



**Ronnie Brooks**  
**Founding Director**  
**James P. Shannon Leadership Institute**

Ronnie Brooks is the founding director of the James P. Shannon Leadership Institute, a program that provides a yearlong renewal experience for foundation and nonprofit organization leaders. She recently stepped down as the Director of the Amherst Wilder Foundation Center for Communities where she oversaw the Foundation's leadership development and stakeholder engagement programs.

Ronnie also consults on strategic planning, leadership development, and nonprofit organization governance and management. In the past several years she has worked with a variety of performing arts and higher education organizations to help them elucidate their core values and to use those values to anchor their planning work.

Ronnie has extensive experience in both the public and private sectors in Minnesota. She served as Special Assistant to the Governor of Minnesota and as Director of Majority Research for the Minnesota State Senate, and has managed development projects for the mayors of both Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Brooks was also Vice President of the Keystone Center, a Colorado-based public policy organization; Executive Director of the Saint Paul Downtown Council; and Manager of Community Development and Policy Planning for the Dayton-Hudson (now Target) Corporation.

Ronnie has played a leadership role in several Minnesota civic and professional organizations. She was president of both the Citizens League and the Mediation Center and a board member of the Voyager Outward Bound School, the David Preus Leadership Council, the Civic Leadership Foundation, and MAP for Nonprofits. Currently she serves on the board of Graywolf Press and the National Advisory Council for the new Servant Leadership Program at Gustavus Adolphus College. Ronnie was a McKnight Fellow and an International Business Fellow. Additionally, she is a recipient of the Lloyd Short Award for Distinguished Public Service and of the YWCA Outstanding Leadership Award.

Ronnie did her undergraduate work at the University of Michigan and received her Master of Arts degree in political science from Michigan State University. She has been on the faculty of the Legislative Staff Management Institute of the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and the University of St. Thomas Center for Nonprofit Leadership where she focused on leadership and management in the nonprofit sector.

Ronnie was a McKnight Fellow at the Salzburg Seminar and an International Business Fellow. Additionally, she is a recipient of the Lloyd Short Award for Distinguished Public Service and for the YWCA Outstanding Leadership Award.