

2012 NADO Annual Training Conference

Speaker Biographies

Erica Allison

President, Allison Development Group (NC)

Erica McArthur Allison founded Allison Development Group in 2007, the culmination of many years working in real estate development, public relations and community facilitation. Her goal is simple: help clients develop their ideas, develop their messages and ultimately, develop their business. To accomplish that, Allison uses a combination of market research and analysis, social media applications, traditional media approaches and tried and true networks to get the people, places and projects she represents promoted in a very strategic and successful manner. Located in the charming small town of Hendersonville in Western North Carolina, Allison Development Group has clients in North Carolina and South Carolina.

Erica Anderson

Regional Planner, Land-of-Sky Regional Council (NC)

Erica Anderson joined the Land-of-Sky Regional Council in 2010 to manage the WNC Forest Products Cooperative Marketing Project. She has fifteen years experience working with communities to achieve sustainable development through planning and implementing energy, environmental, emergency management, and economic development initiatives. She has her Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and a Bachelor of Science in Animal Sciences from Colorado State University.

Rick Bishop

Executive Director, Western Riverside Council of Governments (CA)

Rick Bishop is Executive Director of the Western Riverside Council of Governments – a joint powers authority consisting of the 17 cities in western Riverside County, the County of Riverside, the Eastern Municipal Water District, and the Western Municipal Water District. He is responsible for developing and managing programs addressing federal, state, and regional mandates on local governments in diverse areas such as transportation, housing, growth management, air quality, and integrated waste management. Among these responsibilities is the Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee Program, the nation's largest multijurisdictional development fee program. The program will provide nearly \$4 billion in arterial and transit improvements over the next three decades. The Agency also launched a \$325 million loan program to business and residential property owners for retrofitting properties with energy efficient and water conservation retrofits.

Noreen Beatley

HUD HTA Project Director, Manhattan Strategy Group (MD)

Noreen Beatley is the Project Director for HUD's Housing and Transportation Affordability Initiative. For more than fifteen years, her work has focused on green building, affordable housing and community economic development issues. As both a Consultant and the former Director of State and Local Policy

for Enterprise Community Partners, Noreen developed and promoted strategies to promote community revitalization and sustainable development. She has produced green building and energy efficiency primers for national funders, case studies and briefs highlighting the benefits of green healthy housing and greening workforce development, and contributed articles to numerous smart growth and affordable housing publications.

DeWitt Blackwell

Executive Director, Western Piedmont Council of Governments (NC)

Mr. Blackwell has been with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) since November 1974 and formerly managed its Planning, Community Development and Data Services programs as its' Assistant Executive Director.

Blackwell, as Executive Director, is responsible for directing the overall operations of the WPCOG in the four-county Greater Hickory Metro region. The WPCOG provides professional staff services to 28 local government members in a variety of programs including: land use planning, community and economic development, transportation planning, data/GIS management assistance, Section 8 housing, Western Piedmont Workforce Development Board, WPCOG Area Agency on Aging, Region E Development Corporation (SBA loans) and other programs and services involving state and federal grant assistance for local development initiatives. Mr. Blackwell acts on behalf of the WPCOG Policy Board and Executive Committee in efforts focused on reaching the goals of the WPCOG.

Yolanda Boone

Director, Office of Grant Management, State of Mississippi Department of Employment Security

Yolanda Boone is the Director of the Office of Grant Management of the Mississippi Department of Employment Security. She has state responsibility for administration and oversight of federal workforce training funds. In that role, she oversees approximately \$100 million in federal grant resources to state, local and community college grantees. She has more than 22 years of experience in managing federal grants. Prior to her current position, she worked in private practice as a project manager for the state of Mississippi, overseeing \$115 million in Hurricane Katrina national emergency grants. Ms. Boone graduated from William Carey College with a bachelor's degree in accounting and is a certified grants manager.

Sarah Campbell

National Policy Director, Center for Neighborhood Technology (IL)

Sarah Campbell is the National Policy Director for the Center for Neighborhood Technology, a non-profit organization dedicated to urban sustainability. At CNT, Ms. Campbell conducts research on urban economic and financial issues and represents the organization with Federal agencies and Congress. She has over 30 years of professional experience in transportation policy, urban planning, and capital budgeting. Prior to coming to CNT, Ms. Campbell served as the capital budget director for the District of Columbia Council, where she advised on the formation and oversight of a billion dollar + annual budget. For 14 years she was president of *TransManagement Inc.*, a transportation planning and management-consulting firm. At *TransManagement*, she advised and conducted research for public agencies at all levels of government and for non-profit organizations, including serving as acting director of the Great American Station Foundation (now Reconnecting America) in 1997.

Prior to joining *TransManagement*, she was the founding director of the Surface Transportation Policy Project (STPP), served as director of planning and capital budget for the District Department of Transportation, was special assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Budget and Programs, and was a transportation analyst with the Federal Railroad Administration and the City of Austin, Texas. As STPP director, she led a broad coalition of transportation, environmental, and urban interests working to direct federal transportation programs to better serve communities that successfully advocated for key provisions of the landmark legislation, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA). She has been involved in each transportation reauthorization since 1981.

