***The National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc) Fall Meeting: Preparing for the Future***

*October 20-22, 2014*

**Dr. Gene Bottoms** is the founder and director of the Southern Regional Education Board's High Schools That Work initiative. His role at SREB now includes high school, middle grades and technology center reform and the preparation of school leaders to become leaders of curriculum and instruction. Gene has been a local school teacher, principal and guidance counselor. He is a native of Georgia and a product of its public school system. **Jennifer Brown Lerner** joined American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) in 2005. Currently, Jennifer serves as a Deputy Director, managing the organization’s work on wide range of issues that ensure all students graduate ready to succeed in college and careers. At AYPF, she co-authored a compendium on best practices in secondary-post secondary learning options entitled The College Ladder: Linking Secondary and Postsecondary Education for Success for All.

Prior to joining AYPF, Jennifer worked as a classroom teacher and communications officer for a number of schools in the Boston area. Additionally, she was active in the creation of a Summerbridge (now Breakthrough Collaborative) site in Atlanta, Georgia.

Jennifer received her BA from the University of Pennsylvania and her MA from Teachers College, Columbia University. She also participated in the Education Policy Fellow Program at the Institute for Educational Leadership in 2005-06.

**Brandon Busteed** leads the development of Gallup’s education work. His career spans a wide range of important work in education as an educational entrepreneur, speaker, writer, and university trustee. Busteed’s work involves integrating Gallup’s research and science on selection, strengths, engagement, and wellbeing to improve student success, teacher effectiveness, and educational outcomes. His mission is to create a national movement to measure the educational outcomes that matter most, connect education to jobs and job creation, and to promote a paradigm shift from knowledge mastery to emotional engagement in education.

Busteed has founded two companies and one nonprofit organization as a social entrepreneur. He is the founder and former CEO of Outside The Classroom, a company that pioneered adaptive online education in alcohol abuse prevention. A three-year, 30-school, national study funded by the National Institutes of Health showed that AlcoholEdu — the organization’s flagship alcohol-abuse prevention program — was effective in reducing binge drinking, drunk driving, and sexual assaults. More than 4 million students have taken this program, which is the only course of its kind proven to change behavior. The company was acquired by EverFi in 2011.

Busteed is a nationally-known speaker and author on education policy and public health. He has written frequently for The Chronicle of Higher Education, Trusteeship Magazine, The Huffington Post, and other publications. Busteed’s work has been featured in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, and USA Today and on NPR and the NBC News “TODAY” show, among others.

Busteed received his bachelor’s degree in public policy from Duke University. He is a trustee emeritus of Duke and has served on the Board of Visitors of the Sanford School of Public Policy. He is a member of Young Presidents’ Organization and serves on the National Board of Directors for Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity. A former two-sport NCAA Division 1 athlete at Duke, Busteed continues to hone his competitive drive as an avid CrossFitter. He lives in McLean, Virginia, with his wife, Deanna, and two children, Anabelle and Harrison.

**Rod Duckworth** joined the Florida Department of Education as the Chancellor for the Division of Career and Adult Education in March 2012. Mr. Duckworth has extensive state and national experience in career and technical education having most recently served as the Interim Deputy Director for Career and Technical Education in the Arkansas Department of Career Education.

Mr. Duckworth began his career as a classroom teacher and student organization advisor; he managed several national programs for the National FFA Organization in Alexandria, Virginia. Mr. Duckworth served as the State Program Director for Agriculture Education in Washington State and was later appointed as State Director of Career and Technical Education, a position he held until he returned to his home state of Arkansas in 2007 to serve in various roles in the Arkansas Department of Career Education.

**Dr. Blake Flanders** serves as Vice President for Workforce Development for the Kansas Board of Regents and provides executive leadership for the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority. In this role, he is the State leader for issues involving the postsecondary education and training system in the development of an educated workforce that aligns with the needs of the Kansas economy. His scope of responsibility includes developing a policy agenda for postsecondary workforce education, curriculum and program evaluation, system funding, benchmarks and accountability, and the management of federal workforce initiatives.

**Matt Gandal** is President of Education Strategy Group, a strategic consulting organization that works with states, national organizations, and foundations committed to dramatically improving the capacity and performance of K-12 and postsecondary education systems in the United States. In this capacity, Gandal is facilitating a special Task Force on Career Readiness for the Council of Chief State School Officers which will release its recommendations in December 2014.

