

# BETTY M. HART

North Aurora, IL 60542

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Impactful leader and change champion with two decades of experience leading high performing teams and directing award winning federal and state level programs that promote workforce development, innovation & entrepreneurship, education, and equity and inclusion. Committed to improving environments that promote an integrated approach to social innovation through strategic partnerships. Influential and trustworthy; offers a diverse and future focused leadership style which inspires rapid creativity and meaningful collaborations amongst regional executives, industry professionals and community stakeholders.

- ✓ Valued experience and demonstrated expertise in development, planning and delivery of strategies, policies and programs in federal and local government, national and regional stakeholder management, public/private partnership and community engagement.
- ✓ Community champion who advances equity and inclusion around education and workforce innovation; Lead stakeholder partnership with City of Aurora to host first national Smart Cities Youth Forum to develop cross-generational collaborations in Emerging Technologies.
- ✓ Expertise in Workforce Development practices, policy development and research; topics include WIOA, Future Workforce trends, Transition and Employment, Executive Training and Development and federal and state level workforce programs and policies.
- ✓ Contributing member of Chicago Executive Learning Exchange, Chicago Inno, Illinois P-20 Council & 60 by 25 Network, 1871, DuPage NAACP, Great Lakes Equity Center and local/national veterans organizations. Delivers insightful and focused presentations, designed and facilitated innovation challenges, and training forums to over 300+ professionals.

## SKILLS & EXPERTISE

- Creativity & Problem Solving • Leadership & Networking • Program & Policy Development • Strategic Thinking Workforce Development
- Project Management • Public Speaking & Training • Diversity, Equity & Inclusion • Research & Data Analysis

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

### Regional Veteran's Employment Coordinator

November 2020 - Present

Develops and manages regional and national strategic outreach initiatives to support engagement with employers, service organizations and stakeholders to improve veterans' hiring throughout the Veterans' Employment & Training Service (VETS) Chicago Region; servicing the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Researches and analyzes trends to formulate strategic options and plans designed to improve the communication to stakeholders regarding the delivery of services to veterans with special emphasis on program activities to help female, homeless, special disabled and disabled veterans and service members about to separate from active duty.

Coordinates with 2400 American Job Center (AJC) service delivery systems, state workforce agencies, Veteran Service Organizations and VETS team members to promote the hiring of veterans, including provision of information including labor market information, technical assistance as appropriate, and sharing of promising practices.

### Key Accomplishments

- Led first-of-a-kind strategic partnership with International City/County Management Association (ICMA) to maximize their new veteran hiring program and advance professional leadership, management, innovation and ethics across local government.

### Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy | Innovation Program Manager

August 2016 – November 2020

Senior program manager responsible for leading the development and implementation of a workforce innovation vision across the academic region of responsibility. Actively drove new growth opportunities to identify, prioritize, develop and launch new products, programs, services and business models. Valued partner in state level and local policy development initiatives to include researching and analyzing data, planning, training and implementation goals for academic & career equity in STEM. Directed project teams that design, pilot, and implement programs and events which prepare students for continued education and career success.

## Key Accomplishments

- Member of award winning team for innovative learning; 2017 People's Choice Award, Chicago Innovation Awards. Consecutively recognized by peers for the "Community Builder" employee appreciation award 2017 & 2018.
- Advocate for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy development initiatives; committee member and lead facilitator of social impact, campus-wide discussions and events for 700+ students, staff and faculty. Developed STEM Pathways Program to align IMSA policy on Equity & Inclusion and state PWRA initiatives to provide career development experience to 350+ underserved youth.
- Redesigned academy internship experience as formal/applied business research program for 400+ students. Developed relationships with Chicago-city based accelerators 1871, mHUB and MATTER and government agencies - City of Aurora and IL State Treasury, as host locations; 22 additional businesses have hosted IMSA interns since 2018.

## Department of Defense | Workforce Development Program Manager

August 2008 – August 2016

Regional Manager of Transition & Employment Program for Department of Defense (DoD) community of 26,000+ members. Served as the Joint Force Headquarters (installation) regional planner, policy analyst and advisor on the Transition Assistance Program - Goals, Plans and Success (TAP GPS), Veterans Employment, USERRA and VA benefits programs. Managed a Learning Center which included a training facility for workshops and seminars, private consultation rooms, public resources and services. Designed curriculum/master training plans to ensure compliance with the DoD transition program goals, laws and policies. Managed the regional employee training program and validated budgeting of over \$250,000 in funds, resources and personnel allocations.

## Key Accomplishments

- Lead Project Officer for Air Force inaugural partnership with US Chambers of Commerce - Hiring Our Heroes Transition Summit. Event offered employment opportunities, outreach and support to over 16,000+ transitioning service members, veterans and spouses in the Metro area.
- Career Training Program recognized for Best-Practices and "next-level ideas" by Armed Forces global learning centers; selected as Department of Air Force Employment and Transition program panel expert/representative at National Learning Center, University of Colorado to redesign government workforce development program.
- Successfully led a team of 21 employees and 10 program partners; In less than one year, program rated "Outstanding" and recognized for Best Practices in Team Development during annual By-Law inspection for Headquarters Air Mobility Wing. Organization recognized as Air Force "Team of the Year 2015" and awarded organization "Civilian of the Quarter", (Jan-Mar 2015) for innovative program initiatives.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

**Master of Art, Human Behavior** – National University – LaJolla, CA – 2008

**Bachelor of Science, Organizational Management** – University of Phoenix – Phoenix, AZ – 2006

**Certifications:** *Insights for Innovation - IDEO™, Foundations of Design Thinking - IDEO™, 4-Lenses Behavioral Assessment - Shipley Communications™, 7 Habits of Highly Effective People - Franklin Covey™, Veterans to Work - SHRM*