Sheri Coven

Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA)

Sheri Coven is Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA), serving Florida's 11 regional planning councils and a 33-member statewide policy board. She returned to FRCA in October, 2011 and works closely with state, regional, and local governments and members of the private sector and non-profit organizations to build collaborative partnerships and promote regional economic development. She also represents FRCA on the Rural Economic Development Initiative and Safe Mobility for Life Coalition. From February 2007 until September 2011, Ms. Coven was Director of Intergovernmental and Public Affairs for the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and served briefly in a similar capacity for the Agency for Workforce Innovation to assist with the transition of both agencies into the new Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Ms. Coven has also served as Executive Director of the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association (FAPA), providing professional development opportunities to private and public sector planning practitioners. Preceding her tenure with FAPA, Ms. Coven spent almost eight years as staff to FRCA, having come from DCA where she initially assisted in the administration of the Areas of Critical State Concern program and was later appointed as the Department's liaison to the regional planning councils. She also staffed former Governor Lawton Chiles' Commission for a Sustainable South Florida and Florida Greenways Commission.

Ms. Coven graduated from Florida State University in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. While pursuing her Master's degree, Ms. Coven spent several years working for Dr. John DeGrove at the Florida Atlantic University/Florida International University Joint Center for Environmental and Urban Problems. In 1994, Ms. Coven earned a Master's degree in Political Science from Florida Atlantic University, with a special emphasis in environmental growth management.

Ms. Coven is a member of the Capital Women's Network and a life member of Hadassah. Her husband is the Public Transit Manager for the Florida Department of Transportation. They have three daughters ages 22, 19, and 14.

Russ Cowley

President, NADO, and Executive Director, Six County AOG (UT)

Mr. Cowley was raised in a small rural town in Central Utah. After graduating from Utah State University with a degree in business, he chose to work as a partner in his family's farming business. Extenuating circumstances necessitated his move to Southern California where he worked for an aerospace contracting company as the human resource specialist and contract compliance officer. Russ found the

large city life most difficult and took advantage of an opportunity to move back to his rural roots where he accepted employment as the Director of Economic Development for the Six County Association of Governments (SCAOG), a rural development organization serving Central Utah. After nine years in this position Mr. Cowley was appointed Executive Director of the SCAOG. Russ has worked for the SCAOG for over twenty years. He has maintained his membership with NADO throughout this period. In 2004 Mr. Cowley was elected to the NADO Board and in 2007 was first elected as an officer on the NADO Executive Committee.

Deborah Cox

Director of Government Relations and Legislative Affairs, NADO (DC)

Deborah Cox serves as the Director of Government Relations and Legislative Affairs. Deborah is responsible for Legislative and Executive Branch outreach, advocacy of NADO's legislative priorities, and policy development. Previously, she worked for a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Prior to her time on the Hill, Cox worked as a legislative assistant for The Livingston Group (former House Appropriations Chairman Bob Livingston) and with the government relations firm Zeliff Enterprises (former Congressman Bill Zeliff). Cox is currently working towards a master's degree in communication at John Hopkins University. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Liberty University.

Chris Engle

Vice President and Chief Analyst, Avalanche Consulting (TX)

Chris Engle, Avalanche Consulting's Vice President and Chief Analyst, is a national thought leader on the topic of economic development analysis and industry trends. He has nearly 20 years of experience as a researcher and strategist. His expertise includes economic analysis, competitive evaluations, real estate feasibility, labor market studies, and site selection. He has focused his career on translating the meaning go global trends on regional economic growth. His strong belief in the power of transforming complicated data into easy-to-use decision making resources for communities led him to develop one of the most dynamic economic development software tools available today, www.HeadlightLLC.com.

Chris has created economic development plans and real estate assessments for communities across the US and Europe including: Northeast Florida; Providence, Rhode Island; Gainesville, Florida; Hampton Roads, Virginia; Miami-Dade, Florida; Jefferson Parish, Louisiana; Anniston, AL; North Carolina; Northern Kentucky; Quad Cities, Illinois; San Joaquin County, California; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Winston-Salem, North Carolina; the Czech Republic; and Portugal, to name a few. His corporate clients have included Applied Materials, Dell Computer, Gables Residential, Opus Development, and Stratus Properties. Chris is a frequent speaker at site selection and economic events and is a published writer and commentator in national and local media. He holds an economics degree from the University of Texas, and has completed studies at Columbia University-New York City and the Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey (ITESM).

The Honorable Matt Erskine

Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, EDA (DC)

Matt S. Erskine was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Chief Operating Officer for the U.S. Economic Development Administration in September 2011.

Before joining the Obama Administration, he was Senior Vice President at the Greater Washington Board of Trade and Executive Director of the Greater Washington Initiative, a private-public regional economic development effort that has helped to position the Washington region as a premier business destination. Additionally, Erskine was President of PLAY, a management consulting firm in Richmond; a Principal in the Advanced Technology-Telecom and Professional Services practices of the management consulting firm Korn-Ferry International; and, management consultant at Coopers & Lybrand Consulting in the Telecommunications & Media Strategy and Federal Government practice areas.

He also served in the public sector as the Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade in Virginia Governor Mark Warner Administration, where he led and managed multiple gubernatorial initiatives and had oversight of the operations of 16 departments and agencies, consisting of more than 2,500 employees and a combined annual budget of \$800 million. Erskine was also appointed by Virginia Governor Timothy Kaine to the bi-partisan Virginia Research and Technology Advisory Commission.

Erskine earned a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) from the University of Virginia as an Echols Scholar and a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) from the Harvard Business School. He recently completed his five-year term membership with the Council on Foreign Relations. He regularly competes in triathlons, marathons, and endurance races. Erskine and his wife have three children.

