



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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For immediate release

August 23, 2018

MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos selected to Seventh Edgar Fellows class



*Mariyana T. Spyropoulos,
President of MWRD*

MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos was selected as one of 40 emerging leaders in the state of Illinois to take part in the seventh class of the prestigious University of Illinois Edgar Fellows Program facilitated by the Institute of Government and Public Affairs. Participants were selected by an advisory board comprised of former and current elected leaders and public and private executives and directors.

The weeklong leadership program was held in Champaign, IL, in August and included presentations, workshops and activities led by two dozen policy experts and experienced practitioners. The program is designed by former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar to inspire respectful and collaborative leadership to address the state's major challenges. Participants were selected from among 168 nominees and included elected and appointed officials from government, non-profit organizations, and business. Only 272 Fellows have completed the program since its inception.

"The Edgar Fellows Program brings together people from all over Illinois, people with different backgrounds, different politics, and different heritage. But what we have learned over the six years we've had this program is that these people learn they have more in common than they have differences," said Governor Edgar, who launched the program in 2012. "People who were strangers on Sunday become good friends by Thursday. As they leave, it is gratifying to watch them exchanging contact information and making plans to see each other again soon. This is what the program is all about, finding common ground and respect for each other so that, as they

advance in their leadership careers, they can help shape a better Illinois."

President Spyropoulos was elected to the MWRD Board of Commissioners in 2010 and re-elected in 2016. She was elected as Chairman of Finance in January 2013 and Board President in January 2015 and 2017. President Spyropoulos received her law degree from The John Marshall Law School and owns her own law practice. She received her MBA from Loyola University Chicago and completed graduate work in American government at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

"It was an honor to be chosen as part of the 2018 class of Edgar Fellows. I am grateful to have had the honor to be part of the bi-partisan program and learn from other leaders in Illinois. I am hopeful that the program left my classmates with the same optimism that compromise and working together is something we can achieve. I look forward to working with them and other public servants to make a stronger Illinois."

The Fellows program meets twice each year for alumni to network, mentor their colleagues and learn from other esteemed leaders in an array of disciplines including economic development, health care, education, *(continued)*



Seventh Edgar Fellows class photo

MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos selected *(continued)*

and intergovernmental cooperation. The program is funded by donations, and an advisory board chaired by Alexander Lerner, the chief executive officer of the Illinois State Medical Society, helps guide the program. Additional information about the program can be found at <https://igpa.uillinois.edu/page/edgar-fellows-program>.

Edgar Fellows Class of 2018

Alma Anaya, Chicago, Cook County Commissioner-Elect, 7th District

Kristopher Anderson, Chicago, State and Local Government Consultant and Former Manager, U. S. Government Relations, McDonald's Corporation

State Senator Omar Aquino, Chicago

Amy Barry, Springfield, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, Illinois Senate Republican staff

State Senator Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, Shorewood

Nathaniel Brown, Fairview Heights, Academic Co-director, Study of the U. S. Institute for Student Leaders

Helena Buckner, Decatur, Commissioner, Macon County Board

Nicole Budzinski, Chicago, Senior Advisor, JB for Governor Campaign

Beniamino Capellupo, Chicago, executive director, SEIU Illinois State Council

Jeffrey DeHaan, Lakewood, Senior Wealth Advisor and Chief Compliance Officer, Clearwater Capital Partners, LLC

Courtney Eccles, Chicago, director of Secure Choice Program for Illinois State Treasurer's Office

Charles Feinen, Champaign, counsel, State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company

State Representative La Shawn Ford, Chicago

State Senator Dale Fowler, Harrisburg

Magdalena Fudalewicz, Chicago, manager, Chicago Latino Caucus Foundation and chief of staff for Alderman Gilbert Villegas

Emily Gibellina, Oak Park, Director of Government Relations, University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System

State Representative LaToya Greenwood, East St. Louis

State Representative Mike Halpin, Rock Island

Frank Haney, Rockford, Chairman, Winnebago County Board

State Representative Sonya Harper, Chicago

Sarah Hartwick, Chatham, Executive Director, ED-RED

Richard Irvin, Mayor of Aurora

Ra Joy, Chicago, recent candidate for Lieutenant Governor with Chris Kennedy and former Executive Director of CHANGE Illinois

Staci Mayall, Canton, Treasurer of Fulton County

Steven McClure, Springfield, Republican nominee for State Senator in the 50th District and former Assistant State's Attorney of Sangamon County

Thomas McNamara, Mayor of Rockford

Aaron Ortiz, Chicago, Democratic nominee for State Representative in the 1st District

Mark Pietrowski, Jr., Cortland, Chairman, DeKalb County Board

Delia Ramirez, Chicago, Democratic nominee for State Representative in the 4th District

Prashanthi Rao Raman, Chicago, Director of Global Policy, Lyft, Inc.

Chasse Rehwinkel, Chicago, Chief Economist, Illinois State Comptroller's office

Bria Scudder, Chicago, Senior Government and Community Liaison, Office of Illinois Attorney General and Program Director for ColorComm, LLC – Chicago Chapter

Catie Sheehan, Springfield, Vice Chairman, Sangamon County Board

Mariyana Spyropoulos, Chicago, President, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Brad Stotler, Peoria, District Director for U. S. Congressman Darin LaHood

Curtis Tarver II, Chicago, Democratic candidate for State Representative in the 25th District

Jennifer Walling, Chicago, Executive Director, Illinois Environmental Council

Brandon Zanotti, Marion, State's Attorney of Williamson County

Sarah Zehr, Savoy, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Illinois

Michael Ziri, Chicago, Director of Public Policy, Equality Illinois

Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrd.org) is an award winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.