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GRAYSON ARDIES

Grayson Ardies has been with the Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics since 2009, starting as an intern and becoming Executive Director in November 2020. He has led various projects, including an Aerospace and Aviation Economic Impact Study, legislation for military airspace protection, and the Department's Five-Year Airport Construction Program. In 2020, he received the State Aviation

Distinguished Service Award from NASAO and was listed in the Journal Record's Power 15 List for Aviation and Aeronautics in Oklahoma. Grayson has a degree in Aviation Management with minors in Business Administration and Air Traffic Control from the University of Oklahoma, a commercial pilot's license, and is a certified flight instructor.

■ SESSIONS

09:40 AM, 08/27/2024 301A Aerospace and Technology: Charting Oklahoma's Path to Innovation



H.L. BAIRD

H.L. Baird serves as the Statewide Work-Based Learning Liaison for the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education. He is a former business owner and a career and technical education professional with more

than 29 years of experience. He has served on numerous state and national committees and councils on CTE and workforce development. He is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and Southern Nazarene University.

■ SESSIONS

01:30 PM, 08/26/2024 301B Innovation in Workforce Development: Upskilling and Work-Based Learning in Oklahoma



J.D. BAKER

Young professional with growing experience with previous experience in branding, venture capital, government, communication and political industries as well as economic development. Strong consulting professional

skilled in team building, networking, research, and event planning. He firmly believes that democracy can only survive if each and every citizen plays an active, positive role in the success of their local communities.

■ SESSIONS

10:45 AM, 08/27/2024 301D Next Wave of Innovating Economic Development: Insights from emerging GenZ Leaders



MICHELLE BARNETT

Michelle Barnett serves as the Senior Vice President of Economic and Workforce Development for PartnerTulsa, leading a team of professionals working on small business and entrepreneurship, business attraction, retention and expansion, and workforce development. Prior to this role, she served as Mayor G.T. Bynum's Deputy Chief of

Economic Development coming from a career in private-sector business development and operations management. Michelle is energized by connecting people to work they love and business to communities. She believes in PartnerTulsa's mission to create jobs that increase individual economic mobility for all Tulsans.

■ SESSIONS

04:00 PM, 08/26/2024 301D Building the Next Oklahoma Economy - Lessons on Leveraging Federal Funding for Site Readiness



TALIA BELLA

Talia Bella is a dynamic and award-winning producer, born in the vibrant city of Buenos Aires, Argentina. She immigrated to the United States in 2001 and since then has become a force majeure in the industry, with over 100 acclaimed commercials under her belt. Her innovative approach and creative eye have earned her prestigious awards including The Telly, Clio, and the coveted Grand Prix. In 2019,

she turned a fresh page in her illustrious career and moved to Oklahoma. Alongside actor and producer Randy Wayne, Talia co-founded Rebellium Films, a forward-thinking film production, financing and servicing company. In just a short span, she has produced 12 films and provided production services for dozens more, with selections at high-profile film festivals like Sundance, Tribeca, and SXSW.

■ SESSIONS

01:30 PM, 08/26/2024 301C Why Film Matters: A Community Perspective



STEFANIE BRICKMAN

Stefanie Brickman is the Marketing and Communications Director for Visit Norman and Norman Sports. Visit Norman serves as a guide to entertainment and activities across Norman, Oklahoma. After its incorporation in May 1891, Norman has grown to be Oklahoma's third-largest city and home of the University of

Oklahoma. Regionally, Norman is known as a city of festivals with a thriving arts community and hosts the annual Jazz in June and Norman Music Festival, both open-to-the-public music festivals that generate economic activity and draw thousands of attendees into the city of Norman.

■ SESSIONS

04:00 PM, 08/26/2024 301C The Sustainable Impact of Live Music on Communities

JONATHAN BUTLER

Jonathan Butler serves as the Senior Vice President of Community Development for PartnerTulsa. He leads a dynamic team of housing and community engagement professionals working to increase equitable

development and strengthen neighborhoods by centering residents in processes and by combining policy, strategy, and innovative tools to preserve and produce affordable housing.

■ SESSIONS

02:45 PM, 08/26/2024 301D Centering Community in Economic and Community Development

BRIAN BYRNES

Brian Byrnes joined the Thunder in 2005 and led the launch of business operations in Oklahoma City in 2008. He oversees revenue platforms, corporate partnerships, ticket sales, and brand architecture. Byrnes has expanded the Thunder's global influence while driving

fan engagement, corporate leadership, and community outreach. His previous roles include executive VP for the Phoenix Coyotes and positions with the Dallas Stars and Texas Rangers. Byrnes lives in Edmond with his wife Ashley and their three children.

■ SESSIONS

11:45 AM, 08/26/2024 Grand Ballroom Opening Session-Lunch Keynote Address

SHELLEY CADAMY

Shelley's career in economic development spanned twenty-five years before she joined The Mettise Group and launched the Tulsa office in 2019. In 2022 she launched Cadamy Business Consulting. Strategist, consensus builder, problem solver and advocate for no-nonsense effectiveness, Shelley Cadamy has built, turned around, or transformed organizations and programs since 1994. Shelley

graduated from several leadership programs across Oklahoma and has received multiple awards for her business and community involvement, including YWCA Tulsa's Woman of the Year and the Journal Record's '50 Women Making a Difference.' She is a foster/adoptive/kinship parent and an advocate for foster care, adoption, mental healthcare, racial equity and social justice.

