

2023 SIUE PROJECT MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

Keynote Speaker Bio

Leonard “Lenny” Singh, Chairman & President – Ameren Illinois



Leonard "Lenny" Singh is chairman and president of Ameren Illinois, where he is responsible for energy delivery to more than 1.2 million electric and more than 800,000 natural gas customers in 1,200 communities across 43,700 square miles of service territory.

Prior to joining Ameren Illinois in July of 2022, Lenny held a variety of senior leadership roles across electric, natural gas and steam operations, and customer solutions in a 30-year career with Consolidated Edison Company of New York.

Lenny is leading Ameren Illinois through the clean energy transition, spearheading initiatives to

facilitate the adoption and development of local, renewable energy generation and promoting the long-term growth of cleaner energy. He is leading the effort to build a resilient and reliable grid capable of supporting the increased electrification of the downstate Illinois economy with a focus on equitable justice and economic development. At the same time, he is championing policies that will fortify the state's natural gas infrastructure while preparing for the sector's transition to renewable natural gas and emerging clean hydrogen technologies, critical enablers of the energy transformation process.

He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a master's degree in electrical engineering from Polytechnic University, and a Master of Business Administration degree from Columbia University. He completed professional certificate programs on electric and natural gas distribution at the Siemens Power Technologies International Distribution Engineering and Gas Technology Institute. He has also completed executive education programs at Harvard, Georgetown, Cornell University ILR School, Dale Carnegie, American Management Association, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE

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Catherine “Kate” Leese, RPA, PMP – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Ms. Leese has worked for the St. Louis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers since 2010. She serves as a Senior Project Manager for the Lock and Dam 25 Mega Project.

From 2019 to 2022, Ms. Leese has served numerous roles within the St. Louis District. She served as the Chief of Programs for a year, the District’s Project Scheduler for three years, and Chief of the Operations Management Support Branch for a 120-day detail. From 2010 to 2019, she worked with the Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections (MCX CMAC) St. Louis District. During her time in the MCX CMAC, she served as the Project Manager for the Veterans Curation Program and a Contracting Officer’s Representative for over twenty million dollars’ worth of contracting actions.

Ms. Leese holds both Master of Arts, in Archaeology and Heritage, and Bachelor of Art, in Archaeology, degrees from University of Leicester and the College of Wooster respectively. Ms. Leese maintains certifications as a Project Management Professional (PMP) and a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA). Ms. Leese is a graduate of the St. Louis District’s Leadership Development Programs and the Mississippi Valley Division’s Emerging Leaders Program.

Ms. Leese has been serving as a Prospect Instructor for the Scheduling Basics courses since 2022. She also serves as an Emergency Management Responder and has assisted in the following missions Hurricane Ida (2021) and Hurricane Ian (2022).

Ms. Leese has been the recipient of the following medals and awards:

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| • Humanitarian Civilian Service Medal | 2023 |
| • Meritorious Civilian Service Medal | 2022 |
| • Civilian Service Achievement Medal | 2022 |
| • USACE PROMIS Training Gold Star | 2020 |
| • USACE Annual Wounded Warrior Support Excellence and Achievement Award (Individual) | 2016 |
| • USACE Annual Wounded Warrior Support Excellence and Achievement Award (Team) | 2015 |
| • Achievement Medal for Civilian Service | 2014 |

Ms. Leese and her husband live in Edwardsville with their two daughters and two big fluffy rescue dogs. She enjoys serving as a Cub Scout Den Leader for her oldest daughter. She also enjoys reading, hiking, cooking new recipes, and spending time with her family.