



2017 INDIANA SECTORS SUMMIT

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Regina Ashley

Interim Commissioner, Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Regina Ashley was appointed as DWD Interim Commissioner in August 2017. Ms. Ashley leads DWD's Executive Team in developing, communicating, executing and sustaining the department's strategic initiatives, including establishment of key performance indicators. In her prior role as Chief Operating Officer, she oversaw DWD policy and communications and marketing efforts. Additionally, Ms. Ashley also served as the Executive Director of the State Workforce Innovation Council, as well as ensured that all DWD boards and commissions are aligned.

Before joining DWD in 2015, Ms. Ashley worked for the Indiana Department of Child Services for eight years, first as Deputy General Counsel and then as Deputy Director of Placement Support and Compliance, where she was responsible for ensuring the safety of over 10,000 children placed in out-of-home care. Prior to joining state government, Ms. Ashley served as a Commissioner for the Marion County Superior Court, Juvenile Division and worked as a civil litigation associate for law firms in Indianapolis, Chicago and St. Louis.

Ms. Ashley grew up in Indianapolis. She received her undergraduate degree from

Indiana University and her law degree from Indiana University Maurer School of Law. She is licensed to practice law in the State of Indiana. Ms. Ashley resides in Indianapolis and is married with three children.

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 DWD. 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.

Jason Bearce

Senior Associate Commissioner for Strategy and Internal Affairs, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

As Senior Associate Commissioner for Strategy & External Affairs, Bearce serves as a policy adviser to the state's higher education commissioner and directs the agency's communication strategy, outreach

efforts and student success initiatives. Bearce's policy contributions have included overseeing the development of the Commission's strategic plan and spearheading reforms to Indiana's 21st Century Scholars program in an effort to increase college and career readiness for Hoosier students. Bearce previously served as staff liaison for Indiana's Education Roundtable and held leadership positions at the Indiana Department of Education as communications director and policy adviser.

Bearce's perspective on education reform and student success is informed by his experience as a Starfish Initiative mentor, his tenure as board president for a local charter school and his marriage to an elementary school teacher. Bearce holds an undergraduate degree from Purdue University and a Masters of Business Administration from Western Governors University.

Bob Birge

*Chief Communications Officer,
Indiana Department of Workforce
Development*

Mr. Birge's primary responsibilities include oversight of all internal and external communications for the agency and providing strategic planning and direction of all marketing and messaging initiatives. Prior to joining DWD, he served as Director of Corporate Communications and Marketing with Republic Airways, an Indianapolis-based regional airline. Bob also served in similar roles with technology start up Blue Pillar, accounting and consulting firm Crow Horwath and Indianapolis-based law firm Bingham McHale (now Bingham Greenbaum Doll).

Mr. Birge is a graduate of UCLA, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts, with a major in Motion Picture/Television. Bob is married with four children and resides on the far northeast side of Indianapolis.

Veronica Buckwalter

*Senior Program Manager, Jobs for the
Future*

Veronica is a Senior Program Manager at Jobs for the Future (JFF). She plays an important role in providing labor market analysis for both internal and external clients, which are used to make better programmatic decisions around training programs, career pathways and social investments.

Ms. Buckwalter has nearly 10 years of experience within the public and education sectors as a program manager and director. Her expertise includes sector partnerships, policy development, data collection and analysis, data visualization, technical and expository writing and public speaking.

Veronica received her Bachelor's degree in political science and international relations from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and her Masters of Public Administration from Pennsylvania State University.

Alisa Deck

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

Alisa Deck is the Director of Workforce and Education Cultivation for CELL. She holds a Master of Science degree in Management from Indiana Wesleyan University and graduated cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in general studies from Indiana University.

Previously, she was Director of College and Career Readiness for the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, served in admissions and career placement for Ivy Tech Community College, worked for a tier 1 automotive supplier and was a EcO15 coordinator for Decatur County. She has been an adjunct instructor in organizational leadership and supervision for Purdue University as well as for numerous courses in Ivy Tech's School of Business and Workforce and Economic Development. She is certified in Interpersonal Management Skills and Frontline Leadership (IMS) through AchieveGlobal. She has designed and developed workplace training that includes "soft skills" and served as an employee development coordinator.

Shannon Doody

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

Shannon Doody received a Bachelor's degree in psychology from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville and a Master's degree in school counseling and clinical psychology from Ball State University. She holds a license in school counseling and formerly served in admissions for Valparaiso University. Currently, she serves as the Director of Education Workforce Partnerships at CELL where she promotes

innovative models of education that align with the realities of workforce needs.

Judy Hasselkus

Program Director for Employer Engagement and Sector Specialist for Health Care, Agriculture, and Life Sciences, Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Judy Hasselkus is a program director and sector specialist on the employer engagement team for DWD. Prior to joining DWD, Judy owned and operated a small business for 16 years; and held administrative and leadership roles in private higher education for more than 10 years, including director of human resources and organizational development and director of cooperative education and internships. Judy earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Science degrees from Indiana University. She is a volunteer board member for a nonprofit organization focused on youth and community development. Judy lives in Indianapolis with her husband and two "cat kids."

