

## 2014 NASDCTEc Spring Meeting Speaker Biographies

### **Kristen Amundson** **Executive Director**

#### **National Association of State Boards of Education**

Hon. Kristen Amundson brings more than two decades of experience as a policymaker to NASBE. She represented the 44th District in the Virginia General Assembly from 1999-2009. During that time, she was a member of Virginia's P-16 Council and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). Before successfully running for an Assembly seat, Amundson—a former teacher—served for nearly a decade on the Fairfax County, Va., School Board, including two years as its chairwoman. Most recently, she was the senior vice president for external affairs at Education Sector, an independent think tank. She writes frequently on education issues and has been published in The Washington Post and the Richmond Times-Dispatch, among others.

### **David Baime**

#### **Senior Vice President for Government Relations**

#### **American Association of Community Colleges**

David Baime serves as Senior Vice President for Government Relations and Policy Analysis for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). In this role, he directs the national advocacy efforts for the nation's 1,200 community colleges and their students. He has particular expertise in student financial assistance, the federal budget, and the federal regulation of higher education institutions. Prior to working at AACC he served as Director of Education Funding for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Mr. Baime has also worked as Assistant Director of Government Relations for the Association of American Medical Colleges. Mr. Baime holds a bachelor's degree from Haverford College and a Master's Degree in Economics from the London School of Economics.

Mr. Baime has a broad array of media contacts who rely on him for inside perspectives on legislative developments impacting community colleges. He has made numerous radio, television, and Web appearances, including on CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, C-SPAN, and National Public Radio, and is regularly quoted in The Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Education, and other education publications.

### **Marie Barry**

#### **Director, Office of Career and Technical Education**

#### **New Jersey Department of Education**

Marie Barry is currently director of the Office of Career and Technical Education at the New Jersey Department of Education. In this capacity, she administers all activities and plans related to the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act and serves as the state director for career and technical education for secondary and postsecondary CTE programs. Additionally, she provides leadership on various initiatives including the implementation of personalized student learning plans, career exploration activities and personal financial literacy.

In her role of state director, Ms. Barry coordinates with workforce development entities statewide to promote articulation between education, the business and labor communities and other stakeholders to ensure the development of high quality, dynamic CTE programs. During her 15 year tenure at the

Department of Education, she has served in various roles providing leadership for enhancing comprehensive guidance and counseling programs and as a liaison on with the Office of Special Education to promote the successful transition of students with disabilities.

Ms. Barry currently serves on the Executive Committee of the National Association for State Directors in Career Technical Education Consortium as past President. She has also served on the executive committees of the National Association for Workforce Improvement and the New Jersey School Counselor Association. She represents the Commissioner of Education on the State Employment and Training Commission and the Governor's School Board of Overseers.

Prior to joining the department, Ms. Barry worked as a career counselor and consultant where she provided services for youth and adults in the community. She designed and taught programs at Ocean County College to address the varied career development needs of students, the entering workforce, displaced workers and incumbent workers. She is a certified school counselor, a national board certified counselor and a certified rehabilitation counselor. Ms. Barry holds a Bachelors degree from Rutgers University and a Masters degree from Seton Hall University.

**David Bergeron**  
**Vice President, Postsecondary Education Policy**  
**Center for American Progress**

David A. Bergeron is the Vice President for Postsecondary Education Policy at the Center for American Progress (CAP). David is spearheading CAP's postsecondary agenda built on the belief that high-quality and affordable postsecondary education is key to rebuilding the middle class and advancing national competitiveness. Prior to joining CAP, David served as the acting assistant secretary for postsecondary education at the U.S. Department of Education from July 2012 through March 2013. In this position, David acted as the education secretary's chief advisor on higher education issues and administered more than 60 programs that provide nearly \$3 billion annually to institutions of higher education and community-based organizations. David also served as the deputy assistant secretary for policy, planning, and innovation for the Office of Postsecondary Education from 2009 to 2013.

In this capacity, David was responsible for the program budget for the federal postsecondary education programs administered by the Office of Postsecondary Education and Federal Student Aid, which generate more than \$160 billion in financial aid to more than 25 million students enrolled at public and private postsecondary institutions. David is also responsible for legislative, regulatory, and other policies affecting the department's postsecondary education programs including federal Student Aid. Prior to becoming deputy assistant secretary, David served in a variety of other roles in the Department of Education. He has led key policy groups working on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, developed regulations and other policy guidelines, and researched market-based approaches to loan subsidies under the guaranteed loan programs.

**Kate Blossveren Kreamer**  
**Associate Executive Director**  
**National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium**  
Kate Blossveren Kreamer serves as the Associate Executive Director of the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEC), leading policy and communications efforts to ensure all students have access to high-quality Career Technical Education (CTE).

From 2006 to 2013, Kate worked at Achieve, beginning as a policy analyst and leaving the associate director of strategic initiatives, leading a range of policy, research, and communications projects to support states' adoption and implementation of the college- and career-ready agenda. Kate also managed all of Achieve's career readiness and CTE-related research, resources and partnerships.

Prior to her time at Achieve, Kate was a policy advisor at Third Way, where she acted as a policy liaison between the organization and its Corporate Leadership Committee, engaging on a very broad legislative agenda. Kate also spent a year as a research assistant at the Progressive Policy Institute, focusing exclusively on education policy issues.

In 2007, Kate co-founded Young Education Professionals-DC (YEP-DC), a nonpartisan organization, created by and for young professionals, that connects tomorrow's education leaders around the common goal of improving education through policy, research, and practice, and served as president of YEP-DC from 2007 to 2013. Kate also helped co-found and acts as a strategic advisor to YEP National, the umbrella organization that supports the now eight YEP chapters across the country.

An Orange, Connecticut native, Kate received her bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Studies from Cornell University, and her master's of public policy from the Georgetown Public Policy Institute in 2006, with a concentration in Education, Family, and Social Policy.