Steve Etcher

Boonslick RPC Executive Director and NADO Treasurer (MO)

Steve Etcher is the Executive Director of the Boonslick Regional Planning Commission. Etcher began with the organization in 1988 and has served as the executive director since 1992. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration. Steve has served as President of the Missouri Association of Councils of Government, and presently serves as Secretary of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). The Boonslick Regional Planning Commission is a voluntary association of cities and counties, formed in 1968, to serve Lincoln, Montgomery and Warren Counties. BRPC assists local communities with grant writing, community planning, transportation planning, workforce development, economic development, and other services to improve the quality of life in the Boonslick region.

Chris Fetzer

Executive Director, Northern Arizona Council of Governments

Chris Fetzer was appointed executive director of NACOG in 2011. He has been with NACOG since 1998. Prior to his tenure as executive director, he served as planning director and participated in the development of local and regional transportation plans and has been responsible for managing the development of regional and sub-regional transit plans. Fetzer is a graduate of Northern Arizona University with a degree in geography and public planning.

Armando Garza

Mayor Pro Tem, City of San Juan (TX)

Mr. Garza serves the Citizens of San Juan as a city Commissioner and holds the position of Mayor Pro Tem. Along with his city responsibilities Mr. Garza also serves as the Treasurer for the board of Amigo's Del Valle and is the Chair of the Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Garza came to Proyecto Azteca after having served as a Regional Coordinator for the Equal Voice for America's Families campaign. Equal Voice for America's Families is a campaign to lay the groundwork for a family led movement to improve the economic well-being of families. Mr. Garza also has over 10 years experience working on several political campaigns which included local, state and national elections. Along with political campaign work he also served in the office of Congressman Lloyd Doggett as a constituent services representative and legislative aid.

As development director Mr. Garza is responsible for developing fundraising projects, networking with businesses, community leaders and elected officials in the local community and throughout the state and country. In addition Mr. Garza also manages Proyecto Azteca's website and social networking sites, and serves as the press liaison.

As the Equal Voice Housing Coalition policy coordinator Mr. Garza follows housing policy at the local, state and federal levels and reports back to the members of the Equal Voice Housing Coalition. Also, Mr. Garza works with Coalition members and organizers to plan strategies to impact these policies to benefit poor working families in the Rio Grande Valley. The Equal Voice Housing Coalition is made up of over 20 non-profit housing organizations and low income housing advocates in Hidalgo and Cameron County.

Peter Gregory

Executive Director, Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission

Peter Gregory is Executive Director of the 30-town Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission. He has held this post since 1997, and been with the Regional Commission since 1989. The Commission is one of 11 regional planning agencies in Vermont with statutory responsibilities for regional land use, transportation, emergency management, natural resources, economic development, housing planning and policy development. Gregory has been a member of the Vermont State Infrastructure Bank Board since 1997, serving as Chairperson since 1998. Prior to this, Gregory worked for the Tampa Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, and the City of St. Petersburg, Florida. Gregory earned a BA in State and Local Government and an MA in Urban Government and Politics from the University of South Florida.

Robert Grow

President and CEO, Envision Utah

Robert Grow is founding chair emeritus of Envision Utah, a private/public quality growth partnership founded in 1997. Envision Utah is widely recognized as one of the country's most successful public involvement efforts for the development of a broad-based, long-term growth strategy for a major metropolitan area, having received the Urban Land Institute's Award for Excellence, the Alliance for Regional Stewardship's Gold Recognition Award, and the American Planning Association's Daniel Burnham Award. For his role in helping shape the strategy for the Salt Lake region's future transportation system, Grow received the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Distinguished Service Award in October 2003.

Grow has been invited to present the Envision Utah approach in more than 75 regions in the last seven years. He was involved in creating the visioning process for Southern Louisiana following the Hurricane Katrina disaster. He is also the lead consultant in the ongoing visioning process to create a sustainable city of one million residents on Superstition Vistas, the 275-square mile "crown jewel" of the Arizona

State Trust Lands.

Grow holds degrees in engineering and law and has had a diverse career, including practicing law, leading and supporting regional visioning processes, being president of a large manufacturing company, and chairing a national trade association. He has been recognized as Utah's entrepreneur of the year.

Presently, Robert Grow practices law in Salt Lake City, specializing in land use planning and zoning, real estate development, regional visioning and growth planning, and environmental law.

Dawn Hegland

Executive Director, Upper Minnesota Valley RDC (MN)

Dawn Hegland has a Bachelor of Arts Cum Laude degree in Biology, Environmental Science, and Secondary Education from Concordia College in Moorhead. She has been with the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission since 1994 and has worked with several program areas including community development, economic development, natural resources, transportation and tourism development.

Appointed as Executive Director in 2008, Dawn continues to work on new initiatives throughout the region as requested by the RDC's governing board. Some of the recent projects include renewable energy, local food development, bike trails, parks, telecommunication, entrepreneurship, and community revitalization.

Doug Hermes

Statewide Planning Coordinator, Missouri Association of Councils of Governments

Doug Hermes is a professional planner with 20 plus years of local, regional and statewide planning experience. Mr. Hermes has a bachelor degree from Emporia State University (Kansas) and a graduate degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Iowa. He currently serves as the statewide planning coordinator for the Missouri Association of Councils of Government (MACOG) – the state association representing Missouri's 19 regional planning commissions and councils of government.

