



Denise Williams

LEAD – Operations

The Kansas City Southern Railway
Company

Denise M. Williams joined the Kansas City Southern Railway (KCS) as the Purchasing Compliance Manager in 2018, and in 2021, was selected as one of seven participants for the KCS LEAD* program. As part of the LEAD program, she spent a year in Health, Safety and Environmental and is currently completing a one-year rotation in Operations, learning facets of Network Operations, Transportation, Mechanical and Engineering. She will transition to a third rotational assignment (department TBD) in the 2nd Quarter of 2023. She originally entered the

railroad industry in 2004 as an office manager with Shade Railroad Services, Inc., a woman-owned contractor, where she gained a foundation in railroading from a 20+ year industry trail blazer. She then spent several years progressing through contract management roles in the commercial construction industry, including leading a team of contract administrators on a \$2.2B power plant construction project. She returned to the railroad industry in 2013 with Herzog Railroad Services, Inc., executing cradle-to-grave contract activities for a large portfolio of Class I equipment and railcar lease agreements in the US and Canada. She grew up in a family-owned building materials salvaging company and brings her entrepreneurial mindset to all her professional endeavors.

Ms. Williams holds a B.A. in Management and Human Relations from MidAmerica Nazarene University, an MBA from Missouri Western State University and a master's certificate in Commercial Contract Management from Villanova University. She holds designations as a Certified Professional Contract Manager (CPCM) and Construction Risk and Insurance Specialist (CRIS). She is a member of the KCS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, an Operation Lifesaver volunteer, an active mentor with the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals and is passionate about helping others recognize and achieve their greatest potential.

Denise currently resides north of Kansas City, MO with her husband Rob and their two children, Landon and Faith. In her spare time, she enjoys photography, family motorcycle rides, traveling to new destinations and hosting family and friend gatherings.

*q*LEAD (Learn, Engage, Accelerate, Deliver) is a 3-year rotational program, placing participants in a series of work assignments. Through these assignments, participants expand their career development opportunities, increase their knowledge of KCS operations, enhance their professional relationships with KCS leaders, develop their business acumen and prepare themselves for roles of greater responsibility.*