Department of General Services

Michelle Sanders Parks

Executive Director of Communications



Michelle Sanders Parks is Executive Director of Communications for the Tennessee Department of General Services (DGS). She leads the department's communications strategy and provides counsel and support to its divisions and administratively attached offices. Her work helps employees, State agencies, and the public understand the services DGS provides and the people behind them.

Parks joined DGS as Director of Communications in March 2022 and was promoted to Executive Director in March 2024. As a member of the department's Executive Leadership Team, she develops its annual communications plan, advises senior leaders on internal and external communications, and prepares speeches, presentations, and talking points for the commissioner. She also serves on the DGS AI Steering Committee.

Parks brings more than 30 years of experience in communications, marketing, advertising, and customer relations. Before joining DGS, she spent nearly 14 years at Nashville Rescue Mission, where she led media relations and wrote and edited a monthly donor newsletter. Her career also includes communications and marketing roles in publishing, technology, and other industries. She has spoken at national conferences and webinars, and written for magazines, publications, and blogs.

Parks graduated *magna cum laude* from Middle Tennessee State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in marketing and communications. She is a graduate of the Tennessee Government Executive Institute and LEAD Tennessee.