Amanda Hoey

Executive Director, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (OR)

Amanda Hoey is the Executive Director for Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD), a bi-state regional economic development entity supporting the Columbia Gorge region of Oregon and Washington. MCEDD has a strong history of growing successful economic initiatives, beginning with formation of the agency in 1969. Under Amanda's leadership, MCEDD has diversified regional economic initiatives to include additional opportunities for access to capital and regional cluster development. Prior to MCEDD, Amanda worked in small business development, developing youth entrepreneurship opportunities. She returned to the Gorge, where her family is involved in fifth generation dryland wheat production. Amanda holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics degree from Whitman College. She serves on the boards of the Rural Development Initiatives, Riverfront Trail, Columbia Center for the Arts, and as the chair of The Dalles Chamber economic development.

Rick Hunsaker

Executive Director, Region XII Council of Governments (IA)

Rick Hunsaker was appointed to the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Commission by Governor Tom Vilsack on May 1, 2006. Rick is a graduate of Drake University, receiving a BA in 1988 and a Master of Public Administration in 1990. He is the Executive Director of Region XII Council of Governments in Carroll, a regional agency serving 6 counties and 59 cities in west central Iowa, a position he has held for 11 years. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Iowa Association of Regional Councils (past chair), the Association of Iowa Workforce Partners, Carroll Area Development Corporation, and Western Iowa Advantage, an eight county cooperative marketing group. Mr. Hunsaker is a member of the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance and is the current treasurer of Depot Center, Ltd., a local non-profit historic preservation organization. He was from 1989-2006 assistant debate coach at two Iowa high schools.

Lynne Keller Forbes

Executive Director, South Eastern Council of Governments (SD)

Lynne Keller Forbes serves as Executive Director of Dakota BUSINESS Finance, the South Eastern Development Foundation, and the South Eastern Council of Governments (SECOG). Lynne has served as Director of SECOG since 2001 and led the organization's efforts to create the South Eastern Development Foundation and Dakota BUSINESS Finance.

The South Eastern Council of Governments serves six counties in the southeastern corner of South Dakota. In 2002, the South Eastern Development Foundation (SEDF) was incorporated to operate economic development and housing regional revolving loan funds in the SECOG region. In 2005, the Dakota BUSINESS Finance was incorporated to complement SEDF and provide the Small Business Administration's 504 Program.

Lynne is a Certified Economic and Housing Development Professional through the National Development Council. She has a Bachelors degree in Business Administration from St. Leo College, St. Leo, FL and a Juris Doctorate Law Degree from the University of South Dakota.

Randy Kelley

Executive Director, Three Rivers PDD (MS)

Randy Kelley has been the executive director of the Three Rivers Planning and Development District, Inc. since 1976. His organization was instrumental in organizing the Three Rivers Solid Waste Management Authority, of which Three Rivers serves as the administrative agency. Recycling is a daily activity and part of the fiscal and management strategy. He served as NADO President in 1987. Kelley holds a Bachelor's degree in Banking and Finance and a Master's degree in Urban Planning from the University of Mississippi.

Brian Kelsey

Director of Economic Development, NADO (TX)

Brian Kelsey is Director of Economic Development at the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) in Washington, DC. Prior to joining NADO, Kelsey served as a senior policy advisor

at the U.S. Economic Development Administration during 2010-2011, where he engineered the Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge, a \$37 million grant program that pooled resources from 16 federal agencies to accelerate regional innovation and job creation. Kelsey was Director of Community and Economic Development at the Capital Area Council of Governments from 2005 to 2010, and has also worked for the Council on Competitiveness, the Sonoma County Economic Development Board, and the Center for Transportation Research. Kelsey is co-author of *Measuring Regional Innovation* and his analysis has appeared in the *Austin American-Statesman*, *Austin Business Journal*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Global Corporate Xpansion*, and *Economic Development Now*. The Aspen Institute named him a 2011 Aspen Ideas Festival Scholar for his work in regional economic development. In addition to his work at NADO, Kelsey teaches sustainable economic development at The University of Texas at Austin and is Principal of Civic Analytics LLC, an Austin-based economic research and consulting firm.

Tom Kennedy

Executive Director, Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission (VT)

Tom Kennedy, AICP, has been Executive Director of the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission (SWCRPC) since 1992. The SWCRPC is one of 11 Regional Planning Commissions located in Vermont. Under Kennedy's tenure, The SWCRPC took a leadership role in creating the Vermont Byways Program, which led to the designation of the Connecticut River Byway as National Scenic Byway. The SWCRPC established the first Brownfield Program and Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund in Vermont; this program has received national recognition by the Environmental Protection Agency. Prior to working at the SWCRPC, Kennedy worked in southern Africa for a number of agencies as an agriculture development specialist. Kennedy was elected to the Hartland School Board in 2007; since 2008 he has served as chairman of the Hartland School Board and Windsor Southeast Supervisory School Union.

Jeff Kiely

Executive Director, Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments

Jeff Kiely serves as the Executive Director of the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments. He is also a member of the NADO Board of Directors. Previously, his experience includes working in a boarding school in Tanzania, a self-determination community school and adult education program in the Ramah Navajo community, the Native American Bahá'í Institute on the Navajo Reservation, and a youth counseling company in Gallup. His present position with Northwest New Mexico COG includes a wide range of organizational, environmental, social and economic development projects and planning ventures. He is a graduate of Northern Arizona University and holds a master's degree from Arizona State University.