■ SESSIONS

04:00 PM, 08/26/2024 301A Second Chance Hiring: It's For Everyone!

DANIEL CASTAÑEDA

Daniel Castañeda, an AICP-accredited urbanist with a master's in Regional and City Planning from the University of Oklahoma, is the Economic Development Specialist for the Ada Jobs Foundation. He leads the Business Retention and Expansion Program, focusing on strengthening pathways into target industries

in Ada. Daniel is dedicated to community and workforce development, collaborating with local and regional partners on workforce and site development initiatives. Building on Srijita Ghosh's groundwork and an EDA Build to Scale grant, he is working to expand the tech employment workforce in the community.

■ SESSIONS

10:45 AM, 08/27/2024 301D Next Wave of Innovating Economic Development: Insights from emerging GenZ Leaders

BILL COLEMAN

Senator Bill Coleman represents Senate District 10, covering all of Osage County and most of Kay County. A longtime broadcaster and business owner, he owns Team Radio Marketing Group, which operates five stations in Ponca City and Stillwater. Bill and his wife,

Helen, a financial adviser and former teacher, live in Ponca City. He has served as chairman of the Ponca City Chamber of Commerce and the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters. The Colemans have three children.

■ SESSIONS

10:15 AM, 08/26/2024 Grand Ballroom Oklahoma's Competitive Edge: Fireside Chat with Global Site Consultant and Oklahoma State Legislators

ROBERT COLEMAN

Robert Coleman has worked for a decade in the Midwest City Manager's Office as the Economic Development Director. In addition to being responsible for recruiting and retaining all types of business, he also serves as the City's primary contact with the film industry. Robert is a graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma and a lifetime Oklahoman. His 28-year tenure in municipal government includes

work in economic development, planning and zoning, public works operations and code administration. He was serving as Community Development Director in El Reno during the 2005 filming of Elizabethtown. During his tenure in Midwest City, he has worked with location managers for Tulsa King, Unbreakable Boy and Twisters.

■ SESSIONS

01:30 PM, 08/26/2024 301C Why Film Matters: A Community Perspective



JOHN COX

John Cox has worked in public, media, and government relations in Oklahoma since 1989. He founded Cox Consulting Group in 2003, offering services to private, public, and nonprofit clients. Cox served as press secretary to Governor Frank Keating from 1994 to 2002. Before that, he was political and

communications director for the Oklahoma Republican Party and managed Frank Lucas' successful U.S. House campaign in 1994. He holds a BA in Journalism from the University of Oklahoma and lives in northwest Oklahoma City with his wife, Martha.

■ SESSIONS

10:45 AM, 08/27/2024 301B The Economics of Modern Surface Infrastructures



CATHY CURTIS

Cathy Curtis Oklahoma Department of Commerce Cathy has been with the Department of Commerce since 2016. She began with the Business Development team, assisting companies with finding locations in Oklahoma to expand or begin a new business. In 2020 she began working with the Women

Owned Business Certification and the State Certified Incubator Program. She added the Diverse Business Certification Program in 2022. Cathy is a native of Oklahoma. She graduated from Ada, OK High School and then from Stephens College, Columbia MO.

■ SESSIONS

10:45 AM, 08/27/2024 301C Small Business Incubator Panel ' State Certified Incubators



STACY DAVIS

Stacy Davis exemplifies adaptability and innovation, transitioning from cosmetology to economic development. As Executive Director of the Sumner County Economic Development Commission, she led significant growth,

expanded staff, and revitalized downtowns. Her leadership emphasizes partnerships and resilience, successfully navigating challenges and fostering community development. Stacy holds an MBA and completed the EDI program.

■ SESSIONS

01:15 PM, 08/27/2024 301B Border Queen Harvest Hub



HEATHER DAVIS-MCDOWELL

Heather McDowell is the Economic Development Director for Port Muskogee. With a background that includes roles at the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST), the Tulsa Regional Chamber, and the Bixby Chamber of Commerce, she has extensive experience in economic development and workforce

initiatives. At Port Muskogee, Heather is focused on supporting local businesses, attracting new opportunities, and fostering partnerships that contribute to the region's economic growth. Her approach emphasizes collaboration and a practical understanding of industry needs, guiding Port Muskogee's strategic efforts.

■ SESSIONS

09:40 AM, 08/27/2024 301B Increasing Your Assist-to-Turnover Ratio with the Latest Tools



JARED DECK

Jared Deck is an award-winning musician, business owner, and State Representative for House District 44 in core Norman. His district includes the main campus of the University of Oklahoma. While studying at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Jared worked in a factory to pay the bills and pursue his passion for music. His story took a turn when his and his coworkers' jobs were outsourced to overseas facilities. Jared realizes that the systemic issues we face are very personal to those affected.

As a business owner, Jared's background is in retail grocery, cellular phones, insurance, and the music industry. Prior to being elected to the House, he served on the school board of Moore Norman Technology Center. When not at the Capitol, Jared works as a touring singer-songwriter. He's a former winner of the Woody Guthrie Songwriting Competition and was named to Rolling Stone's 10 New Artists You Need To Know.

