

NEWS RELEASE

Ilene Shapiro—Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Leadership Akron welcomes county team members to Signature Class and Diversity on Board

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—County Executive Ilene Shapiro is proud to announce Sarah Buccigross, Assistant Director of Finance and Budget, will be a member of Leadership Akron's Signature Class 42. Throughout the flagship program, forty-four distinguished leaders will embark on a deeply immersive experience designed to awaken purpose, expand perspective, and ignite lifelong connection.

Buccigross earned her bachelor's degree in criminology and sociology from The Ohio State University and her master's degree in accounting from the University of Akron. She began her finance career at a small CPA firm before joining the City of Akron's Finance Department, where she held a variety of roles. She later worked as the Director of Finance for Twinsburg. Buccigross has served as the Assistant Director of Finance for Summit County since 2023.

"Sarah's financial knowledge and ability to create meaningful relationships are unmatched. She blends these two skillsets effortlessly, making her a strong asset to our team, community members, and the County," said Executive Shapiro. "Sarah consistently goes above and beyond without hesitation and leads with grace, compassion, and confidence. We are proud to have her on the team and grateful for all she does."

Executive Shapiro is also pleased to announce Job and Family Services team members, Hope Evans-Oliver and Jason Betts, will be representing the County in Leadership Akron's Diversity on Board Class 10. During the 9-month program, a diverse group of participants will have the opportunity to gain the knowledge, skills, and connections to effectively serve on boards.

A University of Akron graduate, Evans-Oliver began her journey in public service as a case manager with Job and Family Services. As a supervisor with Ohio Means Jobs Summit County, she supported jobseekers by fostering access to employment and training opportunities. Evans-Oliver now serves as Program Coordinator for Non-Emergency Transportation, ensuring that individuals facing transit barriers can reach essential services.

"Hope's dedication and expertise led her into critical roles that have expanded her impact across the county," says Executive Shapiro. "She has earned a reputation as a caring, wise and service-oriented team member."

Betts earned his degree in Communication Studies from Kent State University. Following his graduation, he built a strong foundation in sales and customer service management through progressive roles at

several organizations. In 2016, Betts transitioned to public service, joining the Department of Jobs and Family Services as a case manager. Later, he took on roles including investigator and long-term care specialist before advancing to his current position as Social Program Coordinator. Committed to continuous professional development, he is currently pursuing his master's degree in social work at Walden University.

Executive Shapiro states, "Jason's diverse background in corporate leadership, public service, entrepreneurship, and ministry positions him as a well-rounded leader dedicated to making a positive impact in both professional and community settings. We look forward to seeing where the future leads Signature Class 42 and Diversity Board Class 10."

Leadership Akron will officially announce Class 42 and Class 10 at its 2025 Annual Meeting & Read Family Difference Maker Award Reception on Thursday, August 21.

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