
INDIANA SECTORS REGIONAL CONVENINGS

Northern Indiana Convening: June 5, 2017 • South Bend, IN

PLENARY SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Michael Barnes

Associate Chief Operating Officer for Employer Engagement, Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Michael Barnes is the Associate Chief Operating Officer for Employer Engagement at the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. He has received his Bachelor's degree in Economics and a Masters of Business Administration. Michael serves as Chair for the Governor's Health Workforce Council. Michael also sits on the board of a local charitable organization; he lives in Indianapolis with his wife and three sons.

Brad Bishop

Executive Director, OrthoWorx

Brad Bishop joined OrthoWorx as Executive Director in June 2010 after more than 20 years in the orthopedic industry. Prior to joining OrthoWorx, Brad served as Director of Public Affairs at Zimmer, Inc., now Zimmer Biomet, where he was responsible for internal and external communications, corporate philanthropy, community affairs and state and local government relations. Brad has been involved in many industry and community organizations and is currently a member of the board of the Northeastern Indiana Regional

Development Authority. He also served as the first chair of the Indiana Regional Works Council for the north central region.

Alisa Deck

Director of Education Workforce Cultivation, Center for Excellence in Leadership of Learning, University of Indianapolis

Alisa works with educators and communities to build collective impact models using the EWIN sector strategies and career pathway guidelines. She has been an adjunct instructor in organizational leadership and supervision for Purdue University as well as Ivy Tech's School of Business and Workforce and Economic Development. She has designed and developed workplace training that includes professional skills and served as an employee development coordinator. She holds a Master of Science degree in management from Indiana Wesleyan University.

Leigh Anne Downes

Director of Demand Driven Workforce System, Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Leigh Anne Downes has served communities in driving economic and workforce development initiatives for the past 15 years. Leigh Anne relocated to Indianapolis in fall of 2014. Upon arrival, Leigh Anne began serving the Indianapolis community as Vice President of Business Partnerships with EmployIndy, (Region 12), where she managed a team of Business Solutions Representatives and Recruiters assisting employers in meeting their current and future talent needs. On August 29, 2016, Leigh Anne began serving the State of Indiana through the Department of Workforce Development in driving forward a new demand driven workforce system statewide serving employers, job seekers, students, educators and workforce professionals. Leigh Anne holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Union University with a focus on Organizational Leadership in Healthcare Management.

Kate Lee

Director, Talent Engagement, South Bend Regional Chamber

Kate Lee is the Director of Talent Engagement for the South Bend Regional Chamber of Commerce. In this role, she works to establish and strengthen relationships between businesses, educators and students to create a strong, consistent pipeline of workforce talent for the South Bend region. Since joining the Chamber in 2014, she has led the development of INTERN South Bend Region.

This program encourages businesses to increase the number of internship opportunities offered in the region and offers programming to create connections, both among interns and with the broader community, to retain and attract young talent. She is currently working with industry and education partners to create sector-specific pathway plans focused on manufacturing, information technology, and other high-demand career opportunities in our region. Kate earned her degree in journalism from Ball State University and holds a Certificate of Fundraising Management from the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy.

Mike Thibideau

Executive Director, Indiana Construction Roundtable

As Executive Director of the Indiana Construction Roundtable, Mike Thibideau provides overall leadership and management of association activities. Mike received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policy and Public Administration from Michigan State University. He enjoys working with non-profits because he believes that tapping into a common bond of purpose enables everyone to thrive. Mike has previously worked for and with many non-profit organizations, including Psi Upsilon Fraternity and Grassroots Campaigns. He also serves on the board of directors for The Hesperian Building Association. Recently engaged, wedding planning is a top priority outside of work, but you can also find Mike volunteering with various Indianapolis non-profits, fishing or working on his carpentry skills.