■ SESSIONS

04:00 PM, 08/26/2024 301C The Sustainable Impact of Live Music on Communities



MEREDITH DENNIS

Meredith Dennis is a two-time graduate from the University of Oklahoma with professional history in family services and workforce development. Originally working with adults and families to strengthen employability skills and self-sufficiency, Meredith now leads work-

based learning initiatives with the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Her goal is to work with education and employment teams to identify barriers and help develop programs that provide access to meaningful and equitable career exploration opportunities for students.

■ SESSIONS

01:15 PM, 08/27/2024 301A Workforce Development Starts with K-12: Invest in the Future Now



JENN EASLEY-MAYNORD

Jenn is the Film and Music Production Specialist for the Oklahoma Film + Music Office and oversees music development and special projects. Her background and experience is in branding, marketing, team leadership, music promotions, and city district event development. She holds a Seton Hall University Master's of Science degree in International Affairs and a Bachelor of Arts in English from

Oklahoma State University, with specialized training in diversity, equity, inclusion and conflict resolution. Outside the office, she is a music artist with Willow Way and oversees a peace project called, The Siatha Project, that primarily works with veterans and their families. Jenn lives in Oklahoma City, OK with her 12-year-old daughter and two quirky pups.

■ SESSIONS

04:00 PM, 08/26/2024 301C The Sustainable Impact of Live Music on Communities



JOE ECHELLE

Joe Echelle, P.E., MBA, is the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority. Starting his career with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) in 2001, he advanced through roles including Resident and Construction Engineer. Echelle was key in the I-40 Crosstown project and joined

OTA in 2016 to manage major improvement programs. A registered Professional Engineer, he holds a civil engineering degree and MBA from Oklahoma State University. Echelle lives in Stroud, Oklahoma, with his wife, Lacey, and their two children.

■ SESSIONS

10:45 AM, 08/27/2024 301B The Economics of Modern Surface Infrastructures



CARA EVANS

Cara Jane Evans has 20 years of experience in economic development, spanning CareerTech, regional EDOs, and commercial construction. She is the director of AXIS FT, a certified small business incubator at Francis Tuttle Technology Center. A strong advocate for local entrepreneurship, Cara is the immediate past chair of the Oklahoma Venture Forum and has been involved with Main Street, the

Oklahoma Academy, and other statewide programs. A native of northwest Oklahoma, her doctoral research focuses on rural economic development and retention. She holds a BBA in Marketing, an MBA in Entrepreneurship, an Educational Specialist degree in School Administration, and is pursuing a doctorate. Cara resides in Stillwater, OK, and supports the Oklahoma CareerTech system.

■ SESSIONS

10:45 AM, 08/27/2024 301C Small Business Incubator Panel ' State Certified Incubators



JUSTIN FORTNEY

Justin Fortney has spent his adult life living in Oklahoma after growing up in Kentucky. Justin, his wife Amanda, and son Eli, are long-time residents of Guthrie, and for the last six years he's served as the Tourism Director for

the City of Guthrie. Among other marketing/promotion responsibilities, Justin serves as the liaison associated with Guthrie's 'Film Friendly Community' designation.

■ SESSIONS

01:30 PM, 08/26/2024 301C Why Film Matters: A Community Perspective



JORDYN FRAZIER

Jordyn Frazier is the Assistant Vice President of External Affairs at Murray State College and Executive Director of the Murray State College Foundation. Since joining the executive cabinet at Murray State in May 2022 she has aided in the procurement of over \$28 million in external funding and is currently managing a \$25.5 million capital campaign. She is the former Executive Director of the Johnston County Chamber of Commerce and is currently serving in her first term as a Tishomingo city council member. Frazier is chair of the OSRHE Economic Development Council, chair of

Oklahoma Southeast and serves on various other boards and committees on a local, regional and state level, including the Johnston County Industrial Authority. A native of Mill Creek, Oklahoma she holds an associate's degree in history from Murray State, as well as bachelor's and master's degrees in business from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. She calls Tishomingo home with husband, Nick and son, Elijah. They enjoy trips to the zoo, watching basketball and playing movie trivia games.

■ SESSIONS

09:40 AM, 08/27/2024 301C County Economic Development: Your Project's Assist Leader



MEGGIE FROMAN-KNIGHT

Meggie Froman Knight has over eight years of experience in economic development, currently serving as the Executive Director of the Claremore Industrial & Economic Development Authority. With a proven track

record in leadership and talent development, she has been instrumental in driving economic growth and workforce initiatives in Claremore, Oklahoma.

■ SESSIONS

02:45 PM, 08/26/2024 301D Centering Community in Economic and Community Development



KRISTIN GARCIA

Kristin Garcia is the Executive Director of The Verge OKC, a 501(c)(3) organization that connects entrepreneurs with resources to turn ideas into impactful businesses. Since January 2022, she has been pivotal in establishing The Verge and enhancing the local entrepreneurship ecosystem. Previously, Kristin was a Startup Specialist at Francis Tuttle Technology Center, where she supported entrepreneurs and developed a pre-accelerator. She also managed the Code Lab at the Tom Love Innovation Hub, University of Oklahoma, and worked at Purepost, a tech

startup focused on veteran hiring. With over 15 years in higher education and startups across Oklahoma, Texas, and California, Kristin holds a Master's in Organizational Development from the University of the Incarnate Word, a certification in executive coaching from the University of Dallas, and a bachelor's from the Price College of Business at the University of Oklahoma. She is involved in several entrepreneurial initiatives and advisory boards, and lives in Norman, OK with her husband Chris and their three dogs.

