 individuals and families annually.

In 2011, she established Family and Workforce Centers of America, a non-profit organization with a mission to continue to serve youth and families. In August 2013, Ms. Seward was invited by Harvard University, along with 30 other workforce development professionals and experts in brain functioning, to participate in “Exploring New Frontiers for Workforce Development Programs” – a meeting to discuss and develop tools to improve the cognitive thinking and behavior of participants coming through adult workforce programs. She holds an undergraduate degree in Business Administration and Economics and has a Master’s in management and Human Resources from Webster University in St. Louis. She is recognized by many for her dedication to the St. Louis region.

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