



PENNSYLVANIA
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

ASSOCIATION

2022 FALL CONFERENCE

Speaker Bios & Session Overviews

2022 PEDA FALL CONFERENCE - SPEAKER BIOS

Ted Alter, Ph.D., Professor of Agricultural, Environmental and Regional Economics & Co-Director, Penn State Center for Economic and Community Development

Dr. Ted Alter is professor of agricultural, environmental, and regional economics in the Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education Department at Penn State. He is also co-director of Penn State's Center for Economic and Community Development. Dr. Alter's research, teaching, and community engagement work focuses on community and rural development, regional and environmental economics, community engagement in natural resource management, and entrepreneurial community ecosystems and entrepreneurship.

Kate Alward, Director, Human Resources & Training, Ben Franklin Technology Partners

Kate serves as a trusted advisor, coach, and collaborative business partner to the leadership teams at over 55+ companies that are either in the portfolio of Ben Franklin Technology Partners or who are headquartered at the Technology Center in Innovation Park.

In this capacity, as in previous senior-level HR consultative roles, Kate develops, plans, implements, and leads all HR functions; this includes activating workforce development and planning initiatives that capture, grow, manage, and retain the talent needed to execute the objectives of each company.

Kate has more than 25 years of human resources management and consulting experience working with companies as diverse as Silicon Valley startups to Fortune 500 corporations. Kate is a Penn State graduate with a degree in Labor Studies, and she has earned the Senior Certified Professional (SCP) designation from the Society for Human Resources Management.

Matt & McKenzie Blair, Chief Production Officer & Chief Operating Officer, The Organic Snack Company

Matt and McKenzie attended High School in Jackson, Wyoming. After going their separate ways, they reconnected and then married in early 2017. In mid-2017, they became professional partners, as well, when joining the Kate's Real Food Team, a retrofitted garage-turned-granola bar manufacturing facility. The universe led them to their "tribe" and, together, they helped expand production, fulfillment, and sales. They soon outgrew the garage and brought Kate's Real Food to even more customers. Their combined skills and talents made them the perfect "package deal" to achieve this level of success. In September of 2019, Bruce Thaler, co-founder of Kate's Real Food, sent the two on a mission to the pacific northwest to check out areas of growth for Kate's. Several months later, Bruce asked if they were open to moving 2,000 miles to Bedford, PA to start a co-packing company with his son, Mark Thaler, a former Attorney in Washington D.C. Matt and McKenzie seized the opportunity. The name of the company became The Organic Snack Company and is now the sole manufacturing and distribution arm for their client, Kate's Real Food. McKenzie likes to point out, "When an opportunity like this lands in your lap, listen to where the universe is leading you." Matt has built up several different businesses in many different industries and he is known for solving a variety of problems and increasing efficiency. McKenzie has experience increasing sales and is known for her ability to generate business growth. Matt and McKenzie are avid outdoor enthusiasts, sharing a deep love and respect of all things wilderness, travel, conservation and access to the world. Some of the activities they enjoy are hiking, snowboarding, and motorcycle riding. Their shared goal is to make a positive impact with every step they take and look forward to that adventure daily.

Ramiro M. Carbonell, Shareholder, Stevens & Lee

Ramiro concentrates his practice in tax-exempt finance with an emphasis on taxation and federal arbitrage law, Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit transactions and New Markets Tax Credit transactions. He serves as bond counsel, special tax counsel, underwriter's counsel, borrower's counsel, trustee's counsel and as counsel to the liquidity provider for a variety of matters. He has represented investors, developers and syndicators in housing transactions, Federal Historic Tax Credit transactions and New Markets Tax Credit transactions.

Ramiro has over 30 years of experience serving as bond counsel to municipalities and has been involved in over 1,500 transactions. He has represented municipalities and authorities in defending their bond issuances and has represented local governments and conduit borrowers in IRS audits of their bond issues.

Ramiro is bilingual and helps counsel the firm's clients doing business in Latin America on corporate and related issues.

He has been a speaker for the National Association of Bond Lawyers, the Pennsylvania Association of Bond Lawyers and the Pennsylvania Housing Alliance.

Affiliations

- National Association of Bond Lawyers
- Pennsylvania Association of Bond Lawyers, Board of Trustees
- Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Former Member of the Board of
- American Bar Association

Education

- Pennsylvania State University, M. Fin.
- Temple University School of Law, LL.M. in Taxation
- Rutgers University School of Law – Camden, J.D., tax honors
- New York University, B.S.

Bar Admissions

- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey

Brandon Carson, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority

Brandon Carson has more than 15 years of experience working in non-profit and local government management, advancing community and economic development projects and initiatives across Pennsylvania. Most recently, he has focused his efforts on increasing access to affordable broadband services in unserved and underserved areas. In his current role as Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority, Brandon is working to develop and implement the state's broadband mission, to foster and create equitable, affordable, and robust high-speed broadband services connecting Pennsylvania for the 21st century and beyond. He is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Broadband Office and leads an outstanding team dedicated to closing the Digital Divide in Pennsylvania.

Brandon graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography. He is currently a resident of Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania where he resides with his wife and children.

Silas Chamberlin, Ph.D., VP, Economic & Community Development, York County Economic Alliance

Silas Chamberlin, Ph.D., is vice president for economic development at the York County Economic Alliance. Silas previously served as CEO of Downtown Inc, executive director of the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area, and in regional leadership roles with DCNR and the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. Fostering the development of trails and their stewardship has been a defining aspect of his career. Silas's book, *On the Trail: A History of American Hiking* was published by Yale University Press in 2016, and his research on rail trails has been published by *Landscape Architecture Magazine* and other national publications. In 2015, Silas received a state trail advocacy award from American Trails, for his work to advance trails in Pennsylvania. He holds a Ph.D. in environmental history from Lehigh University, and certificate in real estate development from Cornell University.