■ SESSIONS

10:45 AM, 08/27/2024 301C Small Business Incubator Panel * State Certified Incubators



SRIJITA GHOSH

Srijita Ghosh is a venture advisor and ecosystem builder focused on empowering founders in the US Midwest. She founded StoPanic, guided Ada's entrepreneurial growth, and now

coaches Oklahoma startups at i2E. Srijita's diverse experience and community-building approach drive innovation and support for new ventures.

■ SESSIONS

10:45 AM, 08/27/2024 301D Next Wave of Innovating Economic Development: Insights from emerging GenZ Leaders



BRAD GRIFFITH

Originally from Yukon, Brad holds degrees in international studies and Italian, having lived and studied in Florida, Italy, and Chicago. He began working in Oklahoma higher ed in 2013, holding a number of roles ranging from academic advisor to strategic planner. Brad has also taught a variety of courses, including Italian language, first-year college experience, consumer economics, and data analysis. Brad

currently serves as Associate Vice Chancellor of Innovation for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, which includes assignment as liaison to the Online Consortium of Oklahoma (OCO), Council for Online Learning Excellence (COLE). Brad also serves as project lead for UpskillOK, the State Regents new career-focused credentials initiative and Reach Higher, Oklahoma's adult degree completion program.

■ SESSIONS

01:30 PM, 08/26/2024 301B Innovation in Workforce Development: Upskilling and Work-Based Learning in Oklahoma

CHRISTIANA GURGICK

Christiana's career has been focused on empowering state and local governments ' and their citizens ' with the information and evidence to make better decisions and unlock economic growth. Since starting consulting in 2011, she has worked with regional leaders and government agencies to create compelling investment cases for regions across the US,

UK and Australia. She has also led space and aerospace economic development strategies for Sydney, Australia and King County, Washington. At Guidehouse, Christiana leads the Strategy & Economics Team working with state and local governments focusing on economic development, workforce, and infrastructure investment.

■ SESSIONS

09:40 AM, 08/27/2024 301A Aerospace and Technology: Charting Oklahoma's Path to Innovation

JENNIFER HANKINS

Jennifer Hankins is the Managing Director of Tulsa Innovation Labs (TIL), a tech-led economic development organization focused on advancing the Tulsa region's leadership in tech industries. Joining TIL in January 2020, she brings over 10 years of economic development experience and oversees strategic direction and team leadership. Jennifer led a regional coalition to secure a \$38.2 million EDA investment for the Tulsa Regional Advanced Mobility (TRAM) Cluster and an EDA Tech Hubs Designation for

the Tulsa Hub for Equitable and Trustworthy Autonomy (THETA). A native of Kansas City, she holds a Bachelor's in Political Science from Oklahoma State University. Before TIL, Jennifer was VP of Entrepreneurship and Small Business at the Tulsa Regional Chamber and managed business retention and expansion at the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber. She also has experience with the Wyandotte Economic Development Council and Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

■ SESSIONS

02:45 PM, 08/26/2024 301C Technology Based Economic Development: Accelerating Growth and Innovation

STACEY HARNESS

Stacey Harness is the Community Services Director for the City of Davis, working with the Senior Center and Special Events. She was born and raised in Davis, her family ultimately retired there after 33 years traveling the world in support of the United States Air Force. While working with the Air Force, Stacey collaborated with numerous community events and Air Force Entertainment, supporting touring comedians, illusionists and musical acts entertaining the

troops. As a music lover, this was a perfect fit and upon retirement, bringing live music back to Davis became a passion. Since her move home, Stacey has worked with the City of Davis and the Chamber of Commerce to host Music on Main, the City of Davis' first Turner Falls Red Dirt Music Festival and most recently, the highly successful Independence Day Celebration. The second annual Turner Falls Red Dirt Music Festival kicks off 5 October!

■ SESSIONS

04:00 PM, 08/26/2024 301C The Sustainable Impact of Live Music on Communities

JODY HARRIS

Ms. Harris joined OFA in 2020 and assists businesses with State Incentives and funding opportunities through the state and the federal government. Prior to joining the OFA, Jody spent 17 years with the United States Department of Agricultural, Rural Development as a Loan Officer and Energy Coordinator. In her career roles, she has managed several

federal programs and oversaw \$159M in direct loans, as well as a grant portfolio valued at \$127.5M. Jody has been an entrepreneur most of her life. In 2016, she owned and created a natural hand sanitizer business before selling it in 2020. Jody's roots run deep in Oklahoma, as she was born and raised in Oklahoma.

■ SESSIONS

01:15 PM, 08/27/2024 301C Public-private Incentives and Economic Growth Strategies

DARLA HELLER

Darla is an economic developer with a demonstrated history of working with state, local and regional economic development organizations to help grow Oklahoma's economy by fostering job creation and capital investment. She has a positive track record of effective organizational management, securing

and managing public and private sector funds, advocating for legislative priorities, engaging corporate boards and being accountable to a diverse and engaged public. She is currently the economic development director for Wagoner County, Oklahoma.