Frank Knott

President, ViTAL Economy, Inc. (MD)

Frank Knott's experience spans more than 40 years and encompasses serving as both a successful entrepreneur and a volunteer leader of regional CED initiatives. He provides a rare perspective on effective ways to connect citizen, government and private sector interests. For the past 25 years, Frank has initiated and/or participated in a number of regional and national public-private partnerships in the areas of economic development, workforce training, education reform, at-risk youth empowerment, rural and urban economic policy, and information highway initiatives.

Frank's expertise in building such partnerships has been recognized by the administrations of several US presidents, including Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Clinton. He and his partners in the VE Alliance firmly believe that both they and their clients can "do well and do good" at the same time.

Scott Koons

Executive Director, North Central Florida RPC

Scott Koons serves as the Executive Director of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council. The Council, in partnership with economic development organizations and local governments, promotes regional strategies, partnerships and solutions to strengthen the economic competitiveness and quality of life of 11 counties and 33 incorporated municipalities in the north central portion of Florida. He previously served as Assistant Executive Director, Director of Economic Development and Director of Local Government Assistance for the Council.

Mr. Koons serves as Chair of the Florida Regional Councils Association Executive Directors Advisory Committee, a member of the Florida Chamber Foundation Board of Trustees, a member of the National Association of Development Organizations Board of Directors, a member of the SouthEast Regional Directors Institute Council of Peers and a member of the University of Florida Urban and Regional Planning Graduate Program Advisory Council. He previously served as Chair of the Florida Community Development Block Grant Program Advisory Council.

Mr. Koons testifies as an expert witness in legal proceedings, lectures at the college and university level and presents at conferences and seminars. He also holds memberships in the American Institute of Certified Planners and the American Planning Association, and previously served as Chair of the American Planning Association, Florida Chapter, San Felasco Section.

Mr. Koons received a Masters Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Florida and a Bachelors Degree in Design and Comprehensive Planning from Southern Illinois University.

Michael Lemanski

Director, Development Finance Initiative, University of NC School of Government (NC)

Michael Lemanski is the founder and a current board member of Greenfire Development in Durham, NC. He is also the founding Director of the Development Finance Initiative (DFI) at the UNC School of Government. The DFI is advising city/county governments across North Carolina on how to attract private investment to help redevelop distressed properties and downtowns. Prior to accepting this appointment, Mr. Lemanski led Greenfire Development as it redeveloped or stabilized 20 distressed, dilapidated, or underutilized buildings in downtown Durham. His efforts have led to numerous awards from a variety of organizations including Preservation Durham, Triangle Business Journal and the Durham Chamber of Commerce. These awards have not only recognized Greenfire for their efforts to help transform Durham's city center but also highlight its impressive track record of historic preservation, green building, and community service.

Prior to starting Greenfire, Mr. Lemanski was an Environmental Manager at Kimberly Clark Corp. where he led energy conservation, remediation, and recycling projects. Mr. Lemanski has also helped create several other startups including Unique Places, LoMo Market, and Bull City Forward. Mr. Lemanski

graduated with honors from NC State University with degrees in Chemical Engineering and an MDS in Environment Science. He also has an M.B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Laura Lewis Marchino

Assistant Director, Region 9 Economic Development District of SW Colorado, Inc.

Laura's professional experience includes journalism, nonprofit capacity building, and community economic development. Starting out in Broadcast journalism, Laura made the career move to community organizing and worked with several nonprofit organizations before joining the Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado in 2005.

Laura has a B.A. in Journalism & Mass Communications and an M.B.A. in Business Administration. In addition to NADO, she serves as the Chair of the Colorado Association of Regional Organizations (CARO) and three community boards in her chosen home of Durango.

Laura was chosen as a Fellow for the German Marshall Fund in 2005 and spent a month in Europe experiencing the European Union's efforts of economic and social collaboration between countries. Other recognition includes Economic Development Leader of the Year, 2008, recipient of Extraordinary Women of the Year 2004, Community Builder Award 2003, and Hidden Hero Award 2000, for working behind the scenes with victims of sexual assault and child abuse.

Bob Lloyd

Principal, Robert M. Lloyd Consulting Services; Partner, Federal Fund Management Advisor (SC)

Bob Lloyd is a respected authority on policies and practices affecting the acquisition, administration and oversight of federal grants and contracts and subawards. Mr. Lloyd has more than 40 years of experience in federal award implementation. Prior to forming his public management and government relations consulting practice in Washington, DC in 1982 he held staff positions in three large federally funded organizations including two councils of government. Since then, he has served as a consultant, trainer or advisor to award or audit units in sixteen federal agencies and to recipients, subrecipients, and their professional advisors located in all fifty states, several U.S. territories, the District of Columbia and eighteen foreign countries. He is the author or co-author of four significant reference works on federal grant administration or audit and was principal author of the federal government's guide for state and local governments on the development of indirect cost rate proposals. His work with federal agencies, states, local governments, colleges and universities, hospitals and nonprofit organizations has provided him with a unique perspective on the federal assistance system. Mr. Lloyd holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Colby College and, after combat service with the United States Army in Vietnam, received a Master of Public Administration degree from American University.

