

Deborah Allen
Ph# 314-226-7945

vesselone@gmail.com
St. Louis, MO 63143

Leadership in Action

Talent Acquisition	Talent Management	Business Strategist
Change Management	Spokesperson	Gather & Analyze Data
C-Suite Influence	Media/Other	Cost Effectiveness
Strategic Planning	Brand Influencer	Cultural Awareness
Learning Focused	Technical Writer	Leadership Training &
Grant Management	Innovative	Development
Adjunct Professor	Storyteller	Project Management
Crisis Management	Speech Writer	Leadership
Stakeholder Focused	Transformational Coach Risk	Compassion
Relationship Builder	Management	Empathy

EMPLOYMENT

St. Louis Community College – November 2010 - present Adjunct Instructor – English

- Designed and delivered curricula in media literacy and cultural studies; developed supplemental instructional materials.
- Advised and mentored underrepresented and low-income students, improving retention and academic performance.
- Advised the Black Student Union for five years, promoting diversity and inclusion initiatives within the student body

MO Dept. of Mental Health – March 2021 – March 2025 Community Engagement Coordinator – remote

- Cultivated partnerships across diverse communities, fostering new employment and collaboration opportunities.
- Provided continuous education on community engagement strategies to leadership, staff, and support partners.
- Facilitated community meetings to strengthen relationships, identify improvements, and promote equitable service delivery.
- Collaborated with the recruitment director to design customized recruitment strategies, supporting organizational initiatives.
- Developed and promoted employer branding, oversee new employee orientation, and manage cross-functional relationships.
- Oversaw cultural awareness initiatives as Chair of the Organizational Assessment Workgroup, promoting an inclusive workplace culture.
- Managed payroll, budget planning, and job classification evaluations; prepare mission statements and special reports.

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U.S. Dept. of Commerce – October 2019 – October 2020 Recruiting Manager

- Directed all aspects of Mar/Com projects within St. Louis city/county, including recruitment strategies and media participation.
- Led the development, execution, and assessment of community engagement strategies, achieving statewide scalability.
- Spokesperson – Media/Public/Community
- Speech Writer
- Supervised and mentored 35+ internal and external employees, ensuring compliance with program standards.
- Developed risk management tools and cost-analysis measures to ensure cost effectiveness and operational success.
- Acted as a spokesperson for local media, maintaining a high level of public and private stakeholder engagement.

Lindenwood University – November 2010 – March 2017 - Adjunct Professor/Student Advisor

- Designed and delivered curricula in media literacy and cultural studies; developed supplemental instructional materials.
- Advised and mentored underrepresented and low-income students, improving retention and academic performance.
- Advised the Black Student Union for five years, promoting diversity and inclusion initiatives within the student body

St. Louis Effort for AIDS – Sept 2017 – July 2019 Director, Community Engagement & Development

- Spearheaded community engagement initiatives, aligning internal programs with organizational mission and impact goals.
- Established annual engagement goals to deepen connections within local communities.
- Spokesperson – Media/Public/Community
- Speech Writer
- Supervised team members, provided cultural awareness training, and supported educational programming for enhanced community engagement.
- Managed budget planning, payroll, and project evaluations for traditional and digital marketing efforts.
- Created tools to evaluate risks and operational effectiveness, contributing to comprehensive program improvements.

Write Right, LLC – July 2007 – August 2013 Communications Expert Consultant

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American Heart Association – July 2007 – August 2010 Regional Vice President

MO Department of Transportation – Jan - 2000 – July 2007 Senior Community Relations Specialist

Webster University – Jan. 1997 – Aug. 1999
Teaching Assistant – Media Literacy; Cultural Diversity in the Media Research Assistant– Approaches to Medial Literacy, Art Silverblatt, Ph.D.

Substitute Teacher – St. Louis Metropolitan School District 2016 – present

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Act Missouri – April 2023

Marketing/Communications – Board Member

- Public Engagement
- Relationship Building

Digital International Media Literacy Education - 2020

Leadership Advisory Board

Stray Dog Theatre - Jan 2003 – May 2010

Volunteer – Community Outreach/E&I – Board Member

- Coordinated fundraising events
- Engaged underserved populations – donating theatre tickets
- Spoke to homeless shelters – The Power of Story
- Managed internal and external communications programs/projects. Directed public outreach and public engagement endeavors. Managed and planned development projects to enhance and increase funding while improving the efficiency and productivity of the organization.

EDUCATION

Cornell University – Maryville
University, Ed.D. 2026
Lindenwood University, M.F.A.
University of Missouri, St. Louis, M.A.
Washington University, 2011
Webster University, (with honors)

HONORS/AWARDS

Peer Lead – Critical Incident Stress Management/CISM
Gateway Media Literacy Partnership Week Annual Conference
Author/Performer
Women in the Arts/UMSL – Featured speaker - short stories and poems

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Recipient of Women's Transportation Seminar - Diversity Leadership Award in
2005/Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO).
National Association of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) - Emmy
Award Recipient 1998

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Gateway Media Literacy Partnership – Workshop Facilitator/Writer
The Sheldon Concert Hall & Art Galleries
YWCA Metro St. Louis – Leadership Coach
Youth-In-Need – Leadership Coach
Gateway180 – Motivational Speaker
Association of Black Women in Higher Education
St. Louis Community College – Forest Park
Covenant House – Motivational Speaker
Stray Dog Theatre – Board Member/Community Engagement Director
United Way – Volunteer
Women's Transportation Seminar – Volunteer/Award Recipient
Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) – Member
Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) – Member
Unity Hospice Volunteer
National Association of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS)

PUBLICATIONS

Co-Author – Media Literacy – 3rd Edition
Author – The Church of Forgiveness
Self-Published/Performed – “Word from a Well...defined,”
Designer and contributor to Inside MoDOT—a statewide distributed magazine
Columnist and contributor - St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Columnist and contributor - St. Louis American
Columnist and contributor - The Gateway Heritage Magazine

References available upon request.