■ SESSIONS

09:40 AM, 08/27/2024 301C County Economic Development: Your Project's Assist Leader

GARY JONES

Gary Jones currently serves as City Manager for the City of Altus. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority. Jones previously served as Oklahoma State Auditor and Inspector for 8 years from 2011-2019. From 1995-1998 Jones served a four year term as a Comanche County Commissioner. He spent 26 years in the telecommunications business. Raised in SW Oklahoma Jones is a 1972 graduate of Lawton Eisenhower High School and a 1978

graduate of Cameron University holding a degree in Business Administration and a minor in Accounting. He became a Certified Public Accountant in June 2000. Jones and son Chris operate a registered Angus Cow/Calf operation on their family farm in SW Oklahoma and have been in the cattle business since 1978. Jones has been married to wife Mary Jane, a retired kindergarten teacher, for 47 years. They have 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

■ SESSIONS

01:15 PM, 08/27/2024 301C Public-private Incentives and Economic Growth Strategies

K.O.

K.O. is a rapper and singer originally from Enid, OK now based in Oklahoma City. She has released 4 albums since 2018, creating significant buzz in the OKC hip-hop scene. Her style is raw and edgy, but when displaying her R&B side, it's soft and honest. In May of 2021,

K.O. also appeared on the film compilation album, 'Fire in Little Africa,' distributed through Motown's Black Forum Records. K.O. has been compared to the likes of Megan and the Stallion with a mix of Erykah Badu and performs live across the state.

SESSIONS

04:00 PM, 08/26/2024 301C The Sustainable Impact of Live Music on Communities

KIAN KAMAS

Kian Kamas is the CEO and owner of Valorem Public Private, a consultancy focused on economic and community development. She holds a degree in Political Science from the University of Oklahoma and a master's in Comparative Public Policy from the University of Edinburgh. Kian's career includes roles at

the Tulsa Regional Chamber and as Chief of Economic Development for Tulsa. She founded PartnerTulsa, leading major public-private partnerships that secured over \$1 billion in investments. Outside of work, Kian enjoys yoga, running, baking, and time with her family.

SESSIONS

10:45 AM, 08/27/2024 301A Negotiation Theory in Practice for Economic Development

YUSEF KAZEMI

Yusef Kazemi is the Outreach & Production Manager for the Oklahoma Film + Music Office (OF+MO), part of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. He began as an intern in 2005, then joined full-time as an administrative assistant after graduating from the University of Central Oklahoma with a degree in Theatre Arts in 2009. He was promoted to Locations

Coordinator and has now taken on his current role, engaging statewide community development and managing OF+MO's participation in events like the Sundance Film Festival and deadCenter. Outside of OF+MO, Yusef has created award-winning short films and supports local organizations such as Rodeo Cinema and Free Mom Hugs.

SESSIONS

01:30 PM, 08/26/2024 301C Why Film Matters: A Community Perspective



JAMI LONGACRE

Jami M. Longacre is President of Longacre Inc., a legislative consulting firm with a strong track record in lobbying, marketing, and public relations. She holds a B.S. in agricultural economics from Oklahoma State University, where she interned at the State Capitol. Jami's career includes roles as executive assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture, director of policy at the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association,

and executive director of the Oklahoma Beef Industry Council, where she launched the 'Beef. It's what's for dinnerâ? campaign. Before starting Longacre Inc., she worked with McSpadden & Associates. Jami and her husband John own Crown Autoworld Bristow and have a son, Turner, a freshman at Bristow High School.

■ SESSIONS

10:45 AM, 08/27/2024 301B The Economics of Modern Surface Infrastructures



MARCIE MACK

Dr. Marcie Mack is the Executive Director of the Enid Regional Development Alliance with nearly 30 years in economic development. Her previous roles include Director of Talent Acquisition at MidAmerica Industrial Park, State Director for Oklahoma CareerTech, and Assistant Superintendent at Autry Technology Center. She holds a doctorate in educational

leadership from Oklahoma State University and a master's in telecommunications management. Dr. Mack is actively involved on various boards and is dedicated to fostering business growth and collaboration among stakeholders. A proud Oklahoman, she is committed to creating a thriving environment for individuals and businesses to prosper.

■ SESSIONS

09:40 AM, 08/27/2024 301B Increasing Your Assist-to-Turnover Ratio with the Latest Tools



JO MCDANIEL

Jo is an experienced hospitality, retail, and business manager/owner with a history in government administration, education, and the music industry. She is skilled in nonprofit organizations, budgeting, event planning, customer service, and government operations.

Jo holds a Bachelor of Science degree, began her MBA at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and completed a program in Business Eco & Sustainable Tourism and Cultural Heritage Tourism at George Washington University in 2021.

