Dr. Stephanie Ivey  
University of Memphis

Dr. Stephanie Ivey is the Associate Dean for Research of the Herff College of Engineering and a Professor with the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Memphis. She directs the UofM’s Intermodal Freight Transportation Institute, the Southeast Transportation Workforce Center and the West TN STEM Hub. Her technical research includes a focus on journey to school in urban areas, transportation planning (particularly related to freight impacts), livability assessment in urban communities, and strategies to engage citizens in the transportation planning process. She has a strong record of STEM workforce and education research, with special emphasis on transportation workforce development, partnerships between industry and academia, and increasing representation of women and underrepresented minorities in STEM.

Ivey currently leads the transportation operations focus of the Federal Highway Administration’s National Transportation Career Pathways Initiative and a new $5M multi-urban collaborative for urban undergraduate STEM education funded by the National Science Foundation.

She is a member of the Executive Committee of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Transportation Education Council, the ITE Diversity and Inclusion Committee- STEM Sub Committee, the American Society of Civil Engineers National Engineers Week/Discover-E Task Committee and the TRB Standing committee on Maintenance and Operations Personnel. She also serves on the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Transportation Industry Council and the Board of Directors for the Greater Memphis IT Council.

Dr. Aaron Robinson  
University of Memphis

Dr. Aaron Robinson is an Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator for the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in the Herff College of Engineering at the University of Memphis. He is a research associate with the Intermodal Freight Transportation Institute and is also a member of the DRONES Research Cluster. His expertise includes advanced technologies, intelligent systems and sensors, with specific interest in sensor-triggered communication for wireless networks. Dr. Robinson serves as faculty advisor for the University of Memphis student chapters of National Society of Black Engineers and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.
Dr. Sammy L. Comer

Tennessee State University

Dr. Sammy L. Comer is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural Sciences and Director of International Programs in the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences at Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee. Since joining the TSU faculty in May 1974, he has been engaged in research and teaching in agribusiness, rural development, community development and farm management. He has also been involved in international development and research.

During his tenure at TSU, Comer has served as visiting professor with the Farmer Home Administration working on special minority cases for two years. He also served as visiting professor with the Tennessee Valley Authority where he worked on Agricultural Marketing for Small Farmers.

Comer has served as a consultant on various international projects in locations including: Tanzania, Botswana, Malawi, Swaziland, Lesotho, Thailand, Indonesia, Turkmenistan, South Africa, Hungary, Cambodia, and India. He has worked on several projects over the past ten years in India, working with several India Universities. On-campus activities include: coordinator of the “Swaziland Cropping Systems Research and Extension Training Project”, coordinator for “Natural Resources-Based Agricultural Research Project, Senegal”, Director of the South Africa Higher Education Project, Co-Director of Agribusiness projects in India, coordinator for participant training and designed short courses for international trainees. Most recently he was coordinator of the Training Extension Workers in Iraq Project at Tennessee State University and recently served as campus coordinator of the Strengthening Afghan Agriculture Faculties agreement (SAAF).

Mimi Thomas

Middle Tennessee State University

Mimi Thomas is Director of the Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation at Middle Tennessee State University, a post she has held since 2008. She received her Bachelor of Business Administration, and her Master of Arts both from Middle Tennessee State University. She served as Instructor for the FirstSTEP program and focused on instruction to students towards preparation for their undergraduate research experiences. Mimi also has prior service in the Career Development Center and Special Events Programming at MTSU.
J.T. Young is the 11th president and chief executive officer for Memphis Light, Gas and Water. A Pensacola native, Young received an associate degree from Pensacola Junior College (now Pensacola State College) and a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Florida. He has an MBA from the University of West Florida and is a graduate of Harvard Business School's General Management Program.

Young is a graduate of Leadership Pensacola and Leadership Florida. He has served as a gubernatorial appointee on the Judicial Nominating Commission for Florida's 1st Judicial Circuit, and he formerly served as a Trustee of the University of West Florida Board.

Young was the recipient of the 2017 Pensacola Area Commitment to Excellence "Community Leader of the Year" award and served as a mentor to young men through Students Taking Responsibility in Developing Excellence.

Before coming to MLGW, Young served as Gulf Power Company's Customer Service and Marketing General Manager, where he was responsible for leading the company's customer service, marketing, sales, and related activities.

Prior to that, Young served as Gulf's Customer Service General Manager with company-wide responsibilities for all customer-related strategies, support, policies and services. He previously served as Gulf's Corporate Services Director, where he was responsible for Corporate Security, Facilities, Risk Management and Land. He also directed the implementation of Gulf's Strategic Plan and previously served as the chair of Gulf’s People Council. He joined Southern Company in 1989 in the marketing organization at Gulf Power.

Before joining Southern Company, Young worked as an engineer in both distribution and marketing at Progress Energy, Florida (now Duke Energy, Florida) and he worked as a system engineer at one of the Tennessee Valley Authority's nuclear plants in Alabama.

Before moving to Memphis, Young was active in the Pensacola community and served on many local boards including Baptist Healthcare in Pensacola and as board chairman of two Florida-based Baptist Healthcare affiliates, Lakeview Center, Inc. and Global Connections to Employment. He also served on the boards of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Covenant Hospice, United Way of Escambia County, Waterfront Rescue Mission, SunTrust Bank, NW Florida. He also chaired the Chief Judge's Children's Council Fatherhood Advocacy Committee.

Young and his wife, Deidre, have two sons, Jarl II ('Thomas') and Joseph.