**Timothy A. Boettcher**  
**President, Board of Directors**  
**Realityworks**

Mr. Boettcher studied applied mathematics at University of Wisconsin Stout, electronics technology at Chippewa Valley Technical College, and is on track to graduate from the University of Wisconsin Platteville with a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration. Additionally, he has obtained a Competitive Strategy Certificate from Northwestern University – Kellogg School of Management. He holds six U.S. and foreign patents for Infant Simulation Technology. He and his wife Laurie reside in Altoona, Wisconsin, and are the proud parents of two children.

*Professional & Community Activities*

Mr. Boettcher is passionate about workforce and economic development, and ensuring infrastructure alignment to support these causes. He has presented workforce development strategies on the national level for Harvard's Pathway's to Prosperity and the U.S. Department of Labor. He has served on many boards to address workforce and economic development issues including Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Board (Chair), The Innovation Foundation of Western Wisconsin (Chair), The Eau Claire Economic Development Corporation (President), and the International Business Programs Advisory Council of the University of Wisconsin (Eau Claire). He also chairs the Industry Workforce Needs Council (IWNC) of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), which works to increase support for CTE from government and business, and sits on the Board of Directors for ACTE. He is a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce, IEEE Computer Society, International Society for Technology in Education, International Webmasters Association, and the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education.

### *Business Career*

Originally recruited in 1998 as a software engineer to design and develop cutting edge technology for new products, Mr. Boettcher assumed leadership for research and development and then engineering before being named President of Realityworks in 2005. Responsible for total operations, he has driven significant understanding of market opportunities, gatekeepers, and funding in education, healthcare, and public service markets; bolstered production and supply chain growth; acquired and launched new age technology; and rebuilt leadership competencies. Focused on high market growth, he has led turnaround and achieved double-digit top line growth simultaneously with dramatic profit and cash flow improvement.

Mr. Boettcher brings more than seventeen years of engineering, product development, and operations experience in education, advanced technology, manufacturing, and distribution industries. Prior to joining Realityworks, he held positions at Cray Research, a leading manufacturer of the world's largest supercomputers; Wal-Mart Distribution, the world's leader in distribution and logistics; ACP Shop; and Demiurge Designs.

### **Mr. Stephen Bowen** **Strategic Initiative Director for Innovation** **Council of Chief State School Officers**

Stephen Bowen grew up on the coast of Maine and taught social studies in middle and high schools for ten years. After serving two terms in the Maine Legislature, he joined a Maine-based public policy think tank, where he served as an education policy researcher and analyst. Bowen served for a short time as Gov. Paul LePage's education policy advisor and was named Commissioner of Education in March of 2011. To advance the governor's vision of a student-centered educational system, Bowen focused his efforts on key policy areas such as educator effectiveness, state accountability, digital learning, streamlining college and career pathways, and advancing competency-based instructional practices. Bowen stepped down from the commissionership in September of last year to join CCSSO as the Strategic Initiative Director for Innovation, where he oversees the Council's Innovation Lab Network and its other work advancing and supporting innovation.

### **Dr. Jay K. Box** **Chancellor** **Kentucky Community & Technical College System**

Dr. Jay K. Box has over 29 years experience in community colleges, both as a faculty member and an administrator. He has been the Chancellor of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) since July 1, 2009. As Chancellor, he provides system-wide leadership for academic and student affairs as well as workforce training.

Since he became Chancellor, Dr. Box chaired the statewide committee that developed the Kentucky Transfer Action Plan. The Plan eliminates barriers for community college students transferring to the state's eight public universities by using student learning outcomes to align curriculum. In 2011, Dr. Box led an initiative to evaluate and revise the System's dual credit program. The initiative culminated in a statewide dual credit agreement between KCTCS, the Kentucky Department of Education, and the Office of Career and Technical Education. Currently Dr. Box is serving as the state lead for the Accelerating Opportunity Kentucky initiative, a collaborative between KCTCS, Kentucky Adult Education, and the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet to provide contextualized basic skills and technical training with the expected outcome of students earning credentials that lead to high wage, high demand careers. Furthermore, Dr. Box continues to

lead the development of KCTCS Online—Learn on Demand, a truly revolutionary way of delivering higher education online in a 24/7, modular, competency-based format that has received two national awards.

**Mr. Michael Brustein**

**Partner**

**Brustein & Manasevit PLLC**

Michael Brustein is a private attorney and founding partner of the D.C. law firm, Brustein & Manasevit PLLC, which maintains a nationwide education law practice. The firm represents state, local and postsecondary entities in matters related to federal education programs. Michael has authored a number of texts related to the Perkins legislation, and has assisted congressional staff in the drafting of the Perkins Bill. He formerly served as the Chief of the Vocational and Adult Education Branch in the federal HEW Office of General Counsel.

**Jacque Chevalier**

**Education Policy Advisor**

**House Committee on Education and the Workforce**

Jacque Chevalier serves as a K12 education policy advisor for the Democratic staff of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce. Her portfolio includes disability and civil rights in education issues, school choice, school safety, family and community engagement in education, and career and technical education. Prior to joining the committee, Jacque was the senior policy strategist for the National PTA, where she led the association's federal policy efforts pertaining to reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and all federal budget and appropriations. Previously, she worked for United Way Worldwide, where, as the manager of public policy, she developed and implemented the organization's first federal policy agenda focusing on early and K-12 education. Jacque is a Washington, D.C. native and graduated with a BA in Sociology and Philosophy with high distinction from the University of Virginia.

**Mary Gardner Clagett**

**Director, Workforce Policy**

**Workforce and Education Policy Group**

**Jobs for the Future**

Mary Gardner Clagett is Director of Workforce Policy for Jobs for the Future (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.

