

2017  
**Neighborhood  
Leadership  
Academy**



**Team Presentations and  
Graduation Reception**

Thursday, Dec. 14  
6:30-8:30 p.m.  
The History Museum



South Bend  
Heritage

# 2017 Neighborhood Leadership Academy

## Program Leadership

**Diana Hess**, Executive Director,  
Neighborhood Resources Connection

**Dea Andrews**, Executive Assistant to the Director,  
South Bend Heritage

**Scott Palmer**, Neighborhood Leadership Academy Program  
Coordinator, Neighborhood Resources Connection

## Committee

**Ronald A. Silverman** (Outgoing Chair)

 **Keya Young** (Incoming Chair)

 **Tammy Bell**

 **Jasmine Brown**

**Baye Sylvester**

 = Neighborhood Leadership Academy Alumni

## Presenters and Panelists

**Christina Brooks**, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer,  
City of South Bend

**Sam Centellas**, Executive Director, La Casa de Amistad

**Jeanne Monsma**, Manager, Learning and Organizational Development,  
University of Notre Dame  
Office of Human Resources

**Rafael Morton**, President & District D Representative,  
St Joseph County Council

**Cherri Peate**, Director of Community Outreach,  
City of South Bend

**Tim Scott**, President & District 1 Representative,  
South Bend Common Council

**Tracy Skibins**, Deputy Director, South Bend Code Enforcement

# PROGRAM

## Welcome

**Diana Hess**, Neighborhood Resources Connection

**Dea Andrews**, South Bend Heritage

**Christina Brooks**, City of South Bend

## About the Academy

**Scott Palmer**, Neighborhood Resources Connection

## Presentations

### Team 1:

Stephanie Ball, Tyler Foley, Martin Mechtenberg,  
Torrence Moody, Adam Toering

### Team 4:

Breanna Allen, Lisa De Berry, Traci Williams,  
John Winston, Jr., Viridiana Zamarripa.

## Connect with a Neighbor

**Jasmine Brown**, Neighborhood Leadership Academy Committee

## Presentations

### Team 5:

Alicia Czarnecki, Stacie Jeffirs,  
Rachael Sutton, Clarence Walker

### Team 2:

Tammie Acoff, Howard Berberick,  
Melvin Blakely, Kim Clowers

## Looking Ahead

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## Graduation Reception

Please join us in the atrium to congratulate our graduates.

## TEAM ISSUE STATEMENTS

### **Team 1:**

Stephanie Ball, Tyler Foley, Martin Mechtenberg,  
Torrence Moody, Adam Toering

We're committed to strengthening the Near West Neighborhood's people engagement and connected-ness by actively finding, creating, and promoting community events and opportunities.

### **Team 2:**

Tammie Acoff, Howard Berberick,  
Melvin Blakely, Jr., Kim Clowers

What will it take to develop a resource center in the Far Northwest Neighborhood? We seek to increase literacy, unite our community, and reduce the crime and violence rate by offering positive alternatives to youth.

### **Team 4:**

Breanna Allen, Lisa De Berry, Traci Williams,  
John Winston, Jr., Viridiana Zamarripa.

**We Are Homeless** is a group of inspired people looking to educate St. Joseph County on what homelessness is and generate empathy to break down stereotypes.

### **Team 5:**

Alicia Czarnecki, Stacie Jeffers,  
Rachael Sutton, Clarence Walker

Our mission is to connect generations by exploring our community's natural spaces. We envision a fully engaged neighborhood where everybody knows each other.

## **About the Neighborhood Leadership Academy**

The Neighborhood Leadership Academy is a free, multi-session program that empowers South Bend residents to make positive change in their communities.

Our participants have identified issues in the community that are important to them, formed teams, and crafted action plans to address those issues by immersing themselves in the basics of community organizing.

## **What is community organizing?**

Community organizing happens anytime people within a community come together into an organization that acts in their shared self-interest. The Academy is built around four “elements” of community organizing:

- Leadership
- Membership and Organizational Development
- Shared Mission, Vision, and Goals
- Effective Action

## **What did Academy participants learn?**

Over the past thirteen weeks, participants developed a variety of neighborhood leadership skills — such as setting goals, mapping assets, recruiting members, working with government officials, and more. Each skill strengthens one of the four elements, empowering these neighborhood leaders to make more meaningful impacts.

## **About tonight’s program**

Tonight, for the first time, each team will present their issue and share how they have applied these leadership skills to create a plan to address the issue.

## **Welcome, and thank you**

These final presentations are a new addition to the Neighborhood Leadership Academy, so we’re glad you’re here to experience them with us. Whether our participants continue with their team’s action plans or use their skills to develop new ones, we appreciate your continued support of their leadership in South Bend neighborhoods.



**ADVANCED ACADEMY**  
**COMING SPRING 2018**

Watch [nrc4neighborhoods.org](http://nrc4neighborhoods.org) for more information

# 2017 Neighborhood Leadership Academy Graduates

Adam Toering  
Alicia Czarnecki  
Breanna Allen  
Clarence Henry Walker  
Howard Berberick  
John Winston, Jr.  
Kim Clowers  
Lisa De Berry  
Martin Mechtenberg

Melvin T. Blakely, Jr.  
Rachael Sutton  
Stacie Jeffirs  
Stephanie Ball  
Tammie Renee Acoff  
Torrence Moody  
Traci Winston Williams  
Tyler Foley  
Viridiana Zamarripa



Please join us in congratulating our graduates. A graduation reception in the atrium will follow immediately after the presentations.



## Thank you, Partners



The 2017 Neighborhood Leadership Academy is made possible by the Presenting Partners above, and by:

**Express Press,  
South Bend Brew Werks,  
The Sylvester & Tessie Kaminski Foundation, and  
The Bruce G. and Mary A. Robert Family Foundation.**