Mark Compton, CEO, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission

Mark P. Compton of Manheim, PA began serving as Chief Executive Officer of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission on February 1, 2013. A professional with more than two decades of public and private-sector experience in transportation, administration, government affairs, and construction, Mark holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Penn State University. He previously served as PennDOT's Deputy Secretary of Administration, overseeing eight bureaus within the agency. Before joining PennDOT, Mark was Director of Government Affairs for American Infrastructure, a heavy civil construction company in Worcester, PA. Prior to that, he worked in various public and private operations, focusing largely on transportation, construction, and economic development. Mark has been an active participant in the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association, or IBTTA. Since 2015, Mark has served on IBTTA's Board of Directors and is currently serving as IBTTA's president.

James Delattre, Ph.D., Associate VP for Research, Office of Entrepreneurship & Commercialization, Penn State University

Dr. James L. Delattre serves as Associate Vice President for Research and Director of the Office for Entrepreneurship and Commercialization, where he leads entrepreneurship program development for the Invent Penn State initiative and leads commercialization strategy, resources, and support for Penn State's startup pipeline and the LaunchBox and Innovation Network.

He is an alumnus of the Professional Fellows Program of the American Councils for International Education. James is the co-principal investigator for the Mid-Atlantic NSF I-Corps Hub, a member of the advisory board of the Center for Medical Innovation at the Penn State Hershey College of Medicine and serves as secretary of the Penn State Research Foundation.

Prior to joining Penn State, Dr. Delattre worked in nanomaterials and semiconductor startups in central Pennsylvania and Silicon Valley. Dr. Delattre earned his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, and completed postdoctoral work at the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche at the University of Bari, Italy. Dr. Delattre received his BS with honors in Chemistry from Penn State, where he studied inorganic chemistry and the Russian language.

Andrew Dumont, Senior Community Development Analyst, Federal Reserve Board

Andrew Dumont is a senior community development analyst at the Federal Reserve Board, where he leads the Board's work on rural development, affordable housing, and other place-conscious community and economic development topics. Prior to joining the Board, Andrew worked at Pathway Lending, a community development

financial institution serving Tennessee and Alabama, where he worked as a program specialist structuring and underwriting small business loans to further the organization's economic development priorities. Andrew has a Master's Degree in Public Policy from The George Washington University, a Bachelor's Degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and is a Certified Public Accountant.

Lisa Elliott, Executive Director, Strategic Information Services, Pennsylvania DCED

Lisa Elliott serves as the Executive Director of DCED's Office of Strategic Information Services, where she manages the agency's in-house research and data analysis team. The office is focused on developing and coordinating data resources allowing for proper analysis to enable executive leadership to establish informed and data driven priorities. She also oversees DCED's Customer Service Center.

Ta Enos, Founder & CEO, PA Wilds Center for Entrepreneurship

Ta Enos is founder and CEO of the PA Wilds Center for Entrepreneurship, a regional nonprofit dedicated to marrying conservation and economic development to strengthen and inspire communities in the PA Wilds. The Center leads a regional strategy in coordination with the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and other state and local partners to grow the outdoor recreation economy in the highly rural PA Wilds region to help diversify rural economies, attract investment, inspire stewardship and improve quality of life. Ta has a rural entrepreneurship background and 20 years of experience in journalism and public communications in Alaska and Pennsylvania. Ta and her team are developing models for asset-based rural development that are recognized nationally. The PA Wilds is the only outdoor rec industry cluster to make it to the final round of the national Build Back Better Regional Challenge competition, where it is now competing for \$50M in federal investment. A fourth-generation resident of the region, Ta is the author of an upcoming memoir, *OUTSIDER: Finding My Purpose in the Big Woods and Small Towns of the Pennsylvania Wilds*. Find her @TatabolineEnos.

Michael Grigalonis, COO & Executive Vice President, Chester County Economic Development Council

Michael has served as the Chester County Economic Development Council's Chief Operating Officer since 2004. In that role, Michael is responsible for managing CCEDC's \$4 million operating budget and a staff of 32. Michael works closely with the CCEDC's management team to implement a diverse portfolio of programs and services in four key areas: financing, workforce development, real estate and innovation/entrepreneurship. Michael is also COO for Seedcopa, one of the largest SBA Certified Development Companies in the Mid-Atlantic region, and the Assistant Director of three Industrial Development Authorities.

Michael is also an active regional and statewide leader, serving as the Southeastern PA's coordinator for the six-county PREP and Engage! Programs. Michael also serves on the executive committee of the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association (PEDA) and is the Immediate Past President.

Michael earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Exercise Science from Ithaca College in 1995 and an MBA from Villanova University in 1998.

Jessica Hamilton, Director of Economic Development Financing, EDC Finance Corporation

Jessica Hamilton is the Director of Economic Development Financing for EDC of Lancaster County and EDC Finance Corporation. The Economic Development Company of Lancaster County (EDC) is the leading organization dedicated to promoting business development and expansion within Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. In addition,

EDC provides support to the Agriculture community through the Next Generation Farmer Loan Program and the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) Ag fund. Jessica manages the EDC Finance Team and coordinates the commercial loan project process from application, to closing and, finally, to servicing.

