



## Denise Abdul-Rahman, The Chisholm Legacy Project

My commitment to serve is because of our common interest to solve systemic injustice and climate change in order to move us toward our wildest imagination. I am a Special Projects Manager, Great Lakes/Ohio Valley for The Chisholm Legacy Project. I hold a BS in management, MBA in healthcare management, and a health informatics designation from Indiana University School of Informatics and is a Black Women, Foreign War, Veteran of Operation Desert Storm. I have led the support for building equitable clean energy projects; models for PowerUp Clean Energy Jobs to infuse the Black Green Pipeline initiative, Just Transportation and Equitable Goods Movement, and equitable clean energy policy and practices that is ramping up minority and women business enterprises, fair chances, and geographic imperatives.

Among my body of work accomplishments are the successful launch of the PowerUp initiative in Evansville, Indiana as published and distributed to 750,000 members of IBEW and the successful organizing of an “Our Youth Scientists” and “Our Community Scientists” initiative deployed in East Chicago Indiana. A City with 3 zones declared as a superfund site by the US EPA, with over 91,000 parts per a billion of lead. My most recent honors and recognition are Community Service Award 2021, NAACP Medgar Evers Nominee 2021, Vote Solar Dr. Espanola Jackson Award 2020, Faith-Based Rev. Mozell Sanders Drum Major for Humanities Award 2020, Indiana University Robert McKinney School of Law Environmental Protector Award 2019, NAACP Indiana Hazel B. Hunter Award 2019 and the NAACP Indiana President’s Award 2020.

I currently, serve the Indiana State Conference of the NAACP, the Environmental Resilience Institute Advisory Board, Vice President of Midwest Renewable Energy Association Board, People’s Solar Energy Fund, a member of the National Environmental Leadership Program Fellow and serves the United States Speakers Bureau. I have served in many other capacities, former Vice Chair of the City of Indianapolis Air Pollution Control Board, as well as a Delegate to Glasgow COP 26, Paris COP 21 and Global Climate Action Summit.

In 2013, I became involved with the Network. Since that time, I served two terms on the Steering committee, helping to shape the NorthStar and the commitment to equity. Other areas I participated in the Coal Working, Energy Efficiency, Distributed Generation, and Environmental Justice groups. In addition, I’ve helped support outreach of NAACP members to the Transit working group in the Midwest. In addition, provided a presentation to members regarding a plan to empower communities working for a Just Transition to a clean energy future and moderated a discussion with Jacqui Patterson and much more. Lastly, I have served on the Midwest Energy News’ 40 under 40Nomination Committee for 2 years. I look forward to the ongoing development of the Action Teams. It would be an honor to serve again on the steering committee, and I hope that you will support my candidacy. I look forward to continuing to support the important work of the RE-AMP Network.

## Rachael Belz, Ohio Citizen Action

I’m running for one final two-year term on the RE-AMP Steering Committee. It’s bittersweet to say that, because if re-elected, I would be at the end of my term limits to serve. But that also makes way for some of you reading this to consider running for the RE-AMP Steering Committee in the future. I appreciate the faith and trust you’ve put in me and fellow Steering Committee colleagues through what have been challenging times for us all. Our RE-AMP network, with the solid leadership of our staff and critical



membership participation, has weathered these times well. And we still have a lot more to do! Breaking down systemic racism in all parts of our movement continues to be a strong moral compass for organizations involved within the network. Partnerships with community groups have been growing, making our work stronger from the inside out. I'm excited to earn your vote one more time to serve on the RE-AMP Steering Committee.

## Matt Gaboury, Argosy Foundation

My first introduction to RE-AMP- serving on the 2019 Annual Meeting Planning Committee- was a bit of a whirlwind coming only a few months into my new job as a Program Officer at the Argosy Foundation. It didn't take long, however, for me to recognize a key part of what makes RE-AMP so special- the people. From the intricate yet accessible topics my planning committee colleagues were developing, to the warm-hearted embrace I received from so many at the meeting itself, to an epic night of karaoke in Milwaukee with those instant new friends- it was clear the RE-AMP community hits the full checklist of what makes the Midwest the best- kind, funny, smart, and passionate individuals. It was my continued involvement in the network that helped me recognize the other half of the RE-AMP secret sauce, the unique and flexible collaborative network structures that create opportunities for everything from wonky campaigns around building insulation, to in-depth trainings around building movements, to informal lunch time break room discussions around building up the wonders of the Real Housewives (okay, maybe that last one was just me).