■ SESSIONS

01:15 PM, 08/27/2024 301D Harnessing Tribal Economic Development for Tourism Growth

JENNIFER MCGRAIL

Jennifer McGrail, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST), is a key figure in Oklahoma's entrepreneurial ecosystem. She has significantly advanced the state's role as a hub for science and technology startups through initiatives like the Oklahoma Venture Capital Investment Program and the Oklahoma Business Lending Partnership Program. Her

leadership has fostered collaboration between startups, research institutions, and industry leaders, enhancing the innovation ecosystem. Previously, Jennifer led AXIS powered by Francis Tuttle, securing over \$10 million in funding for emerging companies. She holds a BA from The University of Tulsa and an MBA from Cameron University and has served as past-chair of the Oklahoma Venture Forum.

■ SESSIONS

02:45 PM, 08/26/2024 301C Technology Based Economic Development: Accelerating Growth and Innovation

ANDY MCMILLAN

As the Director of Economic Development & Special Projects for Cherokee Nation Businesses, Andy helps lead the Nation's economic development strategy by connecting governments, businesses, economic development organizations, and other

collaborators. With 20 years of experience in economic and workforce development, strategic planning, and public administration, he also serves on the PartnerTulsa Board of Trustees.

■ SESSIONS

01:15 PM, 08/27/2024 301D Harnessing Tribal Economic Development for Tourism Growth

RICK MCNARY

Rick McNary is a writer, speaker, and humanitarian focused on local food systems and hunger relief. He founded Shop Kansas Farms in 2020, connecting consumers with local producers.

McNary sold SKF to Kansas Farm Bureau, continuing as a consultant. He's authored three books, received significant agriculture awards, and champions farmers.

■ SESSIONS

01:15 PM, 08/27/2024 301B Border Queen Harvest Hub



KEN MCQUEEN

Ken McQueen is Oklahoma's Cabinet Secretary of Energy and Environment, overseeing 36 state agencies and advancing economic growth policies. Appointed in 2022 by Governor Stitt, McQueen previously served as US EPA Region 6 Administrator and National Energy Policy Advisor. He was also New Mexico's Energy

Secretary, leading the state to become the third-largest crude oil producer in the US. With 35 years in the energy industry, McQueen retired as a VP for a major energy company. He holds a B.S. in Petroleum Engineering from the University of Tulsa.

■ SESSIONS

04:00 PM, 08/26/2024 301B Energy, the Environment, and Economic Development: Fireside Chat with Ken McQueen, Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment



AMBER MILLER

Amber Miller is the Vice President of Economic Development at the Broken Arrow Economic Development Corporation. She oversees a team of three and leads the economic development initiatives of the Broken Arrow EDC to drive job creation and business investment in the region. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute, Amber is known for her servant leadership, collaboration,

and ability to connect people and resources. Amber began her tenure with the Broken Arrow EDC in November 2020. She brought with her nearly 25 years of experience in workforce and economic development in the non-profit and education sectors. Her career has been dedicated to fostering economic growth and supporting community and workforce development.

■ SESSIONS

09:40 AM, 08/27/2024 301B Increasing Your Assist-to-Turnover Ratio with the Latest Tools



NICOLE MILLER

Rep. Nicole Miller represents House District 82, covering northwest Oklahoma City, west Edmond, and Deer Creek. Originally from the central U.S., she earned a bachelor's degree in government service from Texas Women's University and later worked on defense policy in Washington, D.C. As a military spouse, she lived

across the U.S. and overseas before settling in Oklahoma City, where she worked with the Oklahoma National Guard and Veterans Affairs. Elected in 2018, Miller is recognized for her legislative leadership. She and her husband, Doug, have two children and attend Heritage Baptist Church.

■ SESSIONS

10:15 AM, 08/26/2024 Grand Ballroom Oklahoma's Competitive Edge: Fireside Chat with Global Site Consultant and Oklahoma State Legislators



KIM MOORE

Kim L. Moore joined Newmark in 2014 as a part of the firm's Global Strategy and Consulting Team, a practice within the firm's Global Corporate Services (GCS). Kim leads the Economic Incentives Advisory and the Economic Development Consulting Services practices. With a diverse background in economic development, incentive negotiation, site selection and strategic planning, Kim leads marketing efforts and strategic planning for both the private and public sectors. Kim is based in Dallas. Kim has managed multiple projects securing almost 14.7M SF of new and

redeveloped space, increasing the tax base with committed investments of more than \$10.5 billion, creating over 28,800 new jobs and negotiating over \$10.6 billion in incentives. Kim has developed economic development strategic plans, target industry studies and labor surveys for communities, counties and utilities in many U.S. States as well as International Promotion Agencies in Canada and Guatemala. She is often a featured speaker/panelist at multiple economic development and site selection focused conferences.

■ SESSIONS

10:15 AM, 08/26/2024 Grand Ballroom Oklahoma's Competitive Edge: Fireside Chat with Global Site Consultant and Oklahoma State Legislators



DAISY MUNOZ

Daisy is a first-generation graduate from the Southside of Oklahoma City. She received her B.A. in English Writing and a Master's degree in Regional and City Planning from the University of Oklahoma, with a focus on community and economic development. She currently serves as a Project Manager for the Alliance

for Economic Development of Oklahoma City and is the Ward 6 representative for the MAPS 4 Citizens Advisory Committee, where she oversees the implementation of 16 city-wide projects and serves as Chair for the Connectivity Subcommittee.