Jessica has over 10 years of commercial banking experience, particularly in the areas of loan settlements and asset recovery, most recently with Metro Bank. She is a graduate of Southern New Hampshire University with a B.A. degree in History. She has also obtained her Certificate in Paralegal Studies with a concentration in Corporate, Securities, Bankruptcy, and Banking with National Paralegal College.

Cher Harpster, CWDP, Lead Business Consultant, Central Region, PA CareerLink® Mifflin County

Cher Harpster is the Lead Business Consultant for the PA CareerLink® offices in the central region of Pennsylvania. She is employed by Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11 and has worked for the organization in their division of Community Education and Workforce Services for 12 years. In her role as Lead Business Consultant, Cher directs the Business Solutions Team in providing services to hundreds of businesses throughout the nine-county region that they serve. She participates on many local boards and committees, including those related to her profession as a workforce expert, and also those which interest her on a personal level. Her home base is in Mifflin County. She is a graduate of Penn State University and has attained the credentials, Certified Workforce Development Professional and Certified Business Services Consultant.

Kaycee Kemper, Vice President, Adams Economic Alliance

A native of Gettysburg, Adams County, Ms. Kemper began her career in economic development in 1999. She is currently the Vice President of the Adams Economic Alliance, administering the organization's financing function. Kaycee is currently earning her Masters of Applied Community Development from Future Generations University. Ms. Kemper serves as the Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Adams County Technical Institute. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Land Conservancy of Adams County. Kaycee resides in Maryland with her two Boston Terriers, Beau and Cade.

Kyle C. Kopko, Ph.D., Executive Director, Center for Rural Pennsylvania

Dr. Kyle C. Kopko was appointed director of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania in July 2020. Prior to joining the Center, Dr. Kopko served as Associate Dean of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning, and Associate Professor of Political Science at Elizabethtown College. He earned his Ph.D. in political science from The Ohio State University in 2010, with a concentration in public law and judicial politics. Dr. Kopko has authored or co-authored more than 30 scholarly publications, including two university press books, and he regularly speaks on a wide range of policy and political topics. His research has also received national and international media attention in numerous outlets, including The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, The New York Times, CNN, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and Fox News Channel.

George Lewis, VP of Marketing, Communications & Research, Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation

George Lewis is Vice President of Marketing, Communications, and Research for Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corp., a non-profit, public-private organization that markets the economic assets of the two-county Lehigh Valley region in eastern Pennsylvania.

He is responsible for strategic marketing and communications initiatives that help attract and retain employers and position the Lehigh Valley as a prime location for talent. He also directs LVEDC's research function to broaden knowledge about the Lehigh Valley's economy and generate insights into regional economic, demographic, and labor market trends.

He joined LVEDC in 2017, after a 30-year career in Corporate Communications at PPL Corporation and Talen Energy. He served as Director of Corporate Communications at both companies.

He began his career as a journalist and editor at a newspaper in central Pennsylvania. He has a degree in journalism from Penn State University and has completed several executive programs in business communications, finance, and leadership.

Betsy Lockwood, Director, Project Development / Grants, SEDA-COG

Betsy Lockwood received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1994 from Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA. For 3 years, she was employed in private industry in the field of technical support and project management. Since May 1997, she has been a member of the SEDA-COG staff, where her duties have been focused in the area of project development and management. In her position as Director, she prepares and submits grant applications to the Economic Development Administration, Appalachian Regional Commission, and other federal and state agencies. She also prepares progress reports for various economic development funding agencies. In her role as PREP Regional Coordinator, Betsy carries out various responsibilities including contract and budget management, reporting, and service delivery of this important statewide program. Betsy also serves as a Pennsylvania State Data Center Affiliate where she disseminates information to the public received from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Pennsylvania State Data Center, and other sources. She is a 1999 graduate of Leadership Susquehanna Valley and, in 2003, she completed the Economic Development Course sponsored by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and Penn State Harrisburg. Additionally, Betsy has obtained her Professional Economic Development Certification from the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association (PEDA) Program.

Rebecca MacBlane, Executive Director, Regional Development Funding Corporation

Rebecca MacBlane has served as Executive Director of Regional Development Funding Corporation (RDFC) since 2006. RDFC is a non-profit corporation which is authorized to serve as an agent for three government loan programs for businesses: the U.S. Small Business Administration 504 Loan Program, the SBA Community Advantage Pilot Loan Program and two Revolving Loan Funds through the Economic Development Administration. RDFC has earned the title of the highest volume Certified Development Company for the previous fourteen years in the Western Pennsylvania District Office of the SBA and serves as the only State-wide Certified Development Company in West Virginia.

Prior to joining RDFC, Rebecca worked as a commercial loan officer at several community banks and has focused on government loan programs for most of her banking career. Rebecca currently serves as the Chairperson of the Board of the Alliance for Small Business Finance (ASBF) and has been an active board member of the organization since 2001. ASBF's mission includes providing comprehensive educational and networking opportunities to lending professionals, economic development specialists and resource partners. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Risk Management Association Pittsburgh Chapter and is a Board Member and former Fundraising Chairperson of the Western Pennsylvania Small Business Network. In 2008, she was honored by the SBA's Pittsburgh District Office as its 2008 Financial Services Champion and, in 2011, was awarded the title of Financial Services Champion of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration for Region III, which consists of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia and Delaware.

Rebecca holds a B.S. in Education and a Masters in Business Administration from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She resides in Pittsburgh with her husband, and they are the proud parents of two adult sons, two dogs and three cats.

Scott Mitchell, President & CEO, YMCA of Centre County

Scott Mitchell has been the President/CEO of YMCA of Centre County for five years. He graduated from the University of Connecticut with a bachelor's degree in exercise science and pursued a career in wellness and coaching before joining the YMCA team as a wellness director in 1998. Scott is passionate about educating and engaging the community in the Y's mission and aspires to expand the positive impact the organization has on the community.

