Tierney Kirddoll has been with the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) for 18 years and is filling the position of Mentor Kansas Coordinator with the Kansas Volunteer Commission.

She enjoys learning new things and seeking opportunities to support
and advocate for community growth and partnerships. Outside of work, she loves spending time with her family and reading from her ever increasing stack of books.

Sarah Palubinski has been with the State of Kansas for 21 years and has spent the last seven with KSDE. She is the School and Community Partnership Coordinator with the Kansas Volunteer Commission. Her genuine love of people fuels her passion for volunteerism, community enrichment, and social justice, which makes her feel right at home within the Commission.

Sarah and her partner, Nikk Nelson, enjoy spending time watching movies, cooking, shopping, and having fun raising her three girls, which include Brooke and twins Kimora and Kimbria.

DECEMBER IS UNIVERSAL AND NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH!
During December, MENTOR joins people across the country in recognizing Universal and National Human Rights Month! Quality relationships are crucial in providing young people with critical care, support, and opportunities. #HumanRightsMonth

December 5th is International Volunteer Day! On #InternationalVolunteerDay, we say THANK YOU to all the mentors out there who are committed to supporting the next generation as they explore opportunities, navigate challenges & grow into adulthood. This work is so important & it couldn’t be done without you! #MentoringAmplifies
Visiting International Teachers Retreat
Earlier in November, the Visiting International Teachers (VITs), together with their families, met for a day of learning and networking led by Jessica Dorsey, Executive Director of the Kansas Volunteer Commission. These experienced teachers, all from Spain, live and work in Kansas for up to five years as part of a cultural exchange. They teach a variety of subjects ranging from elementary education to high school chemistry. In the 2022-2023 school year, there are eight new VITs and twelve returning VITs.

Exchange teachers sharpen their professional skills and participate in cross-cultural activities in schools and communities. When they return to their home school after the exchange, they share their experiences and increased knowledge of the United States and the U.S. educational system.

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Bring on the people power to address the needs of your community today and tomorrow.

APPLY TODAY FOR AN AmeriCorps Planning Grant

Due January 31, 2023
Materials at kanserve.org

This grant is for organizations interested in a 12-month planning period to develop an operational AmeriCorps program in Kansas. This grant DOES require matching funds. Due date: Tuesday, January 31, 2023.

Visit www.kanserve.org to learn more and to access the application.
Congratulations to Commissioner Mark Stump (Director of Community Service for United Way of the Plains), for being awarded the Kansas Emergency Management Association's Leon H. Mannel Award for Outstanding Emergency Management Support Professional in 2022. We are proud of you and the work you do! You make a difference!
Congratulations to Dr. Jessica Dorsey for being selected as one of Topeka’s Top “20 Under 40”. This award honors Topeka/Shawnee County Community members for their commitment and contributions, both professionally and personally. For more information, visit https://jayhawkcouncil.org/20under40/.
Congratulations to Kay Emerson for being selected as one of YWCA’s Women of Excellence. This award honors women in the community who lead with creativity and vision, trailblazing paths through adversity and lifting others up as they climb. For more information, visit https://www.ywcaneks.org/get-involved/events/woe/.

INTERNATIONAL MEN’S DAY
We salute our Commissioners who serve with us to create better Kansas communities.

PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING: M.O.V.E
Interested in Joining a Virtual Professional Networking Group for Volunteer Managers?

M.O.V.E. Ottawa is a FREE virtual professional association open to
Volunteer Managers who support volunteerism in Kansas. M.O.V.E. stands for Managers of Volunteer Engagement.

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. virtually via zoom

To attend the next M.O.V.E. Ottawa meeting, please join the Zoom Meetings during the standard, scheduled times by clicking this link:

https://ksde.zoom.us/j/88065761415

Meeting ID: 880 6576 1415

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Mission of Managers of Volunteer Engagement (M.O.V.E.) is to build and engage a network of volunteer managers and cultivate a volunteerism culture.

M.O.V.E. Topeka

Meets the Third Wednesday of Each Month
Wednesday, December 21, 2022
9:00 to 10:00 AM
To learn more, please visit www.moveks.org.
Or reach out via Facebook

M.O.V.E. Ottawa

Virtual
Meets the Fourth Thursday of Each Month
Thursday, December 22, 2022
9:00 to 10:00 AM
To learn more, please email united.way.of.franklin.co@gmail.com

Volunteer Managers Meeting

United Way of Douglas County

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of Odd Numbered Months
Tuesday, January 10, 2023
9:00 to 10:00 AM
To learn more, please email volunteer@unitedwaydgco.org

Volunteer Managers Network

United Way of the Plains
2022 Dates T.B.D.
12:00 to 1:00 PM
To learn more, please email Abel Frederic
afrederic@unitedwayplains.org

NOTE: The above dates, times, and locations are subject to change.

CONNECT WITH OUR STAFF

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TBD  
Volunteer

Meg Pearson  
Part-Time Service