



Dan Lester

Director at Large

Director of Field Diversity, Inclusion & Culture at Clayco

In his role as the Director of Field Diversity, Inclusion & Culture at Clayco, Dan Lester Sr. focuses on endeavors that affect the community as a whole, addressing the culture of job sites and making them more inclusive. Dan has the ability to help people and organizations navigate and successfully find solutions to the diversity, equity and inclusion challenges and opportunities in their space. He believes people are the greatest and most important assets and he knows having a psychologically safe and diverse team that is equitable and inclusive is what makes a business thrive.

Dan graduated from Missouri S&T (formerly University of Missouri–Rolla) in 2005 with his bachelor's degree in business and management information systems and a minor in information science and technology.

Dan is active across many professional organizations and a professional speaker on a regional and national scale. He is the co-founder with his wife Burnéa of The Art of Adaption; a framework for approaching training and development for diversity and inclusion using applied data to inform practical and strategic action to create inclusive, equitable and psychologically safe workplace cultures. They also founded the IN-JN (engine) Media Group; a video production company for small business and nonprofit organizations. Dan's impact has been recognized in the St. Louis community and nationally as a diverse business leader, inclusion champion and top one hundred HR Influencer of 2020.

As a Miner, Dan was a 4-year letterman in football as a running back and kick returner, once holding two school records for kick returns. He also was 2-year letterman in track and field as a sprinter. Dan was also active in the Voices of Inspiration gospel choir as the director and a founding member of the Black Man's Think Tank where he served as vice president. Dan was also inducted into the Academy of Miner Athletics in 2020. He joined the Miner Alumni Association Board of Directors as a Director at Large in 2020.