Gandal previously served as a senior advisor to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan where he led a new division responsible for providing policy and implementation support to states and served as member of the Secretary’s Advisory Team that met regularly with the Secretary to take stock of progress and establish priorities for the Department.

Before joining the U.S. Department of Education, Gandal was executive vice president of Achieve, the national organization created by governors and business executives to raise academic standards in U.S. schools. He led the American Diploma Project and the Common Core State Standards Initiative which resulted in over 40 states adopting common academic standards aligned with the demands of colleges and employers.

Gandal has also held leadership positions with the American Federation of Teachers and with the Educational Excellence Network.

**Mary Gardner Clagett** is director of workforce policy, for the Workforce and Education Policy Group at JFF. Ms. Clagett works with workforce policy leaders and practitioners from around the country to shape effective policy recommendations to meet the skills needs of America’s workers and the U.S. economy. She and her team work to identify best and promising practices particularly for meeting the education, training, and placement needs of low-skilled workers— translating practice into policy.

Ms. Clagett has more than 25 years of experience working with the U.S. Congress in the fields of education, workforce development, and human services policy. Before joining JFF, Ms. Clagett served in a similar capacity for the National Center on Education and the Economy, and before that served as the lead staff for Republicans on the U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce, responsible for workforce development and career preparation legislation, including the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, the National School-to-Work Opportunities Act, and numerous other measures related to the workforce, education, and human services. She has also served in the U.S. Senate on the Labor and Human Resources Committee for West Virginia Senator Jennings Randolph. Ms. Clagett earned her undergraduate degree from Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, and carried out her graduate work at the George Washington University in Washington, DC.

**Dr. Rachel Gragg** has been the Federal Policy Director for National Skills Coalition since 2007. She directs the organization's Washington-based efforts to advance a national skills strategy within federal legislation, agency regulation and national funding initiatives. Rachel assists local leaders in federal policy advocacy both within Washington and in their home districts and works with National Skills Coalition field staff and local partners to help improve state and local implementation of federal programs. Rachel was previously a Senior Policy Analyst for the Center for Community Change (CCC), where she coordinated national efforts to engage grassroots organizations in legislative advocacy. Prior to CCC, Rachel was Legislative Assistant to the late Senator Paul Wellstone. Rachel has a Ph.D. and master’s degree in sociology from the University of Washington and a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of Texas.

**Kimberly A. Green** has worked for the past 21 years on federal policy impacting Career Technical Education (CTE). Working closely with Congress, the Administration and a broad range of stakeholders, she represents the interests of and seeks support for CTE. In addition to this policy work, Kimberly helped establish, implement and grow the national Career Cluster® Initiative, the Common Career Technical Core, the CTE: Learning that Works for America Campaign and the Career Readiness Partner Council – all of which are designed to build visibility and support for CTE, while also raising the bar for CTE by ensuring consistency in the delivery of high quality programs to students across the U.S.

Kimberly represents the state directors on a variety of boards and committees including the Manufacturing Skills Standards Leadership Council, the National Technical Honor Society, and the Executive Committee of the National Career Academy Coalition. She is also collaborating with the new National College and Career Readiness Center, the Great Teachers and Leaders Center and is partnering with multiple federally funded projects to expand the implementation of career pathways. She is an accomplished speaker, having presented in all 50 states and is considered a nationally recognized expert in CTE. With the support of Pell Grants and the federal work study program, she is a graduate of Cornell University’s School of Industrial and Labor Relations. A native of Buffalo, New York, Kimberly and her husband, Todd, reside in Rockville, Maryland.

**Lolita Hall** has worked at the Virginia Department of Education from 1990 to present. She started in the Office of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Services and through 2001 served as co-team leader for the Virginia System of Core Standards and Performance Measures for Secondary Vocational Education Programs; provided leadership for the development and implementation of the accountability system for secondary vocational programs. Ms. Hall has served as the state coordinator for High Schools That Work; special needs program specialist; and pre-and early-adolescent education specialist with responsibilities that included statewide leadership for the restructuring and implementing home economics exploratory programs in middle grades.