Deb Markley

Managing Director/Director of Research, RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship (NC)

Deborah M. Markley is Managing Director and Director of Research for the Rural Policy Research Institute's Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, a national research and policy center. Her focus within the Center is practice-driven research and evaluation of best models for entrepreneurship development in rural places. Prior to her work with the Center, she was the Chair of the Rural Policy Research Institute's Equity Capital Initiative and completed a national study of nontraditional venture capital institutions. Her research has also included case studies of entrepreneurial support organizations, evaluation of state

industrial extension programs, and consideration of the impacts of changing banking markets on small business finance. She has extensive experience conducting field-based survey research projects and has conducted focus groups and interviews with rural bankers, entrepreneurs, business service providers, venture capitalists, small manufacturers, and others. Her research has been presented in academic journals, as well as to national public policy organizations and Congressional committees.

Dr. Markley received her PhD. in agricultural economics from Virginia Tech in 1984 and has held faculty and research positions at the University of Tennessee, the University of Massachusetts, and Purdue University.

Pamela Marshall

Executive Director, Memphis Area Association of Governments (TN)

Pamela Marshall is the Executive Director of the Memphis Area Association of Governments (MAAG). Her responsibilities include managing a policy board of local elected officials in six counties (Shelby, Fayette, Tipton, and Lauderdale) in Tennessee as well as Crittenden County in Arkansas and DeSoto County in Mississippi. Pamela works with state, regional and federal officials on programs and funding while influencing positive change for MAAG's service communities.

Pamela brings more than 12 years of progressive experience in extensive public policy with legislative victories as Chief of Staff for the Shelby County Mayor's office where she developed solid professional relationships with key elected officials and their staff at the federal, state, and local levels. She was Vice President of Public Policy and Affairs at the Greater Memphis Chamber of Commerce chairing the Chamber Legislative Affairs Committee and playing a key role in saving Tennessee's only oil refinery. Pamela also served as the Community Relations Officer for TDOT. In this position she managed relationships with the media, community groups, local, state, and federal government officials for the 21 counties in West Tennessee.

During her years in broadcast journalism, Pamela held various positions in television and radio from show host to news anchor.

Pamela is a graduate of Columbia College in Chicago, Illinois with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcast Journalism.

Tye Parsons

Executive Director, Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments

A lifelong resident of the Show-Me State, Mr. Parsons was born and raised in Harrisonville, Missouri. After graduating from Harrisonville High School, Mr. Parsons attended Northwest Missouri State where he earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Geography. Also during his undergraduate days, Mr. Parsons began his career with Missouri Regional Planning Commissions by completing an internship with the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments (RCOG). After serving more than four years as planning intern and, later, Technology Coordinator for the RCOG, Mr. Parsons left northwest Missouri to further his education in the public sphere. In 2004, Mr. Parsons earned his Master in Public Administration degree from the Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri - Columbia, and was honored by the school with the Stanly L. Botner Award for demonstrated excellence in public affairs. Continuing his career in public service, Mr. Parsons then returned to northwest Missouri to accept the position of Assistant Director of Mo-Kan Regional Council; serving Andrew, Buchanan,

Clinton, and DeKalb counties in that position for more than two years. Coming full circle, Mr. Parsons assumed the duties of Executive Director of the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments in July 2006. Mr. Parsons resides in Maryville with his wife Vanessa and daughters Lucy and Ellie.

Elena Quintanilla

Director of Regional Services, South Plains Association of Governments (TX)

Maria Elena Quintanilla serves as the Regional Services Director for South Plains Association of Governments. She has served in this role for approximately thirteen years and is responsible for a multitude of programs to assist elected officials in a fifteen-county region. The programs include the following: criminal justice, solid waste, homeland security, hazard mitigation, community development, training for elected officials, census, and various other miscellaneous programs. Her government service began as Community Development Specialist for the City of Abilene and as a Management Analyst for the City of Lubbock, Community Development Department. In 1995, Elena received her Master's Degree in Public Administration and received a full-paid fellowship to Texas Tech University to perform her graduate work.

In addition to her job, Elena is heavily involved in civic activities which includes her service as a state appointee to the Municipal Solid Waste Resource Management Advisory Council, Chairperson for the Lubbock Housing Authority, Board of Directors for the Lubbock United Way, and Member of the Junior League of Lubbock. She has also graduated from the Power Pipeline and Leadership Texas Programs and was recognized as a YWCA Women of Excellence in Government in 2008. Elena is married to David Quintanilla, and they have a ten-year old daughter named Carisa Marie and a six-year old daughter named Katelyn Rose. Her motto in life is: "Always know where you are going, but never forget where you came from."

Ron Radil

Executive Director, Western Nevada Development District

Ron Radil was appointed the Western Nevada Development District's Executive Director in February 2005. Since 1982, he has worked for multi-jurisdictional organizations in Nebraska, Kansas, and Nevada. During this time he has written and administered Small Cities Community Development Block Grant projects for cities and counties and administered revolving loan funds funded through SBA, CDBG and USDA. Ron was an original member of the Nevada Rural Development Council Community Assessment program and been a team member on eight assessments. Currently, he is working with multiple partners to complete a Stronger Economies Together (SET) program, including a regional SET Team to develop a SET blueprint focusing on economic development to become part of the WNDD Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

G. Lynette Reed

Owner and Founder, Where Expectations Meet Reality (TX)

G. Lynette Reed is an educator, consultant, and speaker with over twenty-five years of experience working in the areas of community building, interpersonal communications, and organizational learning. Dr. Reed mentors individuals from a variety of organizations to include businesses, not for profit organizations, schools, allied health, Chambers of Commerce, government, and churches. Her personal mission is to help people create stronger community through the integration of spirit, culture, and ethics. Her current work is with organizations and businesses to promote community

building. She has taught continuing education courses approved by the American Planning Association for ethics, and also team building and leadership training courses. Most recently, she wrote an article for the International City/County Management Association journal *InFocus*, *Creating a Strategic Management Plan for your Organization*. She is currently completing a series of national radio interviews on her book, *Fixing the Problem, Making Changes in How You Deal with Challenges*.

