



## AERC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### Jené Huffman

Jené Huffman currently works as a Vice President for Arvest Bank (Rogers, Arkansas) managing the business banking division for a group of banks. In this capacity, Miss Huffman is in charge of treasury management, merchant services, and business banking functions in addition to business development. As an active member of the community, Miss Huffman is a member of The Early Risers Rotary Club (Rogers, Arkansas), Rebuilding Together of Northwest Arkansas Funding Committee board member, Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce Candidate Development Institute board member, founding board member of Young Professionals for the Fayetteville Chamber, and an active founding member of Christ's Church of Northwest Arkansas.

Jené earned a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Arkansas. A portion of her master's work was done at St. Peters College, Oxford University, studying International Trade Policy. While at Oxford University, Jené had the opportunity to visit the World Trade Organization in Geneva, the UN Conference on Trade and Development. In 1999, Jené received a BSc. Degree in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas with an emphasis in Small Business Entrepreneurship. Prior to Jené's banking career, she worked in Washington, D.C. as a legislative staff member for a United States Senator and later owned a political consulting business working with candidates on platform formation, campaign strategy, demographic studies, and image consulting.

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### Jenise Huffman

Jenise Huffman is the Director of Corporate Strategy & Development at Tyson Foods, the world's largest protein company. Her responsibilities focus on mergers & acquisitions and developing strategies to address Tyson's highest value issues and opportunities. While at Tyson, Jenise has also worked in Financial Analysis, Operations Analysis, and Sales & Operations Planning. Immediately prior to joining the Strategy Department, Jenise worked in the sales planning department at The Kellogg Company, where she developed Go-To-Market Strategies.

Jenise graduated summa cum laude and First Ranked Senior Scholar from the University of Arkansas with a BSBA in International Economics and Business and minors in French and Art History. She was named her graduating class's top student in both the economics department and the school of business.

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### **Dr. Henry Lam**

Dr. Lam, a Fulbright Fellow has a Ph.D. in Lipid Chemistry. Until recently, he was a Research Associate at the University of Arkansas from 2003-2006 and currently he is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Food Science at Makerere University, in Uganda. He has extensive experience as a consulting scientist in Uganda, Australia, and the USA with food industries, investment sector, and not-for profit organizations, including COVOL (U) that is involved in the training of women groups in the North of Uganda to improve shea butter production processes and quality. He worked for the Uganda National Bureau of Standards as a quality assurance officer.

Dr. Lam also attended graduate school in Sydney, Australia on the John Crawford Merit Scholarship after his baccalaureate degree from Tanzania.

He has received numerous awards and honors including Honor Student award and best paper award both from the American Oil Chemists Society; food industry awards; and Vice-Chancellor's award. Dr. Lam has authored and co-authored several technical and non-technical papers, a book chapter, and is currently a reviewer of various scientific journals.

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### **Jane Kaimenyi**

Jane is a founding member of AERC. She received her Bachelor's degree in Education (Honors) from Kenyatta University and a Diploma in Education from Kagumo Teachers College. She has over 20 years of experience as a primary and secondary school teacher and is currently the Principal at a Nairobi school catering for special-needs children in Nairobi. Before then, she was the Deputy Principal at the Dagoretti Special School. She has a passion for children and has taught students with a variety of special needs.

Her extensive experience in schools in Kenya ensures that AERC's programs remain relevant. Jane has served in various community groups and a role model and an ardent supporter of girls' education.

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### **Dr. Yvette Murphy**

Dr. Sonja "Yvette" Murphy, is a graduate of University of North Carolina-Greensboro, 2004 (PhD); University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, 1990 (MSW); and University of North Carolina-Charlotte, 1985 (BA). Yvette is currently an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Arkansas. Prior to that she worked as a Clinical Instructor at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (UNC) School of Social Work, Jordan Institute for Families for eight years and a Part-time and Adjunct Faculty Member at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte (UNCC) for seven years. Yvette's research focus on social issues, social policies and social institutions that impact the well being of marginalized groups. Currently, her efforts are centralized on intergenerational care giving (grandparents raising grandchildren) within the context of the child-welfare system.

Yvette has an extensive practice background. She has worked as a residential social worker, community-based services worker, in-home family-preservation worker, child-protective services supervisor, therapeutic foster-care program manager, psychiatric crisis-line and clinical assessment worker, and therapist. In addition, Yvette has extensive experience in community/partnership development, curriculum development and training. She has served as the primary author for several child-welfare curricula that are incorporated into North Carolina's Statewide Child-Welfare Training System. With a focus on enhancing systems, community collaboration, partnership, and improving outcomes for children and families, Yvette served as a community liaison for public-private partnerships between the university, the state and local child-welfare systems and various communities across the state of North Carolina.

Yvette has presented at regional and national conferences as well as conducted training for human services professionals. Yvette traveled to Romania as a part of a training project team focused on building the capacity and enhancing the skills of Romanian, child-welfare supervisors.

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### **Dr. Penina Mungania**

Penina Mungania holds a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership & Organization Development from the University of Louisville, USA; a Master's degree from Eastern Kentucky University, USA; and a B.Ed. from Kenyatta University in Kenya. She has international experience consulting with various clients to analyze, design, implement, and evaluate distance education programs in non-profit, higher education, and corporate sectors.

She is one of the founding members and Chairs the AERC Board of Directors. She continues to be involved in various community development activities and is a member of various professional and service organizations. Dr. Mungania has a great passion for education, research, and community service.

She is also an Assistant Professor in the University of Arkansas' College of Education & Health Professions. She teaches various graduate courses in Human Resource Development (HRD) Her research interests focus on women's career development and using instructional technology to develop human resources. Currently, she's involved in co-authoring a book: *The Management of Adult Education in Africa*, a part of UNESCO's African Perspectives series.

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## **Kathure Mwenda**

Kathure is a founding member of AERC. She is the Regional Manager at OikoCredit (East Africa), a micro-finance non-governmental organization that supports women entrepreneurship and financial independence. Kathure holds a Bachelor's degree in Commerce from the University of Nairobi, and has gained a lot of experience in NGO, government, and private sectors.

She is nationally recognized as a leader in women empowerment and in NGO management. She has traveled to over 20 countries is a sought-after speaker, addressing various audiences at colleges, schools and universities on issues such as microfinance, leadership, and career development.

Kathure was one of the recipients of the US International Leadership program award in 2006 by the US State Department.

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## **Warwick Sabin**

Warwick Sabin is the Associate Editor of the Arkansas Times and co-host of "Unconventional Wisdom," a public affairs program on Arkansas public television. Previously he was Director of Development for the William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation in Little Rock, Arkansas, and before that he served as Communications Director for U.S. Rep. Marion Berry (Ark.-01) in Washington, D.C. Selected as a 1998 Marshall Scholar, he earned an M.A. (Oxon) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University in 2000.

During his time in England, he was the speechwriter to U.S. Ambassador Philip Lader at the American Embassy in London. Earlier he held internships at Foreign Affairs magazine in New York City and the White House. In 1998 he graduated summa cum laude from the University of Arkansas, where he was president of the student body. Sabin also was named a 1997 Truman Scholar, as well as a member of the 1998 USA Today All-American Academic Team.