Karl S. Myers, Co-Chair, Appellate Practice Group, Stevens & Lee

Karl is Co-Chair of Stevens & Lee's Appellate Practice Group. He is a leading Pennsylvania appellate lawyer with two decades of experience arguing and briefing a wide variety of high-profile, precedent-setting cases before the appellate courts of Pennsylvania and other jurisdictions. Throughout his career, clients have entrusted Karl with numerous high-risk appeals valued, in aggregate, at a half-billion dollars. He focuses on cases before the Pennsylvania Supreme, Commonwealth and Superior Courts, as well as the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and has particular experience in the areas of:

- State and federal constitutional challenges
- State administrative agency disputes
- Original jurisdiction proceedings in Commonwealth Court
- Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law requests
- Government contracting and bid protest disputes
- Insurance insolvency and guaranty association matters
- Complex commercial actions

Karl has served as counsel of record in hundreds of cases before Pennsylvania's appellate courts. Clients also engage him to author amicus curiae briefs before the U.S. Supreme Court and other appellate courts in cases of significance to trade, industry and other groups.

Because of the prominent nature of his appellate advocacy, Karl has frequently presented televised arguments on the Pennsylvania Cable Network and his arguments are often quoted in the *Pennsylvania Law Weekly*, *The Legal Intelligencer*, *Law360* and other regional and national publications. As a thought leader in his area of law, he comments on notable issues before the appellate courts and often serves as a panelist and moderator for appellate practice presentations and seminars.

Karl also serves in prominent roles within the community of appellate practitioners. He is Co-Chair of the Appellate Advocacy Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and is a charter member of that Committee, having been a member since its formation in 2003. Karl serves on the Board of Directors and as Pennsylvania State Chair for the Council of Appellate Lawyers of the American Bar Association's Appellate Judges Conference, the first and only national appellate bench-bar organization. Additionally, Karl is an active member of the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court Historical Society. Through his advocacy and professional activities, Karl has developed a strong rapport with the appellate bench.

Complementing his appellate practice, Karl also is an experienced trial court lawyer who has overseen disputes from inception through verdict, decision or resolution in hundreds of cases pending before state and federal courts. His litigation practice has touched virtually every type of civil matter, including insurance coverage and bad faith cases, commercial disputes, and contract, tort and personal injury matters.

Karl has been trained as a mediator by the American Arbitration Association and is certified as a state and a federal court arbitrator. He has assisted in the judicial selection process by serving three terms as a reviewer in the Investigative Division of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention.

Immediately after law school, Karl began to develop his appellate capabilities and experience while serving as a law clerk for the Hon. Russell M. Nigro of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. He also served as a clerk for the Hon. John T.J. Kelly Jr. of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania while still in law school.

During his distinguished law school career, Karl was selected as a member of the Appellate Moot Court Board, Dickinson Law Review, and Woosack Honor Society. At that time, he also served as a clerk for the Hon. Yvette Kane of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Karl began his legal career as an intern for the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office.

Representative Experience

- Secured the return of over \$18 million in guaranty association assessments for several health plans by obtaining a unanimous decision of the en banc Commonwealth Court after personally briefing and arguing the case before the appellate court in televised proceedings
- Defeated a constitutional Establishment Clause challenge to the tradition of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives of opening each session day with a religious prayer offered by guest chaplains of diverse faith traditions by obtaining a favorable Third Circuit ruling after personally arguing the case before the appellate court
- Won a decisive appellate victory in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court allowing comfort dogs to accompany vulnerable testifying witnesses on behalf of several pro bono clients
- Successfully shielded Philadelphia's Amazon second headquarters or "HQ2" proposal from public disclosure prior to Amazon's selection of a second (and third) headquarters in multiple Right-to-Know Law litigation disputes before the Pennsylvania Supreme and Commonwealth Courts, the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, and the Pennsylvania Office of Open Records
- Secured a victory for several health plans seeking to protect their confidential and secret rate information by obtaining a favorable Right-to-Know Law ruling from the en banc Commonwealth Court after personally briefing and arguing the case in televised proceedings
- Defeated class action lawsuits against the Pennsylvania legislature challenging the constitutionality of Pennsylvania laws and seeking over \$200 million in relief, including by defeating multiple requests for injunctions in the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court and obtaining a unanimous Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision in the legislature's favor after personally arguing the case before the Court during televised proceedings
- Negated nearly all of a \$12 million claim in an insolvent insurance company's liquidation proceedings by way of a unanimous, published decision by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court of national significance in the insurance insolvency setting
- Won a decisive appellate victory in the Pennsylvania Superior Court upholding the dismissal of a claim for benefits under a vehicle fleet insurance policy issued by a national insurance company

- Preserved \$11 million in public funding awarded for conversion of a former school building to apartments for lower-income senior citizens by obtaining a Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision awarding zoning to the project after personally briefing and arguing the case before the court in televised proceedings
- Obtained a unanimous Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision of first impression holding that legislative enactments by the Pennsylvania General Assembly are not subject to belated procedural constitutional challenges after personally briefing and arguing the case before the court in televised proceedings
- Defeated an attempt by another state’s insurance guaranty association to apply that state’s laws to Pennsylvania’s insurance insolvency proceedings in a \$700,000 reimbursement dispute by obtaining a favorable 4-to-3 ruling of the en banc Commonwealth Court after personally arguing the case before the court during televised proceedings
- Blocked an alleged participant in the Luzerne County “Kids for Cash” scandal from obtaining insurance coverage in an appeal before the Third Circuit
- Tried a half-million-dollar dispute between packaging companies before a federal jury over five days, securing a partial victory at trial, followed by a complete victory on appeal before the Third Circuit

