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Wendell Covington Jr.  
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By [Nathan Rubbelke](#) – Reporter, St. Louis Business Journal  
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NPower, a national nonprofit focused on providing technology training, has named a new leader for its St. Louis operations.

The nonprofit has named [Wendell Covington Jr.](#) as executive director of its St. Louis program. Covington most recently was [president and CEO of Mathews-Dickey Boys' & Girls' Club](#) for three years. Prior to that, he was director of the Gateway to College Program at St. Louis Community College's Florissant Valley campus. NPower's St. Louis operations were previously led by [Trina Dyan Clark James](#).

Based in New York, NPower focuses on providing free technology training for military veterans and young adults from underrepresented groups. It has operations in seven states, including Missouri, according to its website.

Covington said he was drawn to his new role with NPower because of the opportunity to help young adults acquire skills and launch careers in areas such as cloud computing, cybersecurity and coding. As executive director, he plans to place an emphasis on strategic planning, fundraising, and development and partnership building.

"When you think about the influx of tech jobs that's going to happen here in St. Louis in the next few years, a lot of people are on the fringes of that and won't have an opportunity. It's really exciting to be able to connect young people who are very smart and talented, but yet need the resources and the opportunity and the networks to actually have gainful employment in the tech industry," Covington said.

The region's technology workforce needs are anticipated to surge in the coming years. Between 2018 and 2023, Missouri's technology workforce is [expected to grow by 9.5%](#), ranking it ninth among U.S. states.

NPower has locations in St. Louis at Harris-Stowe State University and St. Louis Community College's William J. Harrison Center. It operates two annual cohorts and has about 75 individuals participating in its current cohort, Covington said.