During 2001-2010, Ms. Hall moved to the Division of Student Assessment and School Improvement and provided oversight for implementation of the Virginia Standards of Learning assessment. Beginning January 2011, Ms. Hall became and now serves as the state director for Career and Technical Education.

**Matthew James** currently holds the position of President & CEO for the Peninsula Council for Workforce Development (Council). The Council is a Virginia Peninsula-based regional economic development organization focused on workforce development. In this role, he provides leadership for the Councils’ Private/Public Partnership and Federal Programs divisions including business and industry development, employer cluster activities, educational initiatives, Workforce Investment Board management and oversight for the Peninsula Worklink One Stop Career Centers.

Mr. James comes to the Council from the Peninsula Alliance for Economic Development, where he held the positions of Executive Vice President and Vice President for Workforce Development. In addition, he has held the positions of Director of Economic Development for the City of Portsmouth, VA as well as several staff positions in economic development with the City of Chesapeake, VA. Prior to his economic development career, he held positions in brand management with Kraft Foods and positions with First National Bank of Chicago.

Mr. James holds a Master of Business Administration from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Hampton University. He is active in the community and has served on numerous Boards and Commissions including the Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee, BB&T Bank, Bon Secours-Mary Immaculate Hospital Board of Directors and Past President of the Board of Directors for the Virginia Economic Developers Association. Mr. James is married to Karen Scott James, Esq. of Chicago, Illinois and has two daughters, Dr. Lauren James and Kelly James.

Mr. James was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 2010 to serve as representative for the citizens of the 80th district which includes Portsmouth and parts of the cities of Norfolk, Suffolk and Chesapeake. Mr. James is a member of the House Finance, Commerce and Labor and Chesapeake Bay and Natural Resources Committees. He is also a Member of the Joint Commission Administrative Rules and Joint Commission on Electric Utility Regulation.

**Scott Jenkins** is the Program Director of the Education Division at the National Governors Association, where he focuses on postsecondary education and works with state policy leaders to transform higher education and workforce systems to improve student success, productivity and quality. Prior to joining NGA, Scott served as director of external relations at Western Governors University. Scott received his B.S. in Political Science from the University of Central Florida.

**Lucy Johnson** is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Rural Outreach at the US Department of Education. Ms. Johnson is from Kyle, Texas, where she served as Mayor through two terms of office. During her tenure, she worked to secure better access to education for Kyle's residents, building a new city library, campaigning successfully for a community college campus, and actively building relationships between local school district officials and the city.

A strong believer in youth involvement, she also helped create the Kyle Area Youth Advisory Council to advise city staff and council members on a variety of municipal issues, and voted to create an honorary council position for a youth representative. Growing up on a Texas ranch led to an early appreciation for rural America, both its joys and challenges, and as mayor, Ms. Johnson helped navigate her hometown of Kyle through a period of heavy growth and development as it shifted from a small farming and ranching community to a prosperous suburban extension of the Austin metropolitan area.

**Richard Katt** is a graduate of the University of Nebraska Lincoln with degrees in Career and Technical Education and Adult Education. Rich is currently an Administrator with the Curriculum and Instruction Innovation Team in the Nebraska Department of Education. He serves as State Director for Career Education, administers the Federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act, and provides leadership in curriculum and instruction and school improvement for Nebraska schools and community colleges. His work currently involves creating a statewide career education system to help students PreK-12 explore career options and be both academically and technically prepared for the career of their choice.

Rich’s work involves extensive coordination of activities between workforce and economic development and education. He serves on the committee for Nebraska’s Essential Education Policy which details Nebraska’s vision for student success in PreK-16 education. He is the past chair of *FutureForce Nebraska,* a collaboration of PreK-12 education, postsecondary education, government agencies, workforce and economic development professionals and business and industry representatives.

He has been an educator for over 30 years as a teacher, Nebraska FFA Executive Director, and State Director for Agriculture Education prior to his current position. He is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Rich is Past President of the National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education consortium and the National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education. He was named the 2001 and 2009 Manager of the Year by the Nebraska Department of Education and has received the Distinguished Service Award from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture in recognition of his work with youth leadership development.