■ SESSIONS

10:45 AM, 08/27/2024 301D Next Wave of Innovating Economic Development: Insights from emerging GenZ Leaders



JOHN NEAL

John Neal Jr. is a business leader and community advocate in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. He holds a business administration degree from the University of Central Oklahoma and serves as CEO of Neal's Homestore, with four locations across northeastern Oklahoma. He also owns JRN Properties, rehabilitating

Okmulgee's historic downtown. John is the City Councilor for Ward 3 and serves on boards including Okmulgee Area Development Corporation, Patrons Bank, and Okmulgee Main Street. He and his wife, Mariah, are active in local initiatives, committed to the growth and future of Okmulgee

■ SESSIONS

01:30 PM, 08/26/2024 301C Why Film Matters: A Community Perspective



MIKE OSBURN

Mike Osburn graduated magna cum laude from Oklahoma Christian University in 1990 with a B.A. in history/political science and earned his law degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1993. He started his career as campaign manager and later deputy chief of staff for Governor Frank Keating. He also

served as political director for the Oklahoma Republican Party, assistant to the president at Oklahoma Christian University, and state director for U.S. Senator Don Nickles. Elected to the Oklahoma House in 2016, he represents House District 81. Mike lives in Edmond with his wife, Dr. Holly Osburn, and their three children.

■ SESSIONS

10:15 AM, 08/26/2024 Grand Ballroom Oklahoma's Competitive Edge: Fireside Chat with Global Site Consultant and Oklahoma State Legislators



TRAVIS OWENS

Has led Cherokee Nation's cultural tourism efforts, managing a portfolio of museums, cultural collections, welcome centers, gift shops, a research center, and acclaimed cultural events. He oversaw site and budget

planning, architectural development, historic preservation, museum development, retail remodels, cultural tours, and community relations. Jeremy holds an MBA from Northeastern State University.

■ SESSIONS

01:15 PM, 08/27/2024 301D Harnessing Tribal Economic Development for Tourism Growth



EMILY POMEROY

Emily K. Pomeroy is the President of the Center for Economic Development Law in Oklahoma City, which provides legal services for economic and community development projects to cities, towns, counties, and public entities. The firm is recognized as a leader in innovative public strategies for development, having served over forty Oklahoma municipalities. Emily

specializes in the strategic, procedural, and financial aspects of redevelopment, including public-private projects and the establishment of public entities. She lives in Oklahoma City with her family, enjoys playing tennis, coaching middle school volleyball, and exploring the mountains.

■ SESSIONS

02:45 PM, 08/26/2024 301A TIF'n with a Mission

ANDREW RALSTON



Andrew Ralston has led economic and industrial development at Tulsa Ports since 2018. Previously, he worked for 5 years in the Tulsa Regional Chamber's Economic Development division, focusing on business attraction, retention, and expansion. With over a decade in economic development, Andrew has overseen projects totaling \$1.5 billion in investment and nearly 11,000 new jobs in the

Tulsa Region. At Tulsa Ports, he played a key role in acquiring 2,200 acres for the Tulsa Port of Inola, rebranding to "Tulsa Ports," and securing \$100 million in infrastructure funding. He is a founding member and past chairman of Select Oklahoma and has served on the boards of Tulsa Global Alliance and Signature Symphony at Tulsa Community College.

■ SESSIONS

04:00 PM, 08/26/2024 301D Building the Next Oklahoma Economy - Lessons on Leveraging Federal Funding for Site Readiness

10:45 AM, 08/27/2024 301D Next Wave of Innovating Economic Development: Insights from emerging GenZ Leaders

BRAD RICKELMAN



Brad Rickelman is Assistant Director of Business and Entrepreneurial Services at Meridian Technology Center where he manages two mixed use incubators. Brad is past-Chair and board member of the International Business Incubator Association. He is the past President ' and current Secretary - of the Oklahoma

Business Incubator Association. He was a YSEALI Professional Fellow in Thailand in the Spring of 2019 and a Washington Mandela Fellow to Kenya in Fall 2023. Brad holds a Bachelors of Business Administration in Management, and Master of Arts in Philosophy, both from Texas A&M University.

■ SESSIONS

10:45 AM, 08/27/2024 301C Small Business Incubator Panel ' State Certified Incubators

JENNA ROBERSON



Jenna Roberson has dedicated a decade to serving the City of Yukon as their Public Information Officer. She has played pivotal roles in promoting Yukon's tourism, managing media relations, enhancing community engagement, and most recently, advancing the city's film initiatives. Jenna is a member of the Board of Directors for the Oklahoma

Travel Industry Association and was among the first Oklahomans to earn the Certified Public Communicator certification. Outside of her professional life, Jenna enjoys spending quality time with her husband and their two boys. Her professional goal is simple yet profound: to showcase the unique charm and community spirit of Yukon to everyone.

■ SESSIONS

01:30 PM, 08/26/2024 301C Why Film Matters: A Community Perspective

SHAWNDA ROONEY



Shawnda Rooney serves as the Economic Development Director for the City of Guthrie. She has served in this role for 5 years and she is passionate about driving economic vitality and community development. Along

with the executive team at the City of Guthrie and community partners, Shawnda is actively engaged in initiatives to attract businesses, create job opportunities, and enhance the overall quality of life for Guthrie residents.