As part of this work Ms. Clagett co-convenes national organizations involved in workforce and related policy efforts to exchange knowledge and identify common policy and reform positions. She provides on-going counsel and technical assistance to Congressional leaders and Administration officials on workforce and related issues. Ms. Clagett also directs a project, through a contract with the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, the "Advancing Career and Technical Education in Career Pathways" initiative where she is working with states to expand opportunities for students to pursue postsecondary pathways that lead to recognized credentials, degrees and careers in high demand technical fields of study. She also oversees the convening of a learning network for senior Congressional staff on Workforce and Economic Security issues.

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 (e.g., Workforce Investment Act of 1998, National School-to-Work Opportunities Act). She also worked in the U.S. Senate for Senator Jennings Randolph on the Labor and Human Resources Committee.

Ms. Clagett earned her undergraduate degree from Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, and carried out her graduate work at the George Washington University.

**Brenda Dann-Messier**  
**Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education**  
**United States Department of Education**

Brenda Dann-Messier was nominated by President Obama as assistant secretary for vocational and adult education on July 14, 2009. On Oct. 5, 2009, she was confirmed by the U.S. Senate and began her official duties on Oct. 13, 2009. On May 6, 2013, the president also named her acting assistant secretary for postsecondary education.

As the first assistant secretary who is also an adult educator, Dann-Messier leads the Department's efforts in adult education and career and technical education, as well as efforts supporting community colleges and correctional education. She runs the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE), which oversees the administration of seven grant programs in these areas, totaling approximately \$1.7 billion annually.

OCTAE's vision is that all youths and adult students (1) are ready for, have access to, and complete college and career pathways; (2) have effective teachers and leaders; and (3) have equitable access to high quality learning opportunities on demand.

As the head of the Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE), Dann-Messier serves as the secretary's chief advisor on higher-education issues and administers more than 60 programs, totaling nearly \$2.5 billion annually, that are designed to provide financial assistance to eligible students enrolled in postsecondary institutions. OPE supports higher education facilities and programs through financial support to eligible institutions, recruits and prepares disadvantaged students for successful completion of college, promotes the study of foreign languages and international affairs, and supports international educational research and exchange activities. Notable among its programs are the eight TRIO programs, institutional development programs for minority institutions, teacher development programs, and the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. OPE runs the well-known Byrd, Fulbright, Javits and McNair programs and certifies all regional and national accreditation agencies, so they, in turn, may qualify institutions to receive federal financial aid and Pell grants.

In her role as assistant secretary, she has led extensive strategic planning and policy initiatives to craft a blueprint for reform in the U.S. career and technical education system and codified new legislative priorities for the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act in order to transform service delivery and build viable career pathways for low-skilled youths and adults. Dann-Messier has established collaborative partnerships with the private sector and other public agencies to increase resources for immigrant integration, correctional education, career pathways, and

disconnected youths; and she has spearheaded a ground-breaking federal partnership with the Department of Energy to vastly expand the availability of open education resources through an innovative e-training platform. Dann-Messier has led OCTAE's portfolio investments in research, and high-quality technical assistance and professional development for state and local education providers to promote college and career readiness, teacher effectiveness, and postsecondary access and completion—including development of the Adult College Completion Tool Kit for states' use. Dann-Messier also has represented the Department in numerous international conferences and high-level consultations in South America, Asia, and Europe.

**Kenneth L. Ender, Ph.D.**

**President**

**Harper College**

Dr. Kenneth L. Ender became Harper College's fifth president on July 1, 2009 after serving as President and Chief Executive Officer of Cumberland County College in Vineland, New Jersey for eleven years. Through partnerships and alliances, Dr. Ender is positioning Harper to become a leading 21st century community college by increasing graduation, transfer and certificate completion rates, aligning Harper's curriculum with high schools, training students for new economy jobs and implementing new accountability and transparency standards.

Over the past 30 years, Dr. Ender has held a variety of positions in higher education, including Vice President for Academic Affairs at Richland Community College, Interim District Dean at Cuyahoga Community College, Associate Vice President for Administrative Services at Cleveland State University, Director of Student Activities at Virginia Commonwealth University and Director of Student Advising at University of Georgia. He also has teaching experience and has written numerous publications.

In addition to his Ph.D. in Urban Services Leadership from Virginia Commonwealth University, Dr. Ender holds a Masters in Education from the University of Georgia and a bachelor's degree in Business Management, also from Virginia Commonwealth University.

**John Fischer**

**Deputy Secretary**

**Vermont Agency of Education**

Since 1978, John held positions at university and community colleges Dean of Students, Vice President and Provost. John joined the VT DOE in 2006 as a consultant and workgroup coordinator in CTE. He later served as the Director of the High School and Adult Division, leading school improvement, HS innovation and transformation, and also serving as the State Director for CTE. He is currently the Deputy Secretary at the Vermont Agency of Education and also as the NASDCTEc Board President.

**Blake Flanders, Ph.D.**

**Vice President for Workforce Development**

**Kansas Board of Regents**

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.

**Pamela Frugoli**

**O\*NET/Competency Assessment Team Lead**

**Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor**

Pamela Frugoli is a workforce analyst and the federal project lead for the Occupational Information Network (O\*NET) system and the industry competency models project at the US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA). These two efforts focus on identifying and disseminating information online about occupational and industry skill and competency profiles and also encompass related assessments and credentials. This information is used by job seekers, business, educators, and the workforce system.

Prior to joining ETA in 2000, Pam served for three years as a team lead on the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. From 1985 to 1997 she worked at the National Occupational Information Coordinating Committee. She holds a B.A. in Psychology from Brandeis University, and a Master's in Education from Boston University, with additional coursework in economics and statistics.

