

Press Release  
For Immediate Release  
February 1, 2022  
Cc: Members of the Press

### Sherman Area Chamber of Commerce hires local resident for executive assistant position

The Sherman Area Chamber of Commerce is very excited to announce the hire of their new executive assistant. After a long search, the board finally found the perfect person to fill the shoes of Mike Moos. Moos left this position after three years of service in November. “Mike helped lead the Chamber for many years—the board and the community really appreciate all his hard work.” Says Sarah Roderick, president of the board.

Jessica Blackford-Cleeton will officially begin her duties on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Blackford-Cleeton is a resident of the Village of Sherman with her family. She earned her Bachelors of Science degree from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale with a major in University Studies/Museology and a minor in history. She is also a multi-time graduate of the National Fire Academy. Jessica has an extensive background in non-profit management and currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation. She is a Peer Reviewer for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs through the Department of Defense, is a writer/blogger and a mentor with Imerman Angels.

“With Jessica’s help the Chamber has many great things planned for our members and community over 2022. We feel that Jessica has the skills and experience to help the Chamber grow and serve our members in ways we have not been able to before.” Says Roderick.

The executive assistant is the only employee of the mostly volunteer-run organization that was formed in 2013 to help grow the smaller communities on the north-end of Sangamon County. Any business and individual are welcome to join the Chamber. There are many volunteer opportunities and ways to get involved in the community through the Chamber initiatives.

In 2022 the Chamber plans to send a survey out to the membership in the first quarter to get feedback on what the local business community needs and the best way for the Chamber to help. Pending COVID safety guidelines, there will be an annual meeting/event for the community and members to come meet the board of directors and Jessica in person. The annual Chamber golf outing will be held May 12<sup>th</sup> and in April the Chamber will partner up with the village for the annual Easter egg hunt. More events will be planned and information released as these plans develop further.

The Chamber is a non-governmental, non-profit with the vision to provide a vibrant business environment for our communities, and the mission to advocate, educate and provide resources to grow our communities. If you wish to be a part of the mission or have questions, reach out via email at [info@shermanilchamber.org](mailto:info@shermanilchamber.org) or check them out on the web at [www.shermanilchamber.org](http://www.shermanilchamber.org).