Jim Reed

Executive Director, Central Texas Council of Governments

Jim Reed currently serves as the Executive Director of the Central Texas Council of Governments in Belton, Texas. His background includes experiences in both the public and private sector. He has been recognized with numerous national and state awards and has served as on numerous boards and committees. Most recently he was nominated for consideration as a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners by the Texas Chapter. Jim has been married for over 28 years and has two daughters who attend Southern Methodist University.

Kathy Ruffalo

President, Ruffalo and Associates (DC)

Kathy Ruffalo is a government affairs consultant who has had a broad, diverse, and bi-partisan career in public policy with 20 years of experience at both federal and state levels of government. From 1989 to 1999, Kathy served as a senior Democratic policy advisor to the United States Environment and Public Works Committee with the primary responsibility for developing, drafting and negotiating federal transportation policy. During her tenure with the Committee, Kathy worked on the ISTEA, National Highway System and TEA-21 legislation. From 1999 to 2004, Kathy left Washington to become a senior policy advisor to Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne.

In 2004, Kathy began a government affairs consulting practice. She took a six-month break from her consulting work in 2005, at the request of the Senate Committee leadership, to work on the latest transportation legislation - SAFETEA-LU. Most recently, Ruffalo was appointed by the United States Congress to be a member of the National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission.

Ruffalo is a 1989 graduate of Northwestern University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences.

Susan Schreibman

Acting Executive Director of Rutland Regional Planning Commission (VT)

Susan Schreibman is Acting Executive Director of Rutland Regional Planning Commission, in Rutland, Vermont. She is AICP, specializes in transportation planning and has been at the RPC for 10 years. Prior to that she worked at in transportation planning at the MPO in Mobile Alabama. She has a Master's in Urban Planning from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. She lives in Rutland, Vermont with her husband and has two sons.

Ken Sizemore

Executive Director, Five County Association of Governments (UT)

In early 2006, locally elected officials in southwestern Utah comprising the Steering Committee of the Five County Association of Governments (AOG) appointed Kenneth L. Sizemore as Executive Director. Mr. Sizemore is only the fourth person to fill that capacity, following Mr. John S. Williams who retired in early 2006 after 27½ years in that position.

As Executive Director, Mr. Sizemore directs a staff of 60 responsible for providing community planning, economic development, transportation and social services assistance to 37 cities and towns and five counties spread across 11 million acres in southwestern Utah. He is responsible for managing an annual budget exceeding \$8 million. Ken has been with the Five County Association of Governments since February 1986, when he was hired as the Community and Economic Development Director.

Prior to moving to southwestern Utah, Ken served as the Cache County, Utah Planner. While employed there, he was responsible for the development of numerous land use and transportation planning documents, as well as the day-to-day administration of county zoning regulations. He began his service with Cache County in 1977 directly upon his graduation from Utah State University.

Ken earned a BA degree in Political Science from Utah State University (USU), with minors in Economics and German. He holds a Certificate in Public Administration. He continued graduate studies in Public Administration, Economics, and Planning at USU during his tenure with Cache County. He has also earned certification as an Economic Development Finance Professional from the National Development Council and is a certified Community Development Block Grant Manager for the State of Utah Division of Housing and Community Development. Ken has recently received a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Southern Utah University.

In addition to his civilian career, Ken also served the nation as a citizen soldier with the U.S. Army National Guard and Army Reserve from 1984 to 2005, including a 13-month combat tour of duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He attained the rank of First Sergeant, and supervised the enlisted soldiers of D Company, 141 Military Intelligence Battalion, Utah National Guard. He is trained in Human Intelligence Collection, Non-Commissioned Officer Education, and is a German linguist.

Kent Spellman

Executive Director, West Virginia Community Development Hub

Kent R. Spellman brings a diverse background to his work as executive director of the West Virginia Community Development Hub.

For 20 years, he owned and was president of Rooftree, Inc., a design/build construction company based in Harrisville, WV, specializing in high-end residential and light commercial projects. In 1996, he became editor, publisher and part owner of the Ritchie Gazette, a weekly county newspaper serving Ritchie County. While at the Gazette, Kent won 31 WV Press Association individual awards for reporting, editorials, photography, and advertising design; and the Gazette was repeatedly named the best newspaper in the state in its division.

His interest in community development led to Kent's involvement with the Ritchie County Economic Development Authority, and in 2003 he was hired as executive director. While at the RCEDA, he transformed an ineffective EDA into one of the most effective and innovative in the state.

Kent was a founding member, vice-chair and chairman of the North Bend Rail Trail Foundation and helped negotiate the state's acquisition of what is now the North Bend Rail Trail. He also served as chairman of the WV Statewide Trail Plan Committee, which created the state's first and only comprehensive plan for trail development and maintenance. He currently serves on the board of the North Bend State Park Foundation and the Vision Shared Entrepreneurship Team.

Kent has been recognized as a Distinguished West Virginian by Gov. Cecil Underwood, and as an Honorary WV State Trooper, at the time only the fourth person in State Police history to receive such recognition. He lives in Clarksburg with his wife Betsy.

