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THE CHAMBER FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY

BBA's Elizabeth Paul selected for U.S. Chamber Foundation Education and Workforce Fellowship Program

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – March 19, 2019 – The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation has announced that Elizabeth Paul, Manager of Public Policy at the Birmingham Business Alliance (BBA), was selected to participate in the second cohort of its premiere business leadership program. The Business Leads Fellowship Program trains and equips leaders from state and local chambers of commerce with resources, access to experts and a network of peers to build their capacity to address the most pressing education and workforce challenges.

"Holistic approaches to address a community's workforce development needs continue to evolve and require more sophistication," said Waymond Jackson, Senior Vice President of Public Policy for the BBA. "Elizabeth's policy background will help support our efforts to increase the level of sophistication of our region's workforce programs, especially as it relates to our ongoing [Building \(it\) Together](#) initiative. We are pleased to support Elizabeth's participation and look forward to adding a stronger policy-focus to our workforce efforts."

Following a competitive application and selection process, Paul was selected along with 33 other state and local chamber executives to participate in the second class of this program. The three-month program, which concludes in July 2019, will cover the entire talent pipeline, including early childhood education, K-12, higher education and workforce development.

"Through the Fellowship Program, I hope to further enhance the Birmingham region's workforce efforts and learn ways other communities have passed successful legislation to address system-wide education and workforce development challenges," Paul said. "The BBA education and workforce policy goals are robust – however, my goal is to bring new and innovative ideas to the table by challenging the status quo. It is an honor to be chosen, and I look forward to the experience."

Upon completion, Business Leads Fellows will join the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's dedicated network of 200 chambers of commerce and statewide associations from around the nation who regularly engage on education and workforce initiatives.

Given the overwhelming interest in the program, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation will host a third cohort this year.

Paul will join Jackson Pruett, Vice President of Business Development and Support at The Shelby County Chamber, as the only representative from Alabama in the current cohort. For a full list of participants in the Business Leads Fellowship Program, visit [the U.S. Chamber Foundation website](#).

The BBA was also a participant in the U.S. Chamber's inaugural [Talent Pipeline Management \(TPM\) Academy](#) in 2016. Many of the strategies learned in the TPM Academy are now being implemented through the industry cluster work of the BBA's regional workforce council, Central Six AlabamaWorks.

"We created the Business Leads Fellowship Program in response to the needs of our state and local chamber partners," said Cheryl Oldham, Senior Vice President of the Center for Education and Workforce. "They, better than anyone, see the critical link between education and economic development, and we are glad to be able to support them as they take on this critical leadership role in their community."

The Birmingham Business Alliance promotes economic growth in Birmingham, Jefferson County and throughout the seven-county metropolitan area. For more information about the BBA visit its website at www.birminghambusinessalliance.com.

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