

Meet the Oakland80 Career & Education Navigators

Welcome to the Oakland80 Career & Education Navigators, who are working with adults to develop successful careers through assistance with the education, training and additional resources they'll need to achieve their goals. They will be stationed throughout Oakland County, including two navigators who will be coming on board soon to work with students at Oakland Community College in their MTECH program and at Oakland University's Wilson Hall. The navigators will offer guidance, coaching, assistance with paperwork and bureaucracy as well as ongoing support to students as they navigate their career pathways.



TAMARA MYLES

In a 25-year career that has focused on encouraging and motivating others in life and careers, Tamara Myles brings a wealth of experience to her job as the manager of the Career and Education Navigators. She has expertise in workforce development, career coaching, vocational rehabilitation and sales. Myles is a servant leader, life coach, mentor and motivational speaker and is passionate about bringing out the best in the customers she serves. Myles has been a talent development specialist in Waterford and a regional operations manager in charge of recruiting for Auxilio, Inc. She received bachelor's and master's degrees from Eastern Michigan University and has been certified as a Global Career Development Facilitator. Myles will be based in Waterford.



JASON CHAPMAN

Moving from an early career in marketing and public relations to information technology to workforce development, Jason Chapman knows what it's like to transition into a new career path and brings those skills to his role as a Career and Education Navigator. He's been the workforce development director for the Detroit School for Digital Technology, the manager of IT Career Services at Global Information Technology in Southfield, an information security analyst at Knight Code Security, a business analyst at Next Wave Inc. Media Lab and an account manager at a IT firm in Detroit. He's worked with students, returning citizens and Veterans who face barriers to success and has served on the Automation Alley Workforce and Education Development Committee. Chapman received a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. Chapman will be based in Troy.



RACHEL DIXON

As an educator her entire career, Rachel Dixon is passionate about helping children achieve their greatest potential. She brings that same energy and commitment to her role as a Career and Education Navigator. She has served as a childcare site director in Southfield, an assistant pre-K teacher in Royal Oak, a lead toddler teacher in Farmington Hills and the director of Before and After Care Camps in Southfield. She is also the owner of R.E.A.D.D. Mobile, providing mobile childcare services for families in Oakland County, and the co-founder of Blessed Friendzz, helping clients coach clients in building healthy, long-lasting relationships. Dixon received an associate degree from Colorado Tech University and studied child development and early education at Lansing Community College. She has volunteered with AmeriCorps, and partnered with the Detroit Public Schools and the Michigan Institute for Nonviolence Education, working closely with students to teach them conflict resolution. Dixon will be based in Southfield.



CARLTON ELAM

Carlton Elam has provided counseling, case management and spiritual and moral support to clients and his congregation throughout his career, which has prepared him well for his new role as a Career and Education Navigator. He was a social services case manager for the Salvation Army in Pontiac and the Volunteers of America in Warren, a circulation assistant at the Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham, as well as a minister and teacher at the Christ Temple Church in Pontiac. In those roles, he assisted families and young men who were facing financial and personal challenges and helped them realize that they are all uniquely gifted. Elam received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in Religious Education from Rochester University. Elam will be based in Waterford



JANICE FITZHUGH

A powerful force in the workplace, Janice Fitzhugh plans to bring her 15 years of community engagement and outreach services into her new role as a Career and Education Navigator. Working with non-profits and public service organizations, Fitzhugh has specialized in coordinating initiatives to promote the services provided to the community. She was the program director for the Sisters Network of Greater Metropolitan Detroit to help promote health education; a research assistant at the Wayne State University/Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit, working with breast cancer survivors; an event and training coordinator for the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit; a health initiative coordinator for the American Cancer Society in Southfield and a manager for the Girl Scouts of Southeast Michigan. Fitzhugh received a bachelor's degree from Wayne State University. Fitzhugh will be based in Oak Park.



TONYA MEDLOCK

Tonya Medlock, a Veteran of the United States Army, brings 15 years of workforce development experience to her new role as a Career and Education Navigator. She started her career as a job developer/case manager for the Foundation for Behavioral Resources, before moving to Jewish Vocational Services as a talent development specialist and the state of Michigan where she was an unemployment insurance examiner. She also completed an internship with the HAVEN Domestic Violence Shelter. Medlock received associate, bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Phoenix and has been certified as a Global Career Development Facilitator. Medlock will be based in Pontiac.



CAL TALLEY

Cal Talley is uniquely qualified for his role as a Career and Education Navigator after spending the majority of his career helping young people navigate job markets. As a program manager for the Youth Development Corp., special assistant to the Provost at Saginaw Valley State University and program development director for My Brothers Keeper in Saginaw County, Talley has provided guidance and helped build systems to close the education and career achievement gaps for people living in urban communities. He also gained valuable management experience as a supervisor for Consumers Energy in Jackson. As a navigator, he will help ensure that residents know about the educational opportunities and financial assistance that will help them achieve their career goals. Talley received a bachelor's degree from Northwood University and attended the Executive Program at the University of Michigan's business school. He has been a board member of Bay Futures Economic Development, the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, the Bay Area Boys and Girls Club, the American Association of Blacks in Energy and the Bridge for Racial Harmony in Saginaw. Talley will be based in Novi.



PAUL WIERZBICKI

With recent experiences as a student, training as a social worker and his time as a social service provider, Paul Wierzbicki is equipped with the knowledge, skills and abilities to help Oakland County residents in their career journeys. The majority of his experience comes from working with people with disabilities, helping them find their strengths and skills that will help them overcome barriers and achieve their job goals. His career started as a senior diversity leader at the Arts Academy in the Woods in Fraser and he's been a behavior tutor for the Judson Center in Royal Oak, an employment specialist with JVS Human Services in Southfield, a counselor for RISE at the University of Michigan, a medical case manager at Corktown Health in Detroit and a mental health therapist at River Oaks Psychology in Milford. He received bachelor's and master's degrees in Social Work from Wayne State University. Wierzbicki will be based in Waterford.