BETHANY ORBAN CHEW

Senior Director – Partnership Experience

Bethany Orban Chew serves as a Senior Director at The DeBruce Foundation, focusing on partnership strategy and community engagement. She brings deep expertise in cross-sector collaboration, working to align employers, educators, and public agencies around scalable solutions that expand access to economic opportunity.

Prior to joining The Foundation, Bethany led



partnerships at Merit America, where she built and scaled national revenue streams to support working adults in accessing upwardly mobile careers. She developed strategic partnerships with Fortune 500 companies, government agencies, and philanthropic organizations.

Bethany began her career in chamber-led economic development, working in Tennessee and later in Washington, D.C., supporting regional workforce initiatives and national best practice sharing. Throughout her career, she has remained focused on building equitable pathways to opportunity and strengthening communities through strategic partnerships.

Now based in Kansas City, Bethany brings a national perspective to local impact. She leans into her top Agilities of Serving and Caring, Selling and Communicating, and Managing to build coalitions and drive meaningful outcomes.