Affiliations

- Pennsylvania Bar Association, Appellate Advocacy Committee, Co-Chair; Administrative Law Section, Past Chair
- American Bar Association, Appellate Judges Conference, Council of Appellate Lawyers, Board of Directors; Appellate Judges Conference, Council of Appellate Lawyers, Pennsylvania State Chair; Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section, Appellate Advocacy Committee, Past Chair
- Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court Historical Society
- Third Circuit Bar Association
- Third Circuit Historical Society
- Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, Certified Arbitrator
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Certified Arbitrator
- Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County, Judge *Pro Tempore*

Recognition

- *Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business*, Band 1 in Litigation: Appellate, Pennsylvania, 2021
- Recognized every year since 2017 as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer in the area of Appellate Law; Named to “Rising Stars,” 2010-2016
- *Suburban Life Magazine*, “Top Attorney,” 2021

Education

- Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*
- University of Delaware, B.A.

Bar Admissions

- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey

Kennedy O'Dell, Policy Advisor, Office of U.S. Senator Bob Casey

A graduate of Princeton University and the London School of Economics and Political Science, where she received an MS in local economic development, Kennedy covers a full portfolio of issues for Senator Casey, including Appropriations, Commerce, Economics and public finance, emergency management, housing and community development, small business, and transportation and public works.

Dave Parsell, Co-Founder & CEO, Localintel

Dave is co-founder of Localintel, an award-winning government technology company helping economic developers succeed. Adding Localintel's flexible suite of tools to your website is the easiest, most affordable way to promote local advantages, engage business and drive economic development. Learn more at www.localintel.co

Dave's professional background includes senior roles in consulting and local government, where he specialized in economic development and strategic planning. Dave's career also includes roles with Deutsche Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, Bank of Scotland and the Australian Army.

He holds a Master of Public Administration, Master of Environmental Planning and Bachelor of Commerce and has guest lectured at Macquarie University and the University of NSW.

Nathan Reigner, Director of Outdoor Recreation, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

Nathan Reigner is Director of Outdoor Recreation for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania where he supports and coordinates statewide outdoor recreation policy and development. Prior to his public service, Nathan has served as a policy analyst, consultant, business owner, university professor, conservation commissioner, and trail club leader, all with a focus on helping communities, parks, trails, and tourism destinations deliver outstanding experiences while protecting their essential character. Reigner has worked in and with more than 100 parks, forests, trails, historic sites, and heritage areas in more than half the states and territories in the union and overseas in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. A native of Pennsylvania, Nathan holds a Doctorate in Natural Resource Management from the University of Vermont and was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship from the Icelandic Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Science Foundation.

Kathleen Rhine, President & CEO, Mount Nittany Health

Kathleen Rhine is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Mount Nittany Health, State College, PA. Kathleen is a Penn State graduate, earning her Bachelor of Science in Health Planning and Administration. She earned a Master of Business Administration from Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan. Kathleen's career in healthcare leadership has spanned more than 25 years, at hospitals and health systems in South Carolina, Michigan, and Illinois.

Kathleen's extensive background in healthcare includes health system operations, service line development, physician alignment and growth, and corporate services such as human resources, IT, communications, marketing, performance improvement, and organizational development.

Cristy Schmidt, Applied Research Educator, Penn State Center for Economic and Community Development

Cristy Halerz Schmidt is an Applied Research Educator affiliated with Penn State's Center for Economic and Community Development and Penn State Extension's Energy, Business, and Community Vitality unit. She also currently serves as Extension's Fellow to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. In these roles, Cristy collaborates closely with community partners, elected officials, and Penn State faculty and staff to co-create applied research that helps address emerging social and economic issues in communities across the state.

Larry Shifflett, Deputy Secretary for Planning, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Larry Shifflett was named Deputy Secretary for Planning in June 2019. He is a 1991 graduate of Penn State with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance. Shifflett has also attained his Master of Business Administration from Lebanon Valley College.

During his 27-plus years with PennDOT, Shifflett has held several positions in the Office of Planning. His most recent position focused on performance-based planning. He has participated in national peer exchanges with the Washington Department of Transportation and West Virginia Department of Transportation and has participated in several National Cooperative Highway Research Program panels.

Jennifer Stubbs, Assistant Director, Recruiting & Employer Engagement, Penn State University

Jennifer Stubbs currently serves as the Assistant Director of Penn State Career Services. In this role, she oversees strategy related to recruiting and employer engagement. She also contributes to University-wide programs which increase student engagement and administrative effectiveness. Stubbs teaches courses within the Smeal College of Business and the College of Liberal Arts. She has over 14 years of administrative and teaching experience in higher education which focuses on career readiness, leadership development, and student success. In addition to her work at Penn State, Stubbs serves as a secretary for the Higher Education Program Alumni Council at Penn State's College of Education. She is also a committed volunteer in her local community. Stubbs is pursuing her D.Ed in Higher Education from Penn State University (University Park, PA). She received her Masters of Education in Higher Education and Bachelor's degree (Psychology) from Penn State University (University Park, PA).

