



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 15, 2021; updated January 28, 2022

CONTACT: Kimberlee Ried, President

Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri

president@jlkc.org

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI ANNOUNCES 2022 BRANTON/HALL COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR AWARD RECIPIENT, SANDRA A.J. LAWRENCE

*Lawrence, Servant Leader in Corporate, Civic, and Community Board Rooms, Driving Results
and Impact through Collaboration*

KANSAS CITY, MO - The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri (JLKCMO) today announced the 2022 recipient of the Branton/Hall Community Collaborator Award, Sandra A.J. Lawrence. Lawrence is being recognized for her dedication, commitment to servant leadership, and making a positive impact in the community through the many organizations she has served in leadership roles. She will receive this award at the 5th annual C3KC conference March 8, 2022, at the Kansas City Union Station.

Named in honor of two beloved League members, Shawsie Branton and Adele Hall, the Branton/Hall Community Collaborator Award, is presented annually to an individual who has made a positive difference in Kansas City through their civic, community and corporate engagement and promoting of social good. Both together and separately, Branton and Hall collaborated across the civic, corporate, and nonprofit sectors to make positive and permanent social change. All told, these women served over 50 nonprofits and were among the first women to serve as leaders of nonprofit boards and civic commissions.

With a 30 year legacy as a leader on the boards of some of Kansas City's most mission-driven civic organizations, including the Hall Family Foundation, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, the Kansas Bioscience Authority, the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, the Children's Mercy Hospitals Governing and Foundation Boards, Midwest Research Institute (now MRI Global), Turn the Page, the Lyric Opera, and Alvin Ailey, Sandra's accomplishments and commitment to Kansas City are commendable.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Her roles as an executive leader include 13 years as CFO and EVP, then Chief Administrative Officer, at Children's Mercy, CFO and SVP at Midwest Research Institute, and President of Stern Brothers Investment Bank. Her past corporate board roles include J.E. Dunn Industries, Westar Energy, the Ivy and Waddell and Reed Trust, and American Shared Hospital Services. Her current corporate boards are Evergy, Sera Prognostics, Brixmor Property Group, Recology, and the Delaware Funds by Macquarie Trust. Her passion for integrity and excellence in corporate governance was demonstrated in her recent roles as Chairwoman of the National Association of Corporate Directors-Heartland Chapter and as Co-President of the Women Corporate Directors – KC Chapter.

“Sandra is a natural builder of networks, relationships and teams. She is the true embodiment of C3KC, bringing corporate, civic and community stakeholders together to spark change,” said Kimberlee Ried, Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri President. “Much like Shawsie and Adele, Sandra is one of the most effective leaders Kansas City has ever seen in terms of seeking out the greatest challenges in our community and pulling diverse stakeholders together to drive consensus in solving those issues.”

Those who have worked with Sandra refer to her quiet but effective, cooperative approach. She is a servant leader who is always looking for ways to build better organizations and ultimately create a more just and caring world. Well known in the life sciences industry, as Chairwoman of the Kansas Bioscience Authority Lawrence, in 2007 she had influence on the spend of nearly \$1 billion in life sciences money on both sides of the state line and through collaboration with a variety of stakeholders, she led the creation of a task force that served as the original blueprint for the region's life sciences efforts.

Lawrence was recruited to Children's Mercy Hospital by Dr. O'Donnell, former CEO. He was quoted in 2007 as having brought her on board to craft a long range, multimillion-dollar master plan and expansion that eventually led to Children's Mercy capturing the majority of the pediatric care market in the region as well as a double digit increase in gross operating revenue. Laura McKnight, former CEO of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation (GKCCF), credits Sandra, who was Chairwoman of the GKCCF at the time, with guiding the Foundation through several strategic initiatives, including one that revamped their donor investment program and led to substantial growth for the organization to more than \$1 billion in assets managed. Lawrence knows well the power of diverse experiences in driving change and seeks out every opportunity she can to educate boards and drive change.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

“My most significant epiphanies have come from borrowing knowledge from one area, and using it to address challenges in another,” said Lawrence. “Through diverse experiences, we can help others see new possibilities and create new solutions.”

In addition to her honor as the 2022 Branton/Hall Community Collaborator, Lawrence has also been named one of the National Association of Corporate Directors Directorship 100; Women Inc’s Most Influential Corporate Board of Directors; the 2019 Black Enterprise Registry of Corporate Directors; a Savoy Magazine Top 100 Corporate Directors; an Ingram’s Magazine 250 Most Powerful Business Leaders in Kansas City; the Harmony Humanitarian; the Central Exchange Woman of the Year and Outstanding Up and Comer; and a Kansas City Business Journal Women Who Mean Business Honoree.

Lawrence holds a Bachelor’s degree from Vassar College, her Master’s degree in Architecture from MIT; and her MBA from Harvard Business School. She and her husband, Dr. Willie Lawrence, have three grown children.

Lawrence will be presented with The Branton/Hall Community Collaborator Award at the 5th Annual C3KC conference at Union Station on March 8, 2022. The conference, organized in its entirety by Junior League volunteers, aims to connect leaders in the civic, corporate and community sectors and features breakout sessions covering a variety of topics with the intent of *Sparking Change* for a better Kansas City. For more information and to purchase tickets or sponsorships, visit jlkc.org/c3kc

###

ABOUT THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri (JLKCMO) is a 501(c)(3) organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

We accomplish our mission by:

- Providing a motivating and supportive environment that stimulates members.
- Increasing our impact in the Kansas City community by effectively coordinating our resources with community needs.
- Maintaining financial stability through our endowed funds and fundraising events.
- Providing comprehensive training opportunities to develop volunteers to better serve the community.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

- Communicating and promoting the organization's mission and historical significance to our membership and the community.

The Junior League reaches out to women of all races, religions and national origins, who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism. Our League currently numbers nearly 1,400 strong. We are women who work full-time, part-time and in the home, single women, married women and mothers. We are women who share diverse interests and backgrounds as well as a desire to improve our community through volunteer action and grant-making. Our commitment has remained unwavering: to develop exceptionally qualified civic leaders who can identify a community's most urgent and pressing needs and address them with meaningful and relevant programs and initiatives that not only improve lives but change the way people think.

Since 1914, the League has been associated with more than 350 community agencies and organizations. Our members have raised more than \$18.5 million for our mission and donated over 2.5 million hours of volunteer time. League members research areas of need in the Kansas City area and educate the membership and the community about those issues. Currently our focus is women and children.