**Eve Goldberg**

**Senior Research and Policy Associate**

**The Nellie Mae Education Foundation**

Eve Goldberg is the Senior Research and Policy Associate at the Nellie Mae Education Foundation. In this role, she works on the Foundation's strategic investments in research and development with the goals of building the knowledge base and moving forward the field in support of the Foundation's mission. Her current areas of focus are competency-based education, teacher preparation, student-centered school models, and school finance. Previously, Eve was a Research Associate for the Education Development Center's School Leadership Project, which supported school districts' and states' efforts to develop and implement quality pre-service and in-service preparation programs for school administrators. Eve's professional background includes work as a second grade teacher at Hardin Elementary School in New Orleans as part of the Teach for America program, and as a Program Associate at The Constitution Project in Washington, D.C. Eve holds a B.A. in political science from the George Washington University and an Ed.M. from Harvard University.

**Steve Gratz**

**Director, Office of Career Technical Education**

**Ohio Department of Education**

Steve Gratz is Director for the Office of Career-Technical Education where he provides leadership to the Ohio Department of Education's role in making sure all students are college and career ready to so they can be part of the state's world-class, globally-competitive workforce. Beginning his career as an agricultural mechanic after graduating from the Apollo Career Center, he has devoted most of his professional life to helping students learn by doing. Widely known for his expertise in agricultural education, Steve demonstrates his commitment and understanding of college and career readiness at the national, state and local levels. He has championed the integration of rigorous academics with challenging technical content and the use of inquiry-based instructional strategies. Steve earned a Bachelor of Science, a Master of Science and a doctorate from The Ohio State University.



**Dr. John Haigh**  
**Chief, Accountability and Performance Branch**  
**Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education**  
**U.S. Department of Education**

John Haigh is currently serving as Chief of the Accountability and Performance Branch in the Division of Academic and Technical Education at the Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education at the US Department of Education. Prior to that Dr. Haigh served as Acting Director of the State Administration and the Accountability and Performance Branches in the State Administration and Accountability Group. Prior to that he served as Research Analyst for the Branch, in the Division of High School, Postsecondary and Career Education at the US Department of Education. Dr. Haigh has more than 30 years of experience in education at the local, state, and national level - mostly serving in Maryland as Teacher, Principal and as a State Administrator at the Maryland State Department of Education.

Dr. Haigh received his Doctor of Education from the George Washington University and Masters of Arts, and his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Maryland, and a certificate in Special education alternate assessment Critical Issues In Special Education from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education.

**Lolita B. Hall**  
**State Director, Career and Technical Education**  
**Virginia Department of Education**

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.

**Angela Hanks**  
**Policy Analyst**  
**National Skills Coalition**

Angela helps to advance NSC's national skills strategy, providing in-depth analysis on proposed and existing federal and state workforce policies, and assisting local leaders in advocacy on these issues both in Washington and in their home districts. Angela joined National Skills Coalition in 2012.

Angela was previously a Legislative Assistant for Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, working primarily on education, labor and judiciary issues. Angela also served as a Counsel on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Angela holds a J.D. from the University of Maryland, Francis King Carey School of Law and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the George Washington University. She is based in Washington, D.C.

### **Robin Juliano**

#### **Professional Staff Member**

#### **U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations**

Robin Juliano is a professional staff member on the Senate Appropriations Committee, where she works for the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. Robin handles funding issues related to higher education and vocational rehabilitation programs at the Department of Education and workforce and training programs at the Department of Labor. Previously, she served as an education policy advisor to the Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. She was also a policy advisor to Senator Barbara A. Mikulski and worked at a nonprofit organization called Jumpstart for Young Children.

### **Rich Katt**

#### **State Director, Career Technical Education**

#### **Nebraska Department of Education**

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 is the current chair of the Nebraska Partner Council, a collaboration of PreK-12 education, postsecondary education, government agencies, workforce and economic development professionals and business and industry representatives working together to strengthen opportunities for workforce and economic development in Nebraska.

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.

When asked for his goals as a Board Member, Rich said:

“One of my Gallup StrengthsFinder<sup>®</sup> strengths is Futuristic – the need and desire to think about and plan for the future. The NASDCTEc Board must provide leadership to position Career Technical Education for the future. Efforts around data quality, marketing and program improvement all help to position CTE for the future. We have a solid past, but we can't rest on

what CTE has always done, we need to build from that foundation to create the preferred future for CTE.

Another major goal is for our NASDCTEc Board to help our staff be the national voice of CTE. We are blessed to have outstanding individuals working for our association. It is the Board's responsibility to provide the direction and resources needed for our staff to be effective in advocating for CTE. This also involves communicating with members, seeking input and providing the information needed for all of us to advocate for CTE.”

**Steven G. Klein**

**Director, Center for Career & Adult Education and Workforce Development  
RTI International**

Steven G. Klein, Director for the Center for Career & Adult Education and Workforce Development at RTI International, specializes in the design of performance accountability and finance systems for career and technical education (CTE) and the evaluation of federal and state CTE policy and program initiatives. He currently serves as Principal Investigator for the National Center for Innovation in Career and Technical Education, awarded to RTI by the U.S. Department of Education in July 2012, and is directing evaluation studies for the congressionally mandated National Assessment of Career and Technical Education. Concurrently, he is working with Jobs for the Future to support two states—Minnesota and Oregon—in aligning their CTE programs with their larger career pathways systems, and consulting with the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education to collect performance data to assess states' efforts to implement rigorous programs of study. He also is collaborating with the Association for Career and Technical Education in an effort to align states' CTE programs of study with Military Occupational Specialties offered within the U.S. Army. Dr. Klein holds a B.A and M.S. Ed. from the University of Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. in K–12 Educational Policy from the University of California at Berkeley.