**Dr. Lillian Lowery** became Maryland State Superintendent of Schools and Secretary-Treasurer of the State Board on July 1, 2012. She moved to Maryland from Delaware, where she served as Secretary of Education since January 2009. As the State Chief, she facilitated a broad-based statewide strategic planning and grant application process, resulting in Delaware being selected one of the first states to be awarded a coveted federal Race to the Top grant. She led efforts to establish Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Units as well as Turnaround Units within the Department, which have assisted in the implementation of the grant and the improvement of instructional opportunities for students.

Dr. Lowery has worked in various education institutions and programs since 1976. Prior to becoming Secretary of Education, she served for three years as the Superintendent of the Christina School District in New Castle County, DE. She has served as an Assistant Superintendent in Fairfax County, VA, and an Area Superintendent in Fort Wayne, IN. She held other administrative positions, and began her career as an English teacher at the middle and high school levels in Virginia.

A graduate in English and Secondary Education at North Carolina Central University, Dr. Lowery received her Master's of Education in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of North Carolina, and her Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Virginia Polytechnic and State University.

**Dr. Danielle Mezera** assumed the position of Assistant Commissioner for Career and Technical Education (CTE) for the Tennessee Department of Education in January 2012. As Assistant Commissioner, she serves as the state director for CTE and directs the vision and curriculum of CTE across the state’s local K-12 school districts. She also oversees the state’s promoted early postsecondary offerings, including dual enrollment, dual credit, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate. Her division serves as lead state agency as a member of the Pathways to Prosperity Network.

Prior to assuming this role, Danielle served as Director of Children & Youth for the Mayor’s Office of Nashville & Davidson County Government. In that role, she served as Mayor Karl Dean’s chief education policy advisor and oversaw matters pertaining to the education, health, and well-being of Davidson County’s children (0-21 years of age).

Before entering public service, Danielle served as a Director at the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies. During her tenure at Vanderbilt University, she also held various senior level positions in university administration. Danielle holds a B.A., M.Ed., and a Ph.D. in education.

**Dr. Sharon Lee Miller** serves as Director of the Division of Academic and Technical Education (DATE) within the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE). DATE is responsible for administering one of the Department’s largest formula grant programs, which currently distributes about 1.2 billion annually to states under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV). The division also administers discretionary grants to improve the quality of career and technical education for Native Americans, Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians; gathers data for national accountability and for state and local program improvement; and conducts national initiatives that improve the rigor and relevance of career and technical education programs.

A native of Schenectady, New York, Sharon holds a Ph.D. in Educational Theory and Practice from the University at Albany in New York State. Her OVAE work experience includes oversight of research, development, and evaluation studies on issues pertaining to career and technical education. Prior to coming to the Department, she worked for the New York State Education Department on a range of initiatives, including administering school-to-work grants, conducting statewide evaluations, and gathering performance accountability data. She has formerly taught at the both the Kindergarten and college level.

**Andrew Musick** joined the staff at the New Jersey Business and Industry Association in December 2011. He is responsible for education and workforce development issues, as well as small business issues. Andrew also serves as the deputy executive director of the Employer Legislative Committee’s (ELC’s) and as the deputy director of innovation for NJBIA’s independent research affiliate The New Jersey Policy Research Organization (NJPRO).

Andrew graduated from Monmouth University with a MA in Public Policy and a BA in Political Science. He was also a member of the Monmouth University Football Team.

**Marie O’Hara** is the Associate Director, State Policy & Implementation Support at Achieve, where manages Achieve’s annual 50-state survey and report researching state policy adoption and implementation efforts in aligning standards, graduation requirements, assessments, data, and accountability systems with the demands of college and careers.

Prior to joining Achieve in 2008, Marie spent four years at the American Institutes for Research working as a research associate on a number of federally-funded education projects, including the National Center for Technology Innovation, the Reading First program, and the What Works Clearinghouse. Marie also spent a year as a research fellow with the Center for Research on Children in the U.S. researching the effectiveness of the Tulsa Public Schools pre-K program.

A Philadelphia native, Marie holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from Wake Forest University and a master’s of public policy from Georgetown University where she wrote her thesis on the relationship between state-level education policies and high school academic achievement. She currently lives in Washington, DC with her husband and son.

**Albert Palacios** is an Education Specialist in the Division of Academic and Technical Education in OCTAE. He manages the Rigorous Programs of Study grant program and contributes his expertise in advanced manufacturing, transportation, virtual environments, education technology, and STEM to career and technical education.