Todd Taylor, VP, Post-Secondary Education, Central PA Institute of Science & Technology

Mr. Todd Taylor currently works as the Vice President of Post-Secondary Education at the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology (CPI). CPI is a Career and Technical Center located in Centre County, PA. Todd has his Bachelors in Business and his Masters in Education from Penn State University. He is also a certified Instructor and Administrative Director through the PA Department of Education. Upon joining CPI in 2003, Mr. Taylor was challenged by his Board (JOC) to grow CPI's post-secondary programs; which now include offerings in healthcare, transportation, advanced manufacturing, and other high priority occupational areas. Mr. Taylor has been instrumental in advancing CPI's long-term growth plan; which included the completion of the 40,000 sq. ft. Transportation Training Center and includes plans for a new Health Sciences Building to house healthcare degree programs in surgical technology, nursing, healthcare management, and others. With the growing shortage of skilled,

job-ready employees, Mr. Taylor has also led efforts at CPI to establish apprenticeships and other workforce pipelines that serve the employment needs of business and industry.

Deborah Tollett, Deputy Director, Strategic Information Services, Pennsylvania DCED

Debbie currently serves as Deputy Director for DCED's Office of Strategic Information Services where she provides data and analytics that support good stewardship and sustainable development initiatives across the Commonwealth. She joined DCED in 2015 after 20 years in the private sector providing consulting services in various aspects of community, economic, and real estate development planning.

Geanie Umberger, Ph.D., MSPH, RPh, Associate VP for Research, Office of Industrial Partnerships, Penn State University

Geanie Umberger, PhD, MSPH, RPh, is Penn State's Associate Vice President for Research and Director of Industry Research Collaborations. Appointed May 1, 2021, Geanie is responsible for developing and nurturing corporate relationships with potential and existing partners to further industrial research growth at the University.

Before coming to Penn State, Umberger spent 10 years at Purdue University, where she has been engaging industry partners in economic development activities, including attracting companies to Indiana, development of IoT and cybersecurity technology park, and other initiatives around student educational offerings, projects and opportunities. She also established collaborations between Purdue faculty with industry for the purposes of sponsoring research and supporting large-scale projects and centers. In addition, Umberger has had significant industry experience performing successful regulatory compliance, large-scale project management, technology-based business development, and building innovative university-industry relations. "We are extremely excited to have Geanie joining us," expressed Senior Vice President for Research Lora Weiss. "She will be leading and expanding our research collaborations with industry in a multitude of ways."

Geanie Umberger attended the University of Kentucky, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy, a Master's of Science in Public Health, and a Ph.D. in Anatomy and Neurobiology. Dr. Umberger's postdoctoral work at the UK College of Medicine's Department of Neurology focused on the development of techniques using functional MRI to diagnose Alzheimer's and other memory-related diseases. Umberger served as Purdue's Assistant Vice president for Industry Relations in the Vice President office for Research and Partnerships, and Associate Dean for Engagement in the Purdue Polytechnic. In addition to her extensive work in academics as a senior administrator and faculty member, she worked in industry for IBM, Lexmark International, REGISTRAT, and Bristol Myers-Squibb.

Jennifer Wakeman, CEcD, Executive Director, DRIVE

Jennifer is the Executive Director of DRIVE, an economic development entity serving five counties in the Central Susquehanna region. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Washington & Lee University. Her career has covered a variety of fields from agriculture to television and radio. She was the creator, host and content producer for *In Your Neighborhood*, a monthly television newsmagazine and, before coming to DRIVE, Jennifer was the news director at Sunbury Broadcasting Corporation.

She is the Chair of Focus Central Pennsylvania, a seven-county marketing organization committed to attracting quality companies to the region. She currently represents Montour County on the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority and the Natural Gas Cooperative board of directors.

Lora Weiss, Ph.D., Senior VP for Research, Penn State University

Lora G. Weiss, Ph.D., is the senior vice president for research at The Pennsylvania State University. In her role, she oversees the research of twelve academic colleges, seven interdisciplinary research institutes, the Applied Research Lab, which is a university affiliated research center for the Navy, and offices for sponsored programs, research protections, industry partnerships, technology transfer, innovation, and commercialization. Weiss is also president of the Penn State Research Foundation, which catalyzes the commercial translation of research to application. Penn State consistently ranks among the nation's top 25 research universities, with annual research expenditures of ~\$1 billion.

Prior to serving as senior vice president for research, Weiss spent 13 years at Georgia Tech, where most recently, she served as interim senior vice president and director of the Georgia Tech Research Institute, which is a university affiliated research center for the Army. Prior to Georgia Tech, Weiss spent 16 years working at Penn State's Applied Research Laboratory advancing research in unmanned and autonomous systems.

Weiss is an accomplished scientist and educator with more than 30 years of experience in higher education. With a background in robotics and unmanned systems, Weiss has been advancing the capabilities of unmanned air, ground, sea surface, and undersea vehicles. Weiss served on the Board of Directors for the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI), which is the world's largest unmanned systems organization. She was on the technical advisory board of the National Robotics Technology Consortium. She was an Executive Board Member for NDIA's Undersea Warfare Division; she supported several National Academies' studies; she supported the Center for New American Security's Future Foundry Task Force; and she is on the steering committee for the Information Science and Technology group that supports DARPA's Information Innovation Office. Weiss has been author of a continuous stream of highly regarded journal publications, including her 1994 seminal paper on the cover of the internationally renowned *IEEE Signal Processing* magazine and again in 2011 for her cover story in *IEEE Spectrum*.

In 2014, Weiss was named Regents' Researcher, which is the highest recognition bestowed by the University System of Georgia to research faculty members. In 2012, Weiss received the AUVSI Foundation Award for Academic Champion. In 2012, she also received Georgia's Women in Technology Woman of the Year Award for Medium-Sized Businesses, and in 2013, she received a Letter of Commendation from the Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group. Weiss holds a patent for an unmanned underwater vehicle.