Thomas Hooper

Associate Vice President, Jobs for the Future

Tom Hooper is an Associate Vice President (AVP) with JFF. In his role as AVP, Tom helps lead JFF's Building Economic Opportunity Group, the JFF cluster dedicated to increasing opportunities for low-income, low-skilled adults to obtain the education and skills necessary to attain productive jobs and careers. Tom's role includes leading the development of new strategic sector strategies, work-based learning initiatives, and innovative workforce

development/economic development projects, building and maintaining effective collaborations with key JFF stakeholders, and supporting strong coordination among JFF's program and initiatives.

Prior to his current role, Tom was a Senior Director at JFF, leading its regional and sector strategies team as it worked with states and regions to develop industry focused workforce development strategies. Before joining JFF, Tom was a Program Manager in the Division of Strategic Investments, a program office within the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA). Tom managed the Green Jobs training grants and the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grants. Prior to joining ETA, Tom was a National Workforce Consultant with Goodwill Industries International. Tom has a Master of Public Affairs degree from the University of Texas – Austin, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Swarthmore College.

Francene Kennedy

Director of Building Economic Opportunity Group, Jobs for the Future

Fran Kennedy is a director in the Building Economic Opportunity Group and on the Regional and Sector Strategies Team at JFF. Fran's focus is to advance workforce, community and sector based strategies while strengthening partnerships with employers and industry.

Ms. Kennedy has 20 years of workforce, economic and business development experience. During her career, she has served as the Associate Deputy Director for the California Employment Development

Department Workforce Services Branch and Executive staff for the Region 6 Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's ETA, among other high-profile positions in the state of California. Additionally, Ms. Kennedy was the designee to the Governor's Homelessness Task Force and Foster Youth Workgroup. She also served as the California Labor Agency's Biotech and STEM liaison, building workforce relationships with industry.

Amanda McCammon

Director of PK-16, Indiana Department of Education

Amanda McCammon has spent the last 12 years serving Indiana youth as a teacher, building level administrator, and central officer administrator. McCammon began her teaching career within an alternative education setting before transitioning into a middle school pre-engineering teaching position. After serving as a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) teacher, McCammon moved into a building level administrative position as a Career & Technical Education (CTE) Director where she facilitated a variety of programming including CTE, alternative education, preschool, and adult education. In 2013, McCammon moved to a district level role serving in Anderson Community School Corporation as the Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Schools, CTE, and Community Engagement. In April of 2017, Amanda began serving Indiana students and educators as the PK-16 Director for the Indiana Department of Education.

McCammon is currently completing a doctoral degree from Purdue University in Educational Curriculum and Instruction with

a focus area of CTE. McCammon is married to Andy McCammon, an agriculture teacher and together they have four children, Ava, Clara, Julia, and Jack.

Lisa Metcalf

Program Director for Employer Engagement and Sector Specialist for Advanced Manufacturing, Logistics and Construction Trades, Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Lisa Metcalf is a program director and sector specialist on the employer engagement team for DWD. She has eight years of experience in workforce development, having worked with WorkOne and EmployIndy prior to joining DWD. She has also worked in the private sector as a marketing and sales professional. In her spare time, Lisa works on the aftercare and retraining of retired racehorses.

Eric Seleznow

Senior Advisor, Jobs for the Future

Eric currently serves as a Senior Advisor for JFF, working to further the organization's goals of advancing innovative workforce policy and programs. Mr. Seleznow is contributing to the organization's work on apprenticeship, reentry, sector strategies and Job Corps.

Mr. Seleznow has over 30 years of experience managing a range of workforce development and correctional reentry programs at the federal, state and local levels. Prior to JFF, Eric served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department

of Labor's ETA, under Secretary Tom Perez. During his tenure at DOLETA, he focused on implementing the administration's vision for workforce development, skills training and apprenticeship. Prior to his work at DOLETA, Eric served as the State Policy Director for the National Skills Coalition - working with diverse stakeholders to strengthen state workforce policies and served as the Executive Director of the Maryland Governor's Workforce Investment Board. His experience also includes nearly 20 years in the corrections system operating jail-based training, employment and pre-release programs, for which he is still regarded as a national expert. Mr. Seleznow is a graduate of Northeastern University and resides in Washington, D.C.

Ryan Withem

Director of Business Alignment, Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Ryan Withem is the Director of Business Alignment on the Employer Engagement team at DWD. He has received his Bachelor's degree in Advertising and Public Relations and holds Master's degrees in Higher Education Administration as well as Human Resources Management. Ryan leads multiple initiatives with DWD, focusing on engaging employers and aligning training and educational offerings to in demand industries and occupations throughout the state; he lives on the south side of Indianapolis with his wife and two daughters.