Patricia Steed

Executive Director, Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Pat Steed is the Executive Director of the Central Florida Regional Planning Council. Pat has over 30 years of management and professional planning experience in regional, county, city and private sector organizations. During her Florida planning career, she has served as a county and a city planning director, MPO coordinator and project director for a national consulting firm.

The CFRPC includes 5 counties in Central Florida and is the Economic Development District. As the lead agency in a HUD Regional Sustainability Planning grant, staff works with 11 partner consortium members in developing a 2060 Vision for the Heartland of Florida.

Pat's service includes: MyRegion.org Board of Directors and Regional Economic Advisors, the Florida Regional Councils Association Executive Directors Advisory Committee, the Peace River Basin Management Advisory Committee, the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Rural Land Stewardship Area Interagency Technical Advisory Team, Florida's Mobility Fee Stakeholders Group, the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan Advisory Committee, the Strategic Intermodal System Strategic Plan Update Leadership Committee, Polk Vision and Lakeland Vision Executive Committees and a variety of other civic and professional leadership roles.

Tom Stellman

President/CEO, TIP Strategies (TX)

As president of TIP Strategies, Inc., Tom has national and international experience in economic development and workforce analysis. Tom is the lead author of TIP's Texas Automotive Profile and has spoken extensively about automotive supplier attraction strategies. He also developed and launched the highly successful Invest in Texas Alliance, a marketing initiative targeting domestic and international growth companies which generated over \$3 billion in investment leads and facilitated the location of 15 companies.

Tom's recent projects include developing a talent-focused strategy as part of a WIRED-funded initiative for a 26-county region in Kentucky and Indiana; crafting diversification strategies for military dependent communities in Texas (Fort Hood and Sheppard AFB) and Tennessee (Fort Campbell); preparing an economic development strategic plan for Hinds County (Jacksonville), Mississippi; and creating marketing strategies for suburban communities along the expansion of the President George Bush

Tollway in the Dallas area.

Prior to establishing TIP, Tom was director of the Office of International Business for the Texas Department of Commerce. He led a 10-person staff charged with promoting the state's exports, marketing the state to foreign investors, and facilitating communication between foreign investors and economic development organizations statewide.

Wayne Strickland

Executive Director, Roanoke- Valley Alleghany Regional Commission (VA)

Wayne Strickland was appointed Executive Director of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission in February 1988. Mr. Strickland previously held the position of Chief of Land Use and Environmental Planning with the Commission. He has been with the Commission since 1979. His academic background includes: a Bachelors degree in Political Science from Georgia State University, a Masters degree in Geography from Georgia State University, and a Masters degree in City Planning from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Mr. Strickland has assumed leadership roles in various professional organizations. He is currently the Chair of the Southeast Regional Directors Institute and also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Development Organizations. His former leadership positions include: President of the Development District Association of Appalachia; President of the Southwest Virginia Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration; President of the Rural Planning Caucus of Virginia; Second Vice President of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions, and Vice-President of the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Mr. Strickland participates in numerous civic activities including serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the following organizations: Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce, Salem-Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce, United Way of the Roanoke Valley, and the Council of Community Services. He is the President of the Arts Council of the Blue Ridge. He also is a member of the Eleanor D. Wilson Museum Advisory Board (at Hollins University), the Business and Industry Advisory Committee for the City of Roanoke's Career and Technical Education program, and the Advisory Board for the regional Small Business Development Center.

Bob Thompson

Executive Director, Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (ME)

Bob Thompson has been the Executive Director of AVCOG since 1992. Prior to accepting this position, he served as the Director of Development for the City of Lewiston and the Town of Lisbon. Thompson's affiliation with AVCOG dates back to the mid 1970's when he held several positions that focused on water quality, land use and development issues. He currently serves on numerous boards and commissions, and in 2005 he was granted the Public Service Leadership Award by the Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce. In 1998 he received the Turcotte Award from Androscoggin Home Health Services for leadership and the promotion of home health care, and in 1996 he was recognized by the SBA as Maine Advocate of the Year for Financial Services. He is a past president of the Maine Association of Planners, Economic Development Council of Maine, and the Maine Rural Development Council. He is also the past Chair of the Board of Androscoggin Home Health Services. Thompson earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from St. Lawrence University.

Nichole Warren

Executive Director, Iowa Association of Regional Councils

Nichole Warren has served as the Executive Director for the Iowa Association of Regional Councils (IARC) since May 2009. Prior to joining IARC, Warren spent 10 years with the state of Iowa at the Iowa Department of Economic Development. She managed a variety of community and economic development programs and directed the agency's workforce training programs in conjunction with Iowa's community colleges. Warren graduated from Northwest Missouri State University with a BS in Public Administration/Economics.

Mitzi Woods

WIA Director, South Delta PDD (MS)

Mitzi is the Workforce Director at South Delta Planning and Development District in Greenville, Mississippi; for the Delta Workforce Investment Area, having served in her current position for eight years. Prior to assuming the Workforce Director position, Mitzi worked as a Program Specialist for the District for a year. Before joining South Delta in 2003, Mitzi worked for 24 years at Mid-State Opportunity, a community action agency based in Charleston, as program planner and project director for a variety of community based programs.

She attended Delta State University and is a member of the National Workforce Association, the Southeastern Employment Training Association and currently serves as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Mississippi Association of Workforce Areas.