

BARBARA "BASIA" HELEN SKUDRZYK, DBA

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Strategic and entrepreneurial leader with 20+ years of experience driving operational excellence, digital transformation, and innovation across healthcare, education, supply chain, and workforce sectors. Proven ability to translate strategy into scalable, technology-enabled solutions using human-centered design, AI-driven optimization, and data-informed decision frameworks. Experienced in leading global, cross-functional teams through enterprise modernization, analytics implementation, and risk and resilience initiatives in partnership with NASA, Jobs for the Future, leading universities, and Fortune 500 companies. Co-Founder of the UMSL RISE Leadership Academy, advancing leadership and workforce pathways for business students. Recognized as a St. Louis Business Journal 40 Under 40 honoree, CORO Women in Leadership fellow, Vice President of Membership and Engagement for the Polish American Congress, and St. Louis Forum member, with nationally published thought leadership in academic and media outlets.

Expertise includes:

Strategic Planning & Execution • Digital & AI Transformation • Organizational Growth • Change Management • Enterprise Program Leadership • Supply Chain Resilience • Workforce Systems Integration • Data Analytics • Cross-Sector Partnership Development • Program and Operations Management

PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

[The Petey Greene Program](#) – **Assoc Dir of Educ & Workforce Integration**, St. Louis, MO 2025 – current

- Established the national Workforce Development arm of the Petey Greene Program, headquartered at Princeton University, by expanding its proven education model nationally into pathways that connect justice-impacted scholars to sustainable employment and economic mobility
- Spearheaded a multi-disciplinary workforce initiative uniting St. Louis universities, leading employers, and reentry organizations to create demand-driven talent pipelines that bridge education to employment and advance sustainable economic mobility
- Led cross-sector collaboration through strategic program and operations management to expand access to opportunity, designing structured career pathways leading to living-wage roles (\$50,000+ starting salaries) and advancing the Petey Greene Program's position as a national leader in reentry education and workforce advancement

[St. Louis University](#) - **Adjunct Faculty**, St. Louis, MO 2025 – current

[University of Missouri – St. Louis \(UMSL\)](#) – **Adjunct Faculty**, St. Louis, MO 2024 – 2025

- Founding Member, [RISE Leadership Academy](#) – a leadership academy dedicated to advancing opportunities for business scholars and training them to reach their fullest potential
- Lecturer, Intro to Supply Chain Management & Public Speaking
- Mentor, Entrepreneurship & Innovation Center, helping local businesses advance in their business potential through training, mentorship, and business development

[Howard University](#) & [Prison Cells to PhD \(P2P\)](#) – **Workforce Executive**, St. Louis, MO 2020 – 2026

- Designed and implemented workforce development initiatives, including training workshops and career pathways programs, in collaboration with leading institutions such as SUNY, Harvard University, Jobs for the Future, Baltimore City Community College, NASA, and Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, helping organizations expand their workforce capacity and talent pipelines
- Served as Principal Investigator for a \$15M STEM workforce grant, with responsibility for program strategy, project scoping, budget oversight, and coordination across universities, industry partners, and community organizations to help formerly incarcerated students secure stable employment and build long-term career pathways
- Worked closely with HR and Legal departments to modernize hiring practices and implement change management strategies that improve organizational efficiency and workforce integration

Education Development Center (EDC) – Executive Director & PI, Waltham, MA 2023 – 2025

- Led the STEM-OPS alliance, a multi-disciplinary team with multiple stakeholders and community partners, focusing on providing STEM education and workforce opportunities for system-impacted people and working with stakeholders to implement systems change in their HR practices
- Managed a project team across five institutions to develop and implement STEM workforce development products, impacting 1000+ scholars
- Led cross-functional strategic initiatives by translating high-level goals into actionable project plans, optimizing internal operations, and implementing performance dashboards that increased visibility, accountability, and execution across departments

University of Maryland/NASA Acres – Senior Faculty Specialist, Baltimore, MD 2023 - 2024

- Led strategic program management for a \$15 million NASA grant, successfully managing a project team across seven universities and three nonprofits.
- Spearheaded process transformation and a training and mentorship program for leading researchers to learn about agtech research and technology provided through the use of an app that monitors the biodiversity of soil and climate change
- Implemented and designed a farmer pilot program bringing community colleges, scholars, farmers, and research scientists together nationally and globally to develop cohesive strategies that streamline supply chain decision-making processes and improve crop management practices

St. Patrick Center, Workforce Development Case Manager, St. Louis, MO 2020 – 2022

- Directed workforce development programs that achieved a 65% increase in job placement rates
- Developed a manufacturing pathway with World Wide Technology to help unhoused clients obtain meaningful and sustainable work in the manufacturing sector through operational change management
- Awarded two \$50,000 seed grants and a \$750,000 grant from the state of Missouri for job training and life skills workshops, working with community partners and the Department of Corrections to help improve outcomes for the unhoused population of St. Louis

Electro Plastics, LLC, STEP Warm Floor™ Manufacturer, Director of Operations, St. Louis, MO 2018-2019

- Led marketing and data analysis strategies and supported business planning requirements for a nanotechnology engineering company with annual net revenue of \$5 million
- Managed production and sales teams using Lean Six Sigma strategies and expanded sales opportunities internationally
- Transitioned the company from a paper-based system to an electronic-based management system, which resulted in higher sales revenues and efficiencies in the production system

EDUCATION

University of Missouri St. Louis, St. Louis, MO 2022 - 2026

Doctor of Business Administration (DBA), Supply Chain Risk & Resilience, **4.0 GPA**

Webster University, St. Louis, MO 2003 - 2006

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

University of Missouri St. Louis, St. Louis, MO 2001 - 2003

Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Business Administration

Truman State University, Kirksville, MO 1999 - 2001

Business Administration, coursework toward Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

LANGUAGES

English – fluent; Polish – fluent; Spanish – intermediate