

2022 Board of Directors Candidates

Mary Auker Endres

Maxine Cook

Gretchel Hathaway

Stephanie O'Hara

Jessica Purdy

April Russell

Kim Tull

Candidate Biographies

Mary Auker-Endres

Mary Auker-Endres is a community organizer and trainer. She lives in Elizabethtown with her husband and 8-year-old son. She works primarily running political campaigns and organizing for justice in Lancaster County as well as Pennsylvania more broadly. A committed advocate of diversifying the candidates and campaign staff in our area, she has taught dozens of free campaign trainings. Additionally, she has served on the ECHOS board in Elizabethtown, focused on fundraising for their large shelter expansion and on the board of the Lancaster LGBTQ+ Coalition, focused on board governance and policy creation. Mary previously worked as a doula, assisting birthing and adoptive families in preparing for parenthood and training other doulas around the country on how to be affirming to all families. She believes deeply in the mission of the YWCA and would be honored to serve on the board, assisting with political/voter education initiatives, housing services, development, or in any other capacity needed or desired.

Maxine Cook

Maxine Cook has served for one year on the Mission Committee of Lancaster's YWCA and seeks to continue and further her involvement in the organization's service to the local and broader community. In addition to her leadership role in the local NAACP and her career in higher education, she has also been employed for over seven years with Lancaster County's Domestic Violence Services (DVS). Her successful completion of required annual professional development for DVS and Lincoln University, as well as her responsibilities with the NAACP to respond to discrimination complaints from Lancaster County community members, all enhance the knowledge and skills she will bring to the YWCA board in meaningful ways that align with the mission of the YWCA in order to have a positive impact in the lives of others.



Dr. Gretchel Hathaway

Dr. Gretchel Hathaway began her work as Franklin & Marshall's first vice president for diversity, equity, and inclusion on August 20th 2020. Reporting to President Barbara Altmann, she provides vision, leadership, and guidance on a full spectrum of diversity, equity, and inclusion matters. She has a long history as an advocate for eliminating racism and sexism and fighting against other biases and issues that negatively impact communities. Previously, she was the dean of diversity, equity, and inclusion and chief diversity officer at Union College in Schenectady NY, where she led strategic plan diversity initiatives with its board of trustees, faculty, and administrators. She worked at Union for 22 years, where she also served as the Title IX Coordinator for thirteen years and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance officer for 22 years. She also supervised Union's Office of Intercultural Affairs, served as Union's director of community outreach, and taught in the Sociology Department. Gretchel earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Manhattanville College and her master's degree in the same field from Yeshiva University. She holds a doctoral degree in social work from the University of Pittsburgh.

Stephanie O'Hara

Stephanie O'Hara, a northern Lancaster County native, has an extensive background in marketing, sales, project management, and employee management and development. For the past nine years, she has held the position of Vice President of Sales & Marketing for Landmark Homes, a custom home builder in Ephrata, PA. O'Hara earned her bachelor's degree in Business Management from Lebanon Valley College and excels in leading and directing. She is a passionate and dedicated professional who thrives in a high pressure setting and is an asset in environments where her personality and ability to connect with others can be utilized to cultivate relationships. Stephanie has served as a volunteer mentor and coach for young women in various capacities over the years, including the Lancaster Chamber Women in Business mentoring program and the Partners in Parenting Program for mothers at risk in Berks County. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling and reading and is the proud mother of two adopted children.

Jessica Purdy

Jessica Purdy's desire for a more inclusive and accepting society led her to become an Activist, a Public Speaker, and the Founder of FIC Human Resource Partners, LLC. Her identity as a panromantic, asexual, transwoman is central to her life and work. She is, as they say, Out and Proud. But rather than 'coming out,' she brings people into her confidence, her truth, and her life. Her personal experiences and mindset of 'bringing people in' have made her an effective leader, facilitator, and change agent. Her work towards inclusion and equity began while serving in the military where she sought to address injustices within the Army's command level nonjudicial implementation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, work that has continued throughout her career portfolio. She was a founding member of the Lancaster LGBTQ+ Coalition and the Lancaster Pride Association Board Chair. She's been serving on the Mission Committee of the Lancaster YWCA since January of 2020, while also serving on the Women Connect Leadership Team and The Keystone Business Alliance Board of Directors. Her advocacy work includes trans rights, the PA Equality Act, and expansion of Aging Resource Programs to include LGBTQ+ initiatives.



April Russell

April Garrett Russell, JD has dedicated her personal and professional life to service. April has used her legal background to help those in communities find the best path to finding their version of success. As an Educator with COBYS Family Services, she teaches evidence-based courses in topics like parenting, women's empowerment, and others. She is currently the Chapter President for the Lancaster Alumnae Chapter and Primary Advisor to the Lambda Gamma Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She is also on the Board of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Fund. April also worked for ten years as a long-term substitute in the School District of Lancaster. As one of a few teachers of color in those buildings, she developed relationships with the community that assisted in coordinating and maintaining parent/teacher relationships. For eight years, she was the Life Skills/Job Skills Instructor for Chester County Children, Youth, & Family Services providing the participants with the skills necessary to search for, obtain, and maintain a job, addressing the deficiencies of basic skills to begin productive lives as adult citizens. Additionally, as a Board Member and Diversity Instructor for Project Blueprint, she trained minorities in Lancaster County to be on the boards of non-profit organizations.

Kim Tull

Kim Tull is a Creative Resource Manager at Godfrey. Her responsibilities include managing a creative team, working directly with clients to interpret their needs and relaying those to creatives to connect the dots, engaging outside freelance resources when their expertise is needed, and working on Godfrey's marketing team. Prior to joining Godfrey, she had her own creative business for 12 years. Kim is a lifelong Lancaster County resident and has been involved in the community through a variety of activities that are important to her as a woman and single mother of two biracial children. Being part of a Women's Empowerment group, and bringing awareness to social issues and inequalities that women specifically face, is extremely fulfilling. She has also served the community through working with Attollo, a Lancaster foundation that helps underserved, majority minority students achieve their goals of higher education, helping them become established in Manheim Township High School. She also stays abreast of community issues to provide support to them whenever and however she can. These activities include marching with March for Our Lives to combat gun violence, gathering in protest to support the Affordable Care Act, supporting the BLM movement and protests, and volunteering twice a week at the Blessing of Hope food distribution center.