**Rosemary Lahasky**

**Professional Staff Member**

**U.S. House Committee on Education & the Workforce**

Rosemary Lahasky is a Professional Staff Member with the U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce. Under Chairman John Kline's leadership, the Committee oversees federal education and workforce policy. In this position, Lahasky handles legislation impacting high school students, career and technical education, and employment and training. Prior to joining the Committee, she worked for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for a Competitive Workforce (ICW). There she built and implemented legislative and grassroots strategies on workforce development and education initiatives for businesses, state and local chambers of commerce, and communities nationwide.

**Dane Linn**

**Vice President**

**Business Roundtable**

Dane Linn is a Vice President for the Business Roundtable. In this role, he oversees the Education & Workforce Committee, advancing the BRT's positions on education reform, U.S. innovation capacity and workforce preparedness.

Linn joins the BRT most recently from The College Board, where he served as Executive Director of state policy. Prior to The College Board, Linn served as Director of the Educational Policy Division of the National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices. During his 16

years in this role, Linn represented governors' education policy issues at the federal level and to state and local associations. He also co-lead the development of the Common Core State Standards, which have been adopted by 46 states.

In addition, Linn has led national efforts to ensure more students are college- and career-ready and worked on issues related to STEM, early childhood, Perkins and the Workforce Investment Act, and high school redesign. Before joining the NGA, Linn worked for 14 years in the education system as Coordinator of the Office of Special Education Programs for the West Virginia Department of Education, Principal of Guyan Valley Elementary School in West Virginia, and teacher and later the Assistant Principal at Matheny Grade School also in West Virginia.

Linn is a Ph.D. candidate at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and holds a master's degree in Education Administration from West Virginia Graduate College and bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Special Education from Cabrini College.

### **Danielle Mezera**

#### **Assistant Commissioner for Career and Technical Education Tennessee Department of Education**

In January 2012, Danielle assumed the position of Assistant Commissioner for Career and Technical Education (CTE) for the Tennessee Department of Education. As Assistant Commissioner, she serves as the state director for CTE and directs the vision and curriculum of CTE across the state's local school districts, postsecondary institutions, and community partners.

Prior to assuming this role, Danielle served as Director of the Nashville & Davidson County Government's Mayor's Office of Children & Youth. 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 was a Director at the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies. During her tenure at Vanderbilt University, she also held various senior level positions in administration.

Danielle holds a B.A., M.Ed., and a Ph.D. in education.

### **Sharon Lee Miller**

#### **Director**

#### **Division of Academic & Technical Education (DATE), Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education**

#### **U.S. Department of Education**

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 Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE). 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 OCTAE 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.

**Joel Packer**

**Executive Director**

**Committee for Education Funding**

Joel Packer is a principal at The Raben Group, bringing more than 38 years of skills, knowledge and contacts in the education policy arena to the firm's clients. Joel currently serves as Executive Director of the Committee for Education Funding, a coalition of over 110 national education organizations and institutions from prek through graduate education. His other clients include the Los Angeles Unified School District, First Five LA, Futures Without Violence, and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Education Task Force.

Prior to joining The Raben Group, Joel spent 25 years with the National Education Association, the nation's largest professional educators' organization and labor union, where he last served as Director of Educational Policy and Practice, NEA's primary policy center on elementary and secondary education. He previously served as NEA's Manager for ESEA Policy and as a federal lobbyist covering a wide range of issues.

Mr. Packer took a break from the NEA in 1993 to serve as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs in the U.S. Department of Labor.

Prior to joining NEA in 1983, Joel was Assistant Director of Government Relations with the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. Joel also serves as a member of the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

**Stephen Parker**

**Legislative Director**

**National Governors Association**

Stephen Parker manages policy and advocacy for education and workforce issues, including: child nutrition, workforce development, career and technical, early childhood, K-12 and postsecondary education. He is responsible for directing the development and implementation of governors' strategic priorities through the Education and Workforce Committee.

Professional Background: Stephen has served as Special Assistant to the President for Advocacy, Virginia School Boards Association; Senior Policy Advisor to the Adjutant General, Virginia National Guard; and Senior Special Assistant, Office of Governor Timothy M. Kaine.

Education: Current candidate for M.S. in Public Policy, Concentration: Education and Workforce Policy, College of William and Mary; Political Leaders Program, Sorensen Institute at the University of Virginia; B.A. in History, cum laude, Longwood University

**Ron Petracca**  
**Senior Counsel to General Counsel**  
**U.S. Department of Education**

Ron Petracca is Senior Counsel to the General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Education. He assists the General Counsel by leading the Office's Discretionary Grants Practice Team and providing advice on a variety of legal and policy issues involving innovative programs and initiatives, services to English learners, and the work of the Institute of Education Sciences. He joined the Office of the General Counsel in 1981 and worked in the Division of Educational Equity and Research until 2012.

Mr. Petracca also worked as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in 1990-1991. He graduated from the State University of New York College at Cortland in 1978 and received his law degree from the Catholic University of America in 1981.

**Debi Price**  
**Education Project Manager**  
**Vermont Agency of Education**

Debi Price is an Education Project Manager at the Vermont Agency of Education. Currently she is responsible for the Vermont Flexible Pathways Initiative (Act 77). With specific implementation development in: Personalized Learning Plans, and the Vermont Dual Enrollment and Early College Programs. During her tenure at the Agency Debi has worked in several program areas providing technical assistance and professional development to schools in multi-tiered systems of support and continuous school improvement. Prior to joining the Agency in 2010 Debi was a teacher and principal for 21 years in Vermont schools. She holds a M. Ed. in Educational Leadership from Castleton State College.

**Mike Raponi**  
**Director, Office of Career and Technical Education**  
**Nevada Department of Education**

Mike Raponi has worked in technical education for over twenty-eight years as a teacher and program administrator, including his current position as director for the Office of Career and Technical Education at the Nevada Department of Education. He has a bachelor's degree in industrial education from the University of Wisconsin–Stout and a master's degree in adult education and from Oregon State University. Mike also holds a school administration endorsement.