Weiss received her Ph.D. in acoustics from Penn State, her master's in mathematics from UCLA, and her bachelor's in mathematics from Boston University.

Charima Young, Assistant VP for Local Government & Community Relations, Penn State University

Charima Young was appointed to Assistant Vice President for Local Government and Community Relations in February 2022, after serving as Director of Local Government and Community Relations for Penn State University since May 2017. Charima has over 20 years of experience in community outreach working with nonprofits, government agencies, and corporations to implement self-sufficiency programs on local, national, and global platforms. As the Director of Local Government and Community Relations for Penn State University in State College, Pennsylvania, Charima helped to develop and direct the local government engagement strategy by working closely with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders. Charima manages the relationships between Penn State University, local government, business community, student organizations and nonprofits to foster clear lines of communication and to promote mutually beneficial outcomes. She also currently represents the University on several boards, which include the Downtown State College Improvement District, Centre County United Way, and the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau.

Prior to Penn State, Charima served as Associate State Director of Community Outreach for AARP Georgia. During her tenure with AARP, she developed and executed community investment strategies to serve the 50+ population throughout Georgia in the areas of financial security, consumer protection and fraud, caregiving, and more. In addition to managing five core programs, Charima supported AARP's advocacy efforts through education and deepening AARP's engagement with Atlanta's businesses, elected officials, and community leaders on workforce development and community development issues. She also worked closely with the City of Atlanta's Mayor's Office and City Council to implement an initiative nationally recognized by the World Health Organization.

Prior to AARP, she served as the Corporate Responsibility Manager for InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG), and directed community programs, employee engagement, and community communications outreach efforts for IHG's Americas region. She worked closely with global and national partners such as CARE, Goodwill Industries, and the American Red Cross to implement workforce development and disaster relief programs to support local communities around the world.

Charima also served as the National Partnership and Consortia Manager on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Neighborhood Networks initiative where she led a team in the development of national partnerships for community technology centers nationwide. She negotiated and executed strategic partnerships with high profile stakeholders such as Samsung, CVS Caremark, FDIC, and Wachovia to deliver in-kind donations and services to over 1,400 HUD communities. Throughout her career, she has developed beneficial relationships with nonprofits, government, and private sector organizations to benefit local communities.

She is a native of Hillside, NJ. During her tenure in Atlanta, she earned her bachelor's degree from Spelman College, and her Master's in Public Policy from Georgia Institute of Technology. Charima also received a certificate in Nonprofit Management from Duke University and a Project Management certificate from Georgia State University. In her spare time, Charima is an avid runner and enjoys competing in races. She also enjoys traveling, hiking, theatre, and event planning.

David Zellers, Jr., Director of Commerce, Montgomery County Commerce Department

Dave is responsible for leading Montgomery County's wide-ranging economic and workforce development efforts. On a daily basis, his responsibilities include building partnerships and cultivating a shared, inclusive, and proactive vision for economic and workforce development, all while promoting Montgomery County as the place to live, work, learn, and invest. Dave's professional experience includes projects focused on community revitalization, non-profit vision and mission development, regional strategic planning, economic development financing and incentives, economic and workforce development integration, and entrepreneurship. In addition to overseeing approximately \$42 million in COVID-19 small business and non-profit relief programs, Dave has served as a co-chair for the Montgomery County 2020 Census Complete Count Committee (MontcoPACounts), chair for the county's "Homes for All" project on housing affordability, overseen the launch of the award winning MontcoForward Initiative, and serves on both the Leadership Council and Governance Committee of the Philadelphia Global Identity Partnership, as well as the Board of Directors for the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association and for Amplify Philly. Dave was named one of the Philadelphia Business Journal's "40 Under 40" emerging regional leaders in 2021. His career has included positions with the Pennsylvania Downtown Center, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, the Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Development and Planning Commission, and the Miami University of Ohio Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs.

2022 PEDA FALL CONFERENCE - SESSION OVERVIEWS

Agenda is subject to change

Pre-Conference Session: Exploring the Role of Bond Finance in Your Organization's Sustainability Plan

The current Commonwealth Court Case on prevailing wage, when a local Pennsylvania authority is used as a conduit issuer, has many local Industrial Development Authorities (IDAs) wondering how this may impact future bond financing. During the recession, low interest rates on conventional financing reduced the demand for tax-free bond issues. With interest rates rising, many organizations will be looking for alternatives to conventional finance such as bond finance, but IDAs are unsure how to proceed, given the current court case. Through the pandemic, the profession also experienced a great amount of retirements of established economic development professionals and PEDA sees a clear value in revisiting the discussion of the use and sustainability of local IDAs. Among the topics to be addressed during this session are the following ones.

- Ursinus College / Commonwealth Court Update
 - Department of Labor and Industry Ruling on Ursinus College issue through Montgomery County HEHA
 - Appeal to Commonwealth Court. Timing for hearing, and judgement
 - What happens after the Commonwealth Court rules?

- Traditional IDA Bond Conduit Finance from Start to Finish
 - Application to DCED
 - IDA Solicitor involvement with Bond Counsel / Financial Institution
 - TEFRA Hearing

- How to use a local IDA for other purposes:
 - IDA Conduit Mortgages
 - IDA Conduit Financing for Improvement Districts (NID, BID, TID)
 - IDA is a public authority - PA programs and Fed programs that require public authority applicants on behalf of other entities: RACP; Statewide LSA; US DOT (RAISE PIDP)

Keynote Presentation: Penn State's Impact on Pennsylvania's Economy

During her keynote presentation, Dr. Lora Weiss will discuss Penn State's long history of commitment – as the sole land-grant university for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania – to economic development and the prosperity of the citizens of Pennsylvania. Through transformative research, service and outreach, Penn State contributes more than \$11B, annually, to the economy of Pennsylvania. As a research enterprise grounded in a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration, Penn State's breadth of expertise is fueling the state's economy, serving communities, and solving universal problems for the Commonwealth and beyond.

