

## YP President Elect

### **Katelyn Haniford**

**Recreation Manager - Youth, Teen, Athletics, Special Events, and Marketing, Ferguson Parks and Recreation**

**Bachelor of Science: Recreation, Sports, and Tourism Management, Lindenwood University**



Throughout my years in the field of parks and recreation, MPRA has helped me to grow my career and make life-long professional and personal connections. This organization is not only filled with some of the most dedicated professionals that I have ever met, but passionate for what we do. MPRA has also provided me with so many learning opportunities as well as unforgettable networking events. I've been lucky in the past to have had the opportunity to serve MPRA in a variety of ways, including: Region 4 Education Committee Co-Chair, Young Professional Section Region 4 Representative, 2019 Conference Committee Member, 2020 Conference Committee Social Chair, Student Workshop Committee Member, and as a session presenter at the 2021 MPRA Conference and Expo. It would be an honor and a privilege to again serve this organization as the Young Professionals President-Elect, where I hope to bring new and creative ideas statewide, continue to expand on local networking opportunities in every region, and give back to the organization that has provided me with so much.

My parks and recreation career began as a camp counselor at the age of 16 in my hometown of Webster Groves, MO. While attending college at Missouri State University and completing my degree at Lindenwood University, I came home every summer to eventually work my way up to Camp Director for the City of Webster Groves. I have always known parks and recreation was my passion and I wanted to continue to grow in the field. While in my final semester at Lindenwood University, I completed my internship for the Ballwin Parks and Recreation department. After graduating in December 2018, I began my professional career as Recreation Specialist for the Ferguson Parks and Recreation and have since been promoted to Recreation Manager in July 2021. Currently, I oversee the planning and implementation of all youth, teen, and athletic programming along with special events and marketing. During my time at Ferguson, I have been able to grow our programs, special events, and camps into something our city can be proud of. I have had the honor of receiving my Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Certificate and I have become a Youth Mental Health First Aider. I look forward to achieving my CPRP certification this year.

If elected, I would be honored to serve as president-elect for the Young Professionals Section. I look forward to continuing to build professional connections and helping the Young Professionals Section continue to grow.

## YP President Elect

### **Shelley Fischer**

**Superintendent of Business & Technology, Wentzville Parks and Recreation**

**Bachelor of Science: Health Management, Southeast Missouri State University**



My parks and recreation career began in a round-about way in 2004 when I became a USSF grade 8 soccer referee for Cape Girardeau Parks and Recreation Department; eventually making my way up to officiating state level games for MYSA and high school games for MSHSAA, and also overseeing the scheduling and training of the referees for the youth soccer league. I graduated from SEMO in 2012 with my degree in Health Management with an emphasis in Exercise Science and my ACSM Personal Training Certification with the idea of turning working out and living a healthy lifestyle into a career and helping others along the way. A couple of sales positions and officer manager roles later, I landed my dream job with Wentzville Parks and Recreation in 2016 as their Business Manager. A few years and a title change later, I am currently serving as the Superintendent of Business and Technology overseeing front desk and back of house operations, department safety and financials, and all of the software and hardware technology for the department. In my six years with Wentzville, my passion and love for all things parks and recreation has grown tenfold and every day I get to be a part of the "fun" department for the city by providing quality green spaces and programs for our community. During my time with Wentzville, I have received my CPRP, attended the MPRA Leadership Development Institute, became a CAPRA Accreditation Visitor, and eventually getting more involved with the Young Professional Section. I look forward to helping plan the 2023 MPRA Annual Conference. When I am not working, you can find me spending time with my husband, son, and our Daschund; enjoying all things Disney and even cosplaying as a few characters, with my favorite being Rapunzel.

If elected, I would be honored to serve as President Elect for the Young Professionals Section. I look forward to continuing to build this section and help young professionals grow and develop into future leaders.

## YP Secretary/Treasurer

### Allison Koger

**Recreation Supervisor- Ice Rink, Brentwood Parks and Recreation**  
**Bachelor of Science: Parks, Recreation and Tourism, University of Missouri**

**Master of Arts: Human Development and Family Sciences-Family and Community Services, University of Missouri**



My path into parks and recreation didn't begin until I transferred to Mizzou in my junior year. Like many others, I stumbled upon the degree program and found my home. Growing up in Columbia, I always enjoyed the programs and amenities offered through parks and recreation, a class project where we partnered with Columbia Parks and Recreation to run the Flashlight Egg Hunt, is what really shined a light into what a career in parks and recreation could be. I began working for Columbia Parks and Recreation in 2013 as a part-time recreation assistant and as an intern in 2014. After graduating from MU, I moved to Kansas City and found a position with Kansas City Parks and Recreation in 2016. During my time in KCMO, I ran youth programs, special events, camps and afterschool programs. In 2018, I moved to St. Louis to begin my career with Brentwood Parks and Recreation. From May 2018 to March 2022, I was Recreation Specialist and was responsible for the adult hockey leagues, managing rink staff, and for youth, family, adult, and senior programming. In March 2022, I was promoted to Recreation Supervisor of the Brentwood Ice Rink and am now responsible for overseeing ice rentals, programs, and day to day management of the rink.

During my 10 years in parks and recreation; not only have I been fortunate to attend several NRPA and MPRA Conferences and to receive my CPRP in 2020, I have also been able to network with professionals from across the state. If elected as Young Professionals Secretary/Treasurer, I look forward to being able to continue the positive impact of the section.