

SPEAKER PROFILES

Inas Al Sarmad was born in Iraq, the middle of 5 children. She has all brothers and was raised to be strong like her brothers. She studied English Literature in Bagdad. For years she worked in administration and finance for a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) now called Global Communities. She is married to Usama, a PhD student in Structural Engineering at the University of Tennessee and they have a daughter, Joude. She misses her family back home but loves the opportunities that she has here in the United States.

Dijon Andrews is the oldest of three children, born and raised in East Knoxville. He attended the L&N Stem academy with a concentration in Technology. He went to Morehouse College in Atlanta for two years and is now back in Knoxville at Pellissippi State. He loves the people of Knoxville and says that they are the most hospitable residents around. He says his favorite hobby is to read!

Almaz Gemechu has been Director of Refugee/International Ministries at Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church since 2007. Before seeking political asylum in the U.S. in 2001, she served in the Ethiopian parliament and headed various government departments. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Applied Sociology from Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, and a Master's Degree in International Law from the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. A naturalized U.S. citizen, she serves on the boards of Bridge Refugee Services, Tennessee Immigrant Empowerment Solutions, and the Burundian Church. She works closely with Knoxville Internationals Network, the Burmese Fellowship and the Iraqi community. Her work focuses on connecting refugees/immigrants to community resources.

Don Lindsey retired in 2016 from AAA in Tennessee after more than 39 years conducting traffic safety, public affairs and public relations efforts. He has served on local, state, and national traffic safety committees, including the Tennessee Strategic Highway Safety Plan Steering Committee and the Tennessee Commissioner of Health's Council on Injury Prevention. For his work at AAA, he has earned the Director's Award from the Tennessee Highway Safety Office. Don lives in Knoxville and continues to be active in traffic safety and other community service efforts.

David Massey retired from the City of Knoxville Office of Neighborhoods in 2018 after 10 years of service to the city. In concert with the Police and Engineering Departments, and with the benefit of a great deal of superb public input, he helped develop the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program (NTSP). Now, as a volunteer, he continues to help complete the education component of that program. David is married to Jamie Harris and lives near Rocky Hill.

Angela Petty was born and raised in Knoxville. She has worked with the non-profit community for the past 23 years. She has worked with the disability community as an

advocate and she is a past graduate of Tennessee's Partners in Policymaking class. She is a past recipient of the Southeast Disability Business Technical Assistance Center Award for Community Awareness. She also works with the homeless community, previously through Catholic Charities of East TN. where her homeless program received an award from Catholic Charities USA for the significant work she did through the Elizabeth's Home program to reduce poverty in America. Presently, she works for Knoxville- Knox County Community Action Committee as a Program Coordinator with their Homeward Bound Programs that assist with housing homeless families. She currently is a member of the Knoxville-Knox Co. Homeless Coalition and serves on the City of Knoxville's Mayor's Council on Disability Issues. She has a service dog named Amy who accompanies her almost everywhere.

Jacob Resor was born in Murfreesboro, TN and attended college at Trevecca University in Nashville. After graduate school, he moved to Knoxville in 2016 for an AmeriCorps position. He now works at the Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum, managing the Center for Urban Agriculture. He lives in Old North Knoxville and enjoys running and spending time outdoors.

Evetty Satterfield is a proud Knoxville native! She holds a Special Education degree from Alabama A&M University and a Master of Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis. Evetty understands the importance of mastering your craft to serve your community with passion and knowledge. Evetty has committed service years as a Founding Corps Member for City Year Denver and an Ella Baker Trainer for the Children's Defense Fund - which has allowed her to continue to spread the movement by co-launching East Tennessee Freedom School in 2017. Evetty returned to Knoxville, TN after sharing her talents internationally as the Director of Student Services at Manor International in Abu Dhabi, UAE. She currently serves on the Knox County School Board and outside of her many responsibilities; she finds the most joy by mentoring emerging adults.

Father Ragan Schriver PsyD, MSW, is Assistant Professor of Practice and Director, Master of Science in Social Work Program, UT College of Social Work. In his words, "Social Work is such a great profession to be a part of! This is a chance to make the world a better place for others. I believe that the Social Work education process is more of a "formation" than just training to do a job! This formation process opens us up to people, places, experiences, and ideas that we may never have encountered before. Not to mention the parts of ourselves that we may have never known previously. The process makes us better able to serve others with our lives and hopefully to create a desire to learn more as the social work career begins and grows. I am excited to be a part of the formation of so many people willing to give their lives to make the world a better place."

Becky Wade has served as the Director of the Community Development Department for the City of Knoxville since 2011. The Community Development Department receives funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) including

Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, Emergency Solutions Grants and City general funds for various programs focused on housing, neighborhood stabilization, economic development and homelessness. Prior to employment at the city, she was employed by Knoxville's Community Development Corporation, the local public housing and redevelopment agency, for 31 years. Her last position at KCDC was as HOPE VI Director, responsible for implementation of a \$22 million HOPE VI revitalization program grant focused on the Mechanicsville community. Ms. Wade graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville with a degree in Social Work. She serves on the Board of Directors for the National Community Development Association.

Ernesto Rene Yanes is a Latino gay male, who is originally from San Salvador, El Salvador. He and his family fled El Salvador in December 1980 to go to Houston, Texas, because of the bad political situation (civil war). He moved to Knoxville after completing high school in 1988. In 1992 he became a US Citizen and started attending Pellissippi Community College part time and then transferred to UTK. He graduated in 1999 with a BA in international business and Spanish literature. He says that as a liberal, non-Christian-gay- Latino, living in Knoxville has been challenging and at times painful.



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