

WESTERN MARYLAND

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Member Information



Katrina Wyand-Yurish

Katrina Wyand-Yurish is the director of human resources (DHR) for HB Restaurant Group, which currently owns and operates over 100 Papa Johns pizza franchises in the US and UK. She has more than two decades of HR experience, including learning and development and organizational development consulting.

As the DHR Ms. Wyand-Yurish oversees all HR aspects including benefits, development, talent management, compliance, and employee relations.

She spent more than 10 years with Plamondon Companies, the owner and operator of Roy Rogers Restaurants and Plamondon Hospitality Partners, a franchisee of Marriott and Hilton branded hotels, most recently as the vice president of human resources. Formerly, Ms. Wyand-Yurish worked for PNC Bank as the Vice President and Senior Consultant for Organizational Development, specializing in merger and acquisition change management for senior leadership.

She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and marketing from Shepherd University, and a master's degree in strategic leadership and organizational development from Mountain State University.

Wyand-Yurish is a member of the local Frederick County, Maryland, and national Society of Human Resources Management. She holds dual certifications as a SHRM senior professional (SHRM-SCP), and the Human Resources Certification Institute senior professional (SPHR). Wyand-Yurish also spends time lending her HR knowledge to local nonprofits and the business community, serving on several boards in Frederick and Washington County, Maryland.

Sarah Parsons

Sarah Parsons is from Cumberland, Maryland in Allegany County. She was born and grew up in Cumberland. Sarah has always tried to be an active member of her community, as a child and adolescent she volunteered to help with such organizations as the Vietnam Veterans of America and the Animal Welfare Society among others. Upon graduation from Allegany High School, she pursued her undergraduate degree at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. While at Hood Sarah majored in Political Science, with minors in History and Sociology. While on campus, she served as a peer counselor, peer tutor, member of House Council, and the President of Students Against Driving Drunk. Sarah then attended the Ohio Northern University Claude W. Pettit School of Law, where she was active in the American Constitutional Society, worked as a peer advisor, and served as President of the Legal Association of Women. In 2005 she graduated from Ohio Northern with her Juris Doctor. She then began her career in legal advocacy as a law clerk at the Maryland Office of the Public Defender, before moving on to a position as a case handling Paralegal at Maryland Legal Aid in Cumberland. Sarah is still active in her community, working with various organizations and Boards in Allegany County. Ms. Parsons is very excited to be part of MCCR's Western Maryland Advisory Council as the furtherance of civil rights and working to better her community are both passions she enjoys.



Dr. Artie Travis

Dr. Artie L. Travis is currently the Vice President for Student Affairs at Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Maryland having assumed that role in January 2020. He currently supervises the following departments at Frostburg State University: Career Services, Brady Health Center, Counseling Center, Residential Life and Housing, New Student Orientation, Leadership Programs, Student Conduct, the Lane Student Union, Student Activities, Substance Abuse Programs, Civic Engagement, the Center for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Veterans Services, Cultural Events Programs and Greek Life. Prior to his arrival at Frostburg State University, Dr. Travis served in Senior Leadership positions at a number of other schools, to include serving as Vice President for Student Affairs at Bowie State University for 13 years, Vice Chancellor of Student

Affairs at Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina, Vice President and Dean of Students at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Executive Director of Student Activities and the UConn Student Union at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT., and as Director of Student Activities and Minority Student Affairs at Furman University in South Carolina. Other leadership roles included serving as Assistant Director for Student Involvement at the University of Maryland College Park, and Director of the African American Cultural Center at both UCONN and at Western Illinois University.

Dr. Travis also served as an Adjunct Instructor on a number of the campuses that he served.

- Black Politics in the African American Studies Department at WIU
- Leadership Studies in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Department at WIU
- Freshman Year Experience at UMD and Bowie State University

Dr. Travis received his B.A. in Political Science and M.A. in Public Administration from Western Illinois University and his Doctorate of Education from the University of South Carolina. His dissertation topic was "Leadership Styles of Senior Student Affairs Officers: A comparison by Race and Gender". Dr. Travis also completed one year of Law School at Drake University in Iowa. Prior to starting college and his career serving students, Dr. Travis (Specialist 4th Class) served on active duty for two years (1974 - 1976) in the United States Army as the Communications NCOIC and Air Traffic Advisor at the Heliport in Nelligan, Germany, attached to the 421st Medical Evacuation Ambulance Company.

Dr. Travis was happily married to Ms. Francine Bruce Travis for 32 years before her passing in 2018 (Mrs. Travis was also a Higher Education Administrator serving as Dean of Students at Agnes Scott College, Assistant Dean at Trinity College in DC and at UConn and was a

long-term substitute in Prince Georges County Schools for 9 years as a survivor). Dr. Travis has three daughters, two granddaughters and one grandson. He loves to spend time with his family, plays golf, likes to volunteer, and enjoys his work with young people. He enjoys the outdoors, was an Eagle Scout growing up, ran track and football in high school, played college football, and boxed while in the military. Dr. Travis has been an advocate for high quality student services and leadership development in higher education and making connections with students since he started working in student affairs.



Hailie Toro

Hailie Toro is a social work student at Frostburg State University, minoring in sociology and critical gender studies. Toro has a 4.0 GPA and belongs to the Honors Program and Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society. Toro is the current President of W.O.M.E.N., an on-campus student organization that promotes feminism and activism. Toro also assists with the Department of Social Work and the Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion to uplift underserved communities through digital media and assist with community organizing. Toro has a passion for public policy and advocacy and intends to assist others in ensuring the safety of their civil rights.



Shelley Menear

Shelley Menear is a resident of Garrett County and serves as the Director of Equity, Compliance and Risk Management at Garrett College. Ms. Menear has a Bachelor's in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland- College Park and a Master's in Management from the University of Maryland University College. Ms. Menear has a passion for working with youth and has done so at

the pre-school level up to higher education. Ms. Menear serves locally in Garrett County on the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and participates in Drug Free School and Community efforts. Ms. Menear has also served as the 2nd Vice President for the Maryland Crime Prevention Association. Ms. Menear applied for the WMAC because she wishes to make her community, both the college and county, more welcoming and accepting to all.