At the conclusion of Dr. Weiss's keynote presentation, Geanie Umberger, Ph.D., MSPH, RPh, Associate Vice President for Research with Penn State University's Office of Industrial Partnerships, will moderate a panel discussion that will further explore Penn State's effect at the county and local levels, including the integrated town and gown relationship and economic and technology development with regard to industry and entrepreneurship. Panelists will include James Delattre, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Research with Penn State University's Office of Entrepreneurship and Commercialization and Charima Young, Penn State University's Assistant Vice President for Local Government and Community Relations.

Health, Wellness & the Economy: How Healthy is Your Community?

A healthy economy starts with healthy citizens. Learn how Centre County stakeholders use a Community Health Needs Assessment every three years to evaluate and promote health and wellness of the community. The process involves nearly 100 key informants from the community and a Partner Forum of over 50 individuals. The resulting Implementation Plan will be shared and resources for execution described. A similar process is occurring in your community, whether you know it or not.

The Most Important Element of Your Economic Development Website

The worst of the pandemic is behind us and competition between locations to attract new investment and jobs is intensifying. During this fast moving and engaging session, economic developers will learn what it takes to stand out from the crowd and what they need to prioritize when promoting their location to site selectors. The session will also cover:

1. Why every economic development website needs a “Why Us” section
2. How the “Why Us” section of your website is the foundation for all your marketing and business development initiatives
3. What site selectors want to see in the “Why Us” section of your website based on new research
4. Best practice examples
5. Q&A

SBA 504 – Beyond the Basics

This session will focus on the following topic areas of pertinence to economic development finance professionals.

- Brief review on SBA 504 basics
- In-depth review on PIDA
 - Where SBA industries and PIDA industries intersect
- Areas where EDCF has found success
 - Advanced lending opportunities allowed within the SBA 504 program not often discussed
 - Ways that EDC Finance looks at project opportunities to determine the best loan tool
 - Project opportunities where PIDA and SBA can both be used successfully for the benefit of the customer

Rural Economic Development: Key Issues & Strategies

Pennsylvania has the third largest rural population in the U.S. This session will talk about not only the challenges facing rural economic development, but also unique solutions and strategies for creating resilient communities across the Commonwealth.

Now What? | Insights to Action

In a dynamically evolving economy, how can we use data to provide insights, set direction, and initiate action that will strengthen communities and transform economies? DCED, in collaboration with Penn State’s Center for Community and Economic Development (CECD), will provide a “sneak peek” at an initiative designed to help leaders answer this question and more.

Putting Outdoor Recreation to Work – Perspectives on the Economic & Community Impact of Outdoor Recreation

Is your community losing population, under employed, and having trouble seeing a brighter tomorrow? Are you looking for ways to improve the quality of life for you and your neighbors? Would you like to both use and conserve

your natural resources and cultural heritage to stimulate economic growth? Do you want to be healthier, happier, and more prosperous?

Try Outdoor Recreation - It's the economic development pathway for you!

Outdoor recreation is more than having fun outside – it is a powerful, sustainable, good, and necessary part of the economic and community development puzzle. Outdoor recreation interfaces with the economics of communities and the commonwealth in a number of ways, including:

- Direct macroeconomic productivity of outdoor recreation businesses, contributing \$12 billion to Pennsylvania's GDP (1.5%)
- Intimate microeconomic contributions from small and local businesses that enable community residents to connect their passions with their professions
- Broad-based economic stimulation, retention, and recruitment associated with high quality of life and community prestige
- Infrastructure and cost saving for health, utilities, transportation, waste management, etc.

In this panel, we will describe the benefits of outdoor recreation (specifically for economic development), share examples from a range of Pennsylvania communities, outline how resources and partnerships can be used to engage outdoor recreation, and take your questions about how outdoor recreation can help your community thrive.

It's All About the Talent: Workforce Development Beyond the Pandemic

Navigating, building, and developing into the next decade for a competitive landscape in the Commonwealth.

Building an effective workforce development ecosystem creates opportunities at various stages of career development in a variety of formats and with outcomes that have short-term and long-term impacts. What can we do to assist the employment ecosystem?

Pennsylvania faces a tight labor market, with many employers reporting difficulty filling open positions. The panel will share the successes and challenges that Pennsylvania employers face in the Commonwealth and offer insights into the post-pandemic economy.

The panel will cover topics including:

1. Industry trends
2. Developing talent as educators
3. Opportunities to grow meaningful employment
4. Projected hiring gaps
5. Strategies to address workforce issues

Unpacking the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act: What are the Opportunities for Pennsylvania's Communities?

The Infrastructure Bill, signed by President Biden in November, 2021 includes \$550 billion in new spending on infrastructure over the next five years. According to White House representatives, this bill marks the largest-ever federal investment in public transit, the largest federal investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak and the largest bridge investment since the construction of the interstate highway system. It also includes \$65 billion to

bring high-speed internet to every American through broadband infrastructure improvement, a critical issue for Pennsylvania's underserved communities.

You will hear from some of the key people involved in the vision and implementation of how these funds can and should be deployed in Pennsylvania. Some of the topics to be covered and questions to be asked include.

- What is the one program every community should apply for?
- What is the most overlooked feature of the bill?
- What are Pennsylvania's priority needs?
- Time for questioning the panelists