Prior to joining OVAE, Mr. Palacios was a Labor Policy Analyst at Bloomberg Government during the launch of its BGov.com information and analytics website. At Bloomberg, he led a team of research analysts studying economic data and the impact of Federal legislation and regulation on business, employment and wages.

His career pathway began in banking and with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He has worked with OCTAE since 1997 as a consultant on the School-to-Work project, a joint initiative of the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor. Since that time he has continued his work with both agencies, serving as a Senior Education Policy Advisor under contract to the Office of Postsecondary Education, and through a term appointment at the Employment and Training Administration, Office of Workforce Investment. His experience spans implementation of the Workforce Investment Act, rulemaking for the Higher Education Opportunity Act, and the advancement of Career Pathways.

**Stephen Pruitt** is Senior Vice President at Achieve. He has spent the past three years leading the development of the Next Generation Science Standards. Stephen began his career as a high school Chemistry teacher in Georgia, where he taught for 12 years. In 2003, he joined the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), in which he has served multiple roles, including as the Program Manager for Science, Director of Academic Standards, Associate Superintendent of Assessment and Accountability, and as Chief of Staff to State School Superintendent Kathy Cox.

In addition to his state-level work, Stephen also served as President of the Council of State Science Supervisors and a member of the writing team for the College Board’s Standards for College Success Science Standards. Most recently, he served on the National Academies of Science’s Committee on Conceptual Framework for New Science Education Standards, which has developed the *Framework for K-12 Science Education*. This document is the basis for the development of the Next Generation Science Standards. A native Georgian, Stephen earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from North Georgia College and State University, a master’s in science education from the University of West Georgia, and a doctorate of philosophy in chemistry education from Auburn University.

**Laura Rasmussen Foster** is the Director of Adult Education Studies at RTI International, where she manages research projects focused on improving adult education policies, programs, and resources for various federal and state clients. She specializes in career technical and adult education, community colleges, state finance systems and performance-based funding, career pathways, workforce development, and state longitudinal data systems. Since 2006, Ms. Foster has worked with numerous state administrators to revise their funding formulas for adult education and career and technical education (CTE) and to incorporate performance-based funding (PBF) components into their funding systems. Ms. Foster is currently directing a study for the National Center for Innovation in Career Technical Education on state CTE finance systems and is leading and contributing to projects for the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education focused on strengthening reentry education and incorporating employability skills into academic and technical skill instruction. She earned her M.Ed. at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and her M.A. and B.A. at Stanford University.

**Eric Spencer** is the director of the New Mexico Public Education Department’s (PED) College and Career Readiness Bureau. Prior to assuming his current role, he served the PED in multiple roles to include Staff Manger for Career-Technical and Workforce Education and as the Budget Director for the Administrative Services Division. His district level experience includes teaching at the elementary, middle and high school levels, working as an assistant to a principal at an elementary school, and as an assistant to a district superintendent.

**Scott Stump** is Colorado’s Associate Provost for Career & Technical Education and current NASDCTEc President. Prior to assuming this role in January of 2008, Mr. Stump served as the State Director of Agricultural Education and as the State FFA Advisor beginning in 2001 with CCCS, managing the student organization and State FFA Officer Team. In addition, Mr. Stump recently served as interim President of Northeastern Junior College while the institution conducted its presidential search process. Mr. Stump received his bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Education from Purdue University in 1990 and taught at the secondary level at Manchester High School in North Central Indiana.

**Robin Utz** serves as the chief for the College and Career Transitions branch in the Division of Academic and Technical Education (DATE) for Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) at the US Department of Education. That branch administers national discretionary programs and initiatives that support program development and innovation in Career and Technical Education (CTE). These programs and initiatives are geared toward increasing student achievement, closing the achievement gap, and preparing all students for transitions to college and careers.

Prior to joining OCTAE, Utz served as assistant director of the Career, Standards and Assessment Services Team at the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE). Her responsibilities included providing leadership for K-12 schools to develop and implement a system of quality career and technical education. She worked to develop and implement policy initiatives that reflected a progressive agenda to ensure all students achieve challenging academic and technical standards to be prepared for college and careers. She worked collaboratively with other CTE state directors and leaders on important initiatives, such as technical skill assessments and rigorous programs of study.