At the Department of Education, Mike is responsible for staff supervision, grants administration, and program development for CTE and adult education. His primary focus for CTE has been the development of common state standards, common course names and sequences, end-of-program assessments, curriculum frameworks and programs of study for all of CTE. This work is to provide the infrastructure to support state-level priorities for economic and workforce development.

Mike's background includes time spent in the grocery and construction industries, and service as a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras.

**Dr. Linda Rosen**

### **CEO, Change the Equation**

Linda Rosen serves as the chief executive officer of Change the Equation. Dr. Rosen has a proven track record in providing leadership to the business community in its mission to improve science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning. Her stellar career has focused on scaling up research-based best practices, working with states and localities to implement these practices to ensure long-term sustainability and success.

Previously, Dr. Rosen was the senior vice president for the National Alliance of Business where she worked with companies to articulate their STEM vision for the 2001 Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (No Child Left Behind).

As Senior Advisor to U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley, Dr. Rosen provided counsel on math and science, as well as STEM initiatives. She led the National Commission on Mathematics and Science Teaching for the 21st Century, also known as the John Glenn Commission.

Prior to joining the U.S. Department of Education, Dr. Rosen served as Executive Director of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the largest professional association of teachers of math and teacher educators, and as the National Academy of Sciences' Associate Executive Director of the Mathematical Sciences Education Board.

Early in her career, Dr. Rosen was a teacher, having taught mathematics from high school through graduate school.

### **June Stolfi Sanford**

#### **State Director of Career and Technical Education Connecticut State Department of Education**

June Sanford joined the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) in 1999 as an education consultant for school-based School-to-Career and Cooperative Work Education programs. She currently serves as State Director of Career Technical Education and Perkins Program Manager responsible for grant administration, performance accountability data, state-wide program monitoring, and implementation of the Connecticut Career Clusters/Pathway Initiative.

June serves on the New England Secondary School Consortium, League of Innovative Schools Committee, dedicated to student success through Mastery-based Learning. In addition, June co-leads the CSDE initiative for the Student Success Plan legislated for all students grades 6-12 under the Connecticut Plan for Secondary School Reform. She is also a member of the Connecticut Education and Training Youth Employment Committee, the NSTTA State Leadership Team on Secondary Transition and Dropout Prevention, and the CT Joint Task Force on Personalized Learning.

On the national level, as Connecticut State Director of Career and Technical Education since 2003, June is a former President of the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium and represents Region I on the NASDCTEc Board. During her tenure as President, a new Vision for Career Technical Education was established, "Reflect, Transform, Lead: A New Vision for Career Technical Education", focused on the preparedness of students for college- and career-readiness.

### **JoAnn Simser**

**State Director of Career and Technical Education & Systems Director for Perkins  
Systems Office, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities**

Current Position: State Director of Career and Technical Education, System Director for Perkins, System Office, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

Past experience: System Director Program Collaboration and Transfer and Academic Program Director, Academic and Student Affairs, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. Primary areas of responsibility: academic program approval and review, transfer services, academic policy and procedure, Minnesota Transfer Curriculum, research. 20 years in technical colleges, positions: Program Director Electroneurodiagnostic Technology; faculty, curriculum specialist, program development, staff development, academic administration, campus vice president, Dean of Instruction, Dean of Health. Areas of responsibility: curriculum and instruction, professional development, program development, articulation, accreditation, liaison with community colleges and state universities.

Education: Ed.D. Educational administration, MEd Industrial Education, University of Minnesota; BA General Science, Coe College

**Edward R. Smith, Rh. D.  
Chief, Program Administration Branch  
Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education  
U.S. Department of Education**

Dr. Edward R. Smith serves as Chief of the Program Administration Branch, within the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education. The Program Administration Branch administers approximately \$1.2 billion of both discretionary and formula grants authorized under Title I of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 and Title II (i.e., Tech Prep) to all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands to improve the academic achievement of secondary and postsecondary outcomes of career and technical education students.

His professional experiences also include leadership and executive positions in both public and private non-profit child welfare and child-caring organizations. He has held planning and policy positions in local, county, and state government. Edward has also spent a significant part of his career in the classroom teaching vocational rehabilitation counseling undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore. Dr. Smith has also spent a significant part of his career in the classroom teaching graduate and undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore.

Dr. Edward Robert Smith is a graduate of East St. Louis Senior High School located in East St. Louis, Illinois. He excelled in the classroom and on the athletic field during his four years at Illinois State University (ISU). While attending ISU, he was nominated for the Bone Scholar Award and the 1974 College Division Academic All-American Football Team.

Dr. Smith has a Doctor of Rehabilitation degree from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale; a Master of Science degree in Urban Affairs & Policy Analysis, from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville; and a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science, from Illinois State University.



He has attended law school at the Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, School of Law, and the University of Iowa College of Law.

Throughout his professional career Dr. Smith has demonstrated a strong commitment to public service. He has held management and leadership positions at the county, state and federal government level. Early in his career Dr. Smith worked in planning and policy positions with the St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department and the Illinois Department of Transportation. As the principal contract administrator for the Milwaukee County Department of Human Services' Youth Service Division, he successfully supervised a staff of 59 professionals and directed all child welfare case management activities and foster care payment authorizations for approximately 2100 foster care children. Other areas of responsibilities included the recruitment and licensing of 3100 Milwaukee County foster homes, as well as the drug and alcohol screening of juvenile offenders.

His professional experiences also include leadership positions in non-profit child welfare and child-caring organizations. As Executive Director of Innovative Family Partnerships, Inc., a "start-up" nonprofit child welfare agency, he directed a staff of over 100 professionals responsible for providing foster care case management services to approximately 950 families in Milwaukee County. In addition, as Executive Director of Day Care Services for Children, Inc., a child development agency, he was responsible for the educational, health, and nutritional needs for approximately 780 children located in eight (8) centers across the City of Milwaukee.