RE-AMP has also been uniquely valuable to me as I've navigated the new and often perplexing world of philanthropy after prior roles in the environmental education field. Not only have I been exposed to countless new topics and trainings that have inspired the foundation's research and grantmaking, but I also believe a truly underrated strength of the RE-AMP model is the way that all members – funders and advocates alike- are invited to sit at the same tables, in the same meetings, on the same topics and truly listen, learn, and collaborate with one other. While of course no system can fully alleviate the inherent power imbalances of philanthropy, RE-AMP is one of the few places I've so easily found myself able to build authentic relationships based around camaraderie and curiosity and to hear honest perspectives in conversations around topics like how organizations are trying to cope with COVID and what the heck is going on in Ohio? (A perennial question.) So appreciating all the effort and energy from so many that go into making RE-AMP successful, I've done my best to contribute my own time and skill sets to areas where I can possibly be of service– in addition to the annual planning meeting, I've really appreciated being able to serve on multiple years of the Strategic Action Fund Grants Committee, the Emergency Rapid Response Fund Committee, and a recent committee more broadly looking the RE-AMP grants process as a whole and ways it can be improved and evolved to be even more equitable and impactful. Not only have these been illuminating and rewarding experiences, but they've helped give me a high-level overview of just how much RE-AMP makes possible across so many sectors– no wonder the work of RE-AMP can be so hard to sum up!

Ultimately, if I had to try and sum that work up myself, I would say RE-AMP is a highly successful but always evolving experiment in building new and needed collaborative capacity towards some of the most pressing climate priorities of our time. It's also an experiment I believe is wholeheartedly deserving of more ongoing investment and attention from the funding community, and if we're really dreaming big- one that should be recreated across many more regions and issue areas. While the latter may be outside the bounds of the Steering Committee, I'd love to help assist with the former, and the many



other important considerations and conversations the committee undertakes, if the community feels I can be of service at this time.

## John Farrell, Institute for Local Self Reliance

Being on the REAMP Steering Committee has been an unexpected pleasure and I would be delighted to return for a final term in support of REAMP's equitable deep decarbonization and my own journey toward better integrating the REAMP network's principles into ILSR's work of building local power. I feel like I bring three things to the table: a wonky interest in reviewing budgets, an interest in finding consensus on challenging topics, and a desire to make our collective meeting space comfortable (and sometimes even fun). As a co-executive of a white-led nonprofit research and advocacy organization, I admire how our network allows us to have a common vision but a wide variety of approaches. I appreciate how RE-AMP members can, through our vision, offer a moral compass (in addition to science-based policy) for our collective decarbonization work. My hope in my final term is to support CEO Melissa Gavin and staff in building strong internal and financial infrastructure to support the ongoing mission of collaboration and strategic action.

## Rachel Myslivy, Climate and Energy Project

The RE-AMP Network provides transformative engagement, practical skill-building, and encouraging community. When I attended my first annual meeting in 2015, I was blown away at RE-AMP's comprehensive and innovative approach to think systemically and act collaboratively. Through RE-AMP, I have seen significant growth and collaboration among members that have had measurable impacts on the climate and energy movement in the Midwest. Engagement in the network, particularly the Systems Thinking Academy, has changed the way I view climate and energy work and the way I collaborate with others. Since 2015, I have served as a member of the Steering Committee, as the Co-chair for the Agriculture Hub, on the Equitable Deep Decarbonization Guiding Principles Committee and the EDD Summit Planning Committee, and on two (maybe three?) Annual Meeting Planning Committees. I've participated in two Systems Thinking Academies, the Clean Energy As a Human Right Summit, and the Collaborative Leadership Program. I was instrumental in bringing Kansas into the Network and recruiting Kansas-based organizations to join. I believe that the more you put into the network, the more you get out of it. Serving the Network as a Steering Committee Member gives me the opportunity to give back to an organization that has been so impactful to my awareness and growth; I'm committed to helping shape the future of RE-AMP so we can meet our North Star Goal to equitably eliminate greenhouse gas emissions in the Midwest by 2050.