Utz’s professional career includes positions as a family and consumer sciences teacher, FCCLA advisor, and KSDE education program consultant for CTE programs. She maintains a current teaching license in Kansas and holds a certificate as a Global Career Development Facilitator. Nominated by colleagues, peers, and students, Utz is a past recipient of professional association awards. She has served on numerous committees and held elected offices in professional associations at state and national levels. Her bachelor’s degree is in home economics education and her master’s degree is in secondary education. Both were earned at Kansas State University.

**Dr. Johan E. Uvin** joined the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE) in December 2009 as senior policy advisor to Assistant Secretary Brenda Dann-Messier. In 2011, Uvin was appointed to the position of deputy assistant secretary for policy and strategic initiatives. In that capacity, he coordinates all policy and strategy development for OCTAE. This office is responsible for the Department's adult education portfolio, including corrections and reentry education, secondary, postsecondary and adult career and technical education, and community colleges.

In 2012, Uvin assumed additional responsibilities as the acting director of the Policy Research and Evaluation Services Division of OCTAE and the co-chair of the Interagency Forum on Disconnected Youth, a multi-agency federal collaboration to improve the outcomes of disconnected youths. Since 2010, he has also been a member of the steering committee of the Domestic Policy Council's New Americans Citizenship and Integration Initiative, which developed a framework for federal efforts on immigrant integration. Uvin further leads the Department's Pay for Success work and coordinates the Department's responsibilities related to the implementation of the Presidential Memorandum on Job-Driven Training. In May 2014, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan named Uvin acting assistant secretary for OCTAE.

Prior to his appointments at the Department, Uvin led the Rhode Island state office that oversees adult education, career and technical education, and GED testing. He also held several leadership positions in education and workforce development in both the public and private sectors.

Uvin holds a doctorate in administration, planning and social policy and a master's degree in international education from Harvard University. He also holds a Master of Arts in teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) from the School of International Training in Brattleboro, Vt.

Uvin is married to Alison Simmons and has two young adult twin sons. When not in D.C. he resides in Roslindale, Mass.

**Steve Voytek** is the Government Relations Manager for the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc). In this role Steve advances the organization’s federal policy priorities on Capitol Hill and cultivates advocacy relationships in support of NASDCTEc’s national goals and objectives. Prior to this Steve was a Research Associate for the National Association of Workforce Boards, working primarily on economic and workforce development policy. Steve has also worked in the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs at the National Institute of Standards and Technology where he worked on science and technology legislation. A Maryland native, he has also served as a state and local government advocate for the National Aquarium in Baltimore.

Steve holds an M.A. in History from West Virginia University and an M.A. in International Relations from Collegium Civitas in Warsaw, Poland. He also holds a B.A. in Political Science and Economics from Hiram College where he graduated Cum Laude.

**Bryan Wilson** is the State Policy Director at the National Skills Coalition, where he leads efforts to assist state-based coalitions and policymakers in the development of specific policy proposals, including providing in-depth analyses of model state policies and proposals. Prior to joining NSC, Bryan served as Deputy Director of the Washington State Workforce Education and Training Coordinating Board.

**Dr. Dale Winkler** has served as the Associate Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education since June 2011. He earned his Bachelor of Science in accounting (1994), Certification in Business Education (1996), and Master of Arts in Education (1999) from Cumberland College. In 2002, he completed a Rank I in Educational Leadership and Administration from Eastern Kentucky University. In May 2010, Winkler graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership Studies.

Dr. Winkler is a product of career and technical education. He started as a high school student in the business and office program at Madison County Area Technology Center. He was involved in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and eventually became the Phi Beta Lambda State President while attending college. Over the course of his career, Dr. Winkler gained valuable experiences by serving as a classroom teacher in a local high school and area technology center, state academic consultant for business and marketing education, and area technology center principal.

**Andrea Zimmermann** is the State Policy Associate at the National Association of State Directors for Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc). She is responsible for tracking major state legislative and regulatory actions affecting CTE. Prior to joining NASDCTEc in April 2014, Andrea worked in the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education and Office of Postsecondary Education. She also served three years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ukraine, where she taught English at a teacher’s college and developed education and youth leadership programs.

An Illinois native, Andrea earned her master’s degree in Public Affairs Reporting from the University of Illinois-Springfield and her bachelor’s in Journalism from Southern Illinois University.