**Whitney Smith**  
**Program Director**  
**The Joyce Foundation**

Whitney Smith joined the Joyce Foundation as the Director of the Employment Program in November 2005. To date, she has shepherded nearly \$50 million dollars in grant-investments to improve labor market outcomes of low-income, underprepared adults in the Great Lakes region. Current investments in career pathways include:

- Policy development and implementation in Minnesota (FastTRAC Initiative) and Wisconsin (RISE Initiative)
- Scaling Washington State's IBEST strategy in 7 states through participation in Accelerating Opportunity Research Demonstration
- Development of quality standards for systems and programs through CLASP's Alliance for Quality Career Pathways
- Evaluation of 2 sites in the Great Lakes involved in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Innovative Strategies for Increasing Self Sufficiency (ISIS)

Ms. Smith has broad experience on welfare, workforce, and adult education policy. Prior to coming to Joyce, she served as the Associate Director of the Chicago Jobs Council and developed a job training program for low-income women in New York City. She is currently serving as co-chair of the Chicagoland Workforce Funders Alliance; a member of the National Workforce Matters Funder Network steering committee; a member of the National Fund Partnership Council; and an adviser to the Clinton Global Initiative. In her free time, Ms. Smith serves on the Board of Directors for the Oak Park Regional Housing Center and is the busy mom to six year old twins. She holds a bachelor's degree from Bowdoin College and a master's degree from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago.

**Robert D. Sommers, Ph.D.**

**State Director**

**Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education**

On April 1, 2013, Robert Sommers became the seventh state director of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education. In July 2013, Gov. Mary Fallin also named Sommers the secretary of education and workforce development. Sommers previously served as CEO and managing member of Carpe Diem Learning Systems, an organization created to replicate the high-performing, cost-effective Carpe Diem personalized blended learning model.

For nine years, Sommers served as CEO and superintendent of an Ohio career-technical district, Butler Technology and Career Development Schools, in Hamilton, Ohio. Under his leadership, the district doubled in size, became the highest performing career-technical district in Ohio and became known for creative educational programs, including blended learning schools. The district served more than 26,000 high school through adult students and provided customized training to companies.

For 15 years, Sommers served in several capacities with the Ohio Department of Education. He served as an agricultural supervisor, state adviser for the FFA, assistant director of program evaluation services and associate director for career-technical education. Sommers' teaching experience includes agricultural education in London, Ohio.

Sommers served as Ohio Gov. John Kasich's education policy adviser covering elementary through university education policy. During his tenure, Ohio implemented reforms for increased school performance transparency, teacher evaluation, school choice, digital education options and failing school transformation. While in Detroit, he served as CEO of Cornerstone Charter Schools, where he designed the Cornerstone Health High School, a blended learning school that opened in fall 2012.

Sommers earned a doctorate in educational administration and leadership from The Ohio State University, Columbus, where he also completed his master's degree in agricultural education. He earned a bachelor of science degree in education at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and has received several education and business awards in Ohio. He has also served in leadership positions in numerous state and national organizations, including chairman of the Performance Taskforce for the National Association of Career and Technical Education.

**June Streckfus**

**Executive Director**

**Maryland Business Roundtable for Education**

June Streckfus serves as executive director of the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education (MBRT) – a coalition of more than 100 Maryland companies that have made a long-term commitment to support education reform and improve student achievement in Maryland. MBRT has been recognized nationally by The Business Roundtable, the National Alliance of Business, the Public Relations Society of America, and the U.S. Department of Education for its successful efforts to involve business as a full partner in comprehensive education reform, setting high standards, demanding accountability, and building a strong, collaborative base of support. MBRT has also won the respect and confidence of the education community as evidenced by awards from the Maryland's

elementary and secondary principals associations, the Maryland State Teachers Association, and the Maryland State Department of Education.

During the last decade, Ms. Streckfus was honored, awarded and recognized numerous times for her work:

- Maryland's Top 100 Women by The Daily Record
- Education/Workforce Development Professional of the Year by the National Alliance of Business
- Nancy S. Grasmick Excellence for Minority Achievement Award from the Achievement Initiative for Maryland's Minority Students (AIMMS)
- Innovator of the Year Award by the Daily Record
- Outstanding Professional Alumni Award from the University of Maryland, College of Education
- Howard L. Cornish Humanitarian Award from the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity organization
- Maryland Chamber of Commerce's Hall of Fame
- Thurgood Marshall College Fund Award of Excellence
- Influential Marylander by The Daily Record.

Ms. Streckfus was appointed as Co-Chair of Governor O'Malley's Education Transition Team in 2006 and served on the U.S. Department of Education's Negotiated Rulemaking Committee for Academic Competitiveness Grants in 2007. In 2008 she was named Co-chair of the Governor's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Task Force.

Ms. Streckfus was appointed executive director when the Roundtable was founded in 1992. Prior to that, she was director of government and education affairs for Maryland Economic Growth Associates (MEGA), a business-led, statewide economic development organization.

Ms. Streckfus has extensive experience in government as she served as state administrator for U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski. Prior to that appointment, she served as intergovernmental coordinator and assistant to the administrative officer of Baltimore County government. As an assistant to the County Executive, Ms. Streckfus developed and evaluated a capital improvement budget and provided policy assistance and counsel to the County Executive and Administrative Officer.

A life-long proponent of quality education, Ms. Streckfus began her career as a classroom teacher from 1968 through 1979, where she also developed curriculum and taught inservice courses to teachers.

She serves on Governor's P-20 Leadership Council, Maryland's Educator Effectiveness Panel and Race To The Top Advisory Board, the College of Notre Dame Teacher Education Advisory Board, and numerous advisory committees of the Maryland State Department of Education.

Ms. Streckfus has a bachelor of science degree in education from University of Maryland, College Park, a master's degree and a certificate of advanced study in liberal arts from Johns Hopkins University.

**Scott Stump**  
**Assistant Provost, Career and Technical Education**  
**Colorado Community College System**

Scott Stump is Colorado's Associate Provost for Career & Technical Education. Prior to assuming this role in January of 2008, Scott 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, Scott recently served as interim President of Northeastern Junior College while the institution conducted its presidential search process.

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. Before coming to Colorado he also worked for the National FFA Organization managing the National Officer team and the National FFA Convention.

Stump lives on a small ranch in Stoneham, Colorado with his wife Denise and three children: Brady (17), Ross (16) and Emma (11). All three children are heavily involved in 4-H. The older two are involved in Career & Technical Education as students in their high school's Agriculture Education program.

**Jason Tyszko**  
**Senior Director of Policy**  
**U.S. Chamber of Commerce**

Jason A. Tyszko is senior director of education and workforce policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Through events, publications, and policy initiatives, the education and workforce program—in partnership with Chamber members and business leadership—seeks to cultivate and develop innovative thinking that spurs action to preserve America's competitiveness and enhance the career readiness of youth and adult learners.

Tyszko's prior experience focused on coordinating interagency education, workforce, and economic development initiatives. In 2009, he served as a policy adviser to Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn's administration and as a member of the Executive Committee that directed more than \$10 billion in investments to aid in the state's recovery. While in the Office of the Governor, Tyszko chaired the interagency Job Training Working Group and developed Illinois Pathways, the signature public-private STEM education strategy included in the state's Race to the Top proposal.

In addition, Tyszko was deputy chief of staff and senior policy adviser to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. There he oversaw the design and launch of the STEM Learning Exchanges, an innovative network of statewide public-private partnerships tasked with coordinating planning and investing to support regional STEM education and workforce programs. He further provided lead staff and policy support to the Illinois Workforce Investment Board.

Tyszko also managed innovative technology projects. This included the build-out of integrated education and workforce statewide longitudinal data systems and the implementation of the Illinois Shared Learning Environment, a transformative learning management system that enables personalized learning through integrated data in a cloud environment.

Tyszko received his Master of Arts from the University of Chicago and his Bachelor of Arts from DePaul University. He is a certified teacher in the state of Illinois. Tyszko resides in Washington, D.C.

**Robin Utz**  
**Chief, College and Career Transitions Branch**  
**Division of Academic and Technical Education**  
**U.S. Department of Education**

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 OVAE, 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. 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**  
**Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy and Strategic Initiatives**  
**Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE)**  
**U.S. Department of Education**

Dr. Johan E. Uvin joined the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education in December 2009 as Senior Policy Advisor to Assistant Secretary Brenda Dann-Messier. In 2011, Dr. Uvin was appointed to the position of Deputy Assistant Secretary of Policy and Strategic Initiatives. In that capacity, he coordinates all policy and strategy development for the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education. This office is responsible for adult education, including corrections and reentry education, secondary, postsecondary and adult career and technical education, and community colleges. In 2012, he also became the Acting Director of the Policy Research and Evaluation Services division and the co-chair of the Interagency Forum on Disconnected Youth, a multi-agency federal collaboration to improve the outcomes of disconnected youth. 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.

Prior to his appointment, Dr. Uvin led the Rhode Island state office that oversees adult education, career and technical education, and GED testing.

Dr. Uvin holds a Doctorate in Administration, Planning and Social Policy and a Master's 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, Vermont.

### **Steve Voytek**

#### **Government Relations Associate**

#### **National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium**

Steve Voytek is a Government Relations Associate 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, Steve has 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 earned his B.A. in Political Science and Economics from Hiram College where he graduated Cum Laude.

### **Ted Wells**

#### **Chief Strategy Officer**

#### **STEMconnector<sup>®</sup>**

Ted Wells is the Chief Strategy Officer for STEMconnector<sup>®</sup> - an organization committed to improving the flow of information to stakeholders in STEM education. In his role at STEMconnector<sup>®</sup>, Ted manages a portfolio of projects relating to STEM K-12 education and workforce development. Clients include non-profit organizations, government entities and corporations. Key projects include the STEM Food and Ag Council, STEM Higher Education Council and STEMconnector<sup>®</sup>'s computer science education outreach. He also has led the development of STEMconnector<sup>®</sup>'s Google+ On-Air Hangouts series that highlight issues in STEM education.

As the son of an engineer and an educator, this field is not far from his roots. He began his career as a French and Spanish teacher after attending Washington and Lee University. After 6 years as a teacher, Ted attended graduate school in International Affairs at the Elliott School at The George Washington University focusing on International Economic Affairs and International Development. During his graduate studies, he completed internships at the Treasury Department, the Inter-American Dialogue, The Organization for International Investment, Tata and Wells Fargo. Prior to working at STEMconnector<sup>®</sup>, Ted operated a small business in the District while helping found a non-profit organization working in Haiti. He lives in the Columbia Heights neighborhood in Washington DC.

### **Rachel Zinn**

#### **Director**

#### **Workforce Data Quality Campaign**

Rachel Zinn is Director of WDQC, leading efforts to refine and promote the Campaign's policy agenda. She engages with national, state and local leaders to offer information on education and workforce data systems and how they can be used for improving human capital development. Before joining WDQC, Rachel spent five years as a Program Analyst in the Education and Labor Branches of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), where she provided policy analysis on postsecondary education and workforce development and organized multi-agency efforts to enhance data linkages. Earlier in her career, Rachel worked for the Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education, served as a CORO fellow on civic engagement in her native city of Cleveland, and was a reporter with The Blade daily newspaper in Toledo.

Rachel holds a master's degree in public administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University and a bachelor's degree in Asian Studies from Amherst College.