■ SESSIONS

01:30 PM, 08/26/2024 301A Retail Incubation into Downtown Revitalization

ALDwyn SAPPLETON



Aldwyn Sappleton is the Deputy Director of the Research and Economic Analysis Division at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, where he provides business intelligence to decision-makers and manages state incentives for infrastructure and business development. His team is also the State Datacenter, liaising with the US Census Bureau. Before this role, Aldwyn held various positions at the Department. An accomplished athlete, he

competed for the University of Oklahoma and Jamaica, qualifying for the 2008 Olympics and winning a silver medal at the 2008 World Indoor Championships. He holds a Bachelor's in International Business and Economics and an MBA from the University of Oklahoma. Aldwyn is active on several boards, including the Health Alliance for the Uninsured and a new USAID non-profit. He grew up on a farm in central Jamaica.

■ SESSIONS

01:15 PM, 08/27/2024 301C Public-private Incentives and Economic Growth Strategies

WESLEY SEAMAN



Wes leads the traditional and renewable energy, chemicals, and critical materials sectors at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. As a fourth-generation Oklahoman, he supports Oklahoma's key industries and the "more of everything" energy strategy to boost jobs and investment. Before joining the Department, Wes worked in sales and marketing roles, including Director of Sales for a luxury automotive brand and Product Marketing Manager for a global

consumer-packaged goods company. He holds a Communications degree from Harding University and an MBA from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. At the Department, Wes focuses on fostering employment, investment, and economic growth through partnerships with companies, universities, and government entities. Oklahoma ranks highly in natural gas, oil, wind, iodine, and ammonia production.

■ SESSIONS

04:00 PM, 08/26/2024 301B Energy, the Environment, and Economic Development: Fireside Chat with Ken McQueen, Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment



DR. PAIGE WILLIAMS SHEPHERD

Paige Williams Shepherd holds a B.S. in Hotel and Restaurant Administration from Oklahoma State University and a Masters in Tourism Administration from The George Washington University, concentrating on Sustainable Tourism Management. Paige is passionate

about travel and tourism, with experience spanning from Oklahoma to Washington, DC to Guatemala. For the past 13 years, she has worked in tribal tourism. Paige currently serves on national and local boards in the areas of tourism, education and the arts.

■ SESSIONS

01:15 PM, 08/27/2024 301D Harnessing Tribal Economic Development for Tourism Growth



MATT STANSBERRY

Matt Stansberry is a creative entrepreneur. He founded Nominee Design in 2010 ' a branding agency with clients including The Jones Assembly, Radiohead, Jack Daniels, Visit OKC, Thunder Basketball, Alabama Shakes, Will Rogers World Airport, The City of Oklahoma City and others. He's also been active in the music industry since 2004 ' both on and off stage. His band, Matt Stansberry & The Romance, has been featured on national television with their PBS Sun Studio Session, filmed at the

legendary Sun Studio in Memphis, as well as various placements in film and TV. While touring across the midwest, "The Romance" has performed with Lake Street Dive, Gary Busey, Shawn Stockman of Boyz II Men, The Bar Kays, and Wanda Jackson. Additionally, he has helped launch local festivals like Heard on Hurd in Downtown Edmond. Matt is passionate about his faith, his family, and his community. He lives in Edmond with his wife and their three daughters.

■ SESSIONS

04:00 PM, 08/26/2024 301C The Sustainable Impact of Live Music on Communities



KENNETH STATTON

Kenneth Statton was introduced to manufacturing as a young boy by his father and started his own machine shop after college in his childhood garage. MST Manufacturing is Statton's third startup, following the sale of his previous two companies. Under his leadership, MST has become a recognized name in Aerospace Machining. He also contributes

to Liberty Forged, his son's custom wheel company, and Parts by MST, a Volkswagen product line managed by his wife. Statton has held leadership roles on major manufacturing and technical school boards in Oklahoma for nearly 30 years. He is a dedicated husband, father, and community leader.

■ SESSIONS

09:40 AM, 08/27/2024 301D Breaking Through the Defense: How Business Retention and Expansion Programs Power Startup Manufacturers to Thrive in the Community



JEREMY STONER

Jeremy is the Senior Vice President of the Oklahoma Finance Authorities, overseeing financing solutions such as grants, loans, and bonds for public infrastructure and economic development in Oklahoma. He previously worked at MidFirst Bank for 12 years in consumer, mortgage, and commercial lending

roles. A native of Northwest Oklahoma, Jeremy holds a B.S. in Agricultural Economics with a Finance minor from Oklahoma State University and an MBA from the University of Central Oklahoma. He lives in Guthrie with his wife Abby, their high school sweetheart of 22 years, and their six children.

■ SESSIONS

01:15 PM, 08/27/2024 301C Public-private Incentives and Economic Growth Strategies



CASEY STOWE

With a diverse background in finance, real estate, and lending, Casey enjoys finding solutions to difficult problems. As SVP of Finance & Real Estate, Casey oversees PartnerTulsa's financial incentives including Tax Increment Financing, revolving loan funds, and other incentive programs. Casey also oversees

PartnerTulsa's real estate holdings, real estate activities, and housing efforts while working to grow Tulsa's economy. He holds a MBA from Loyola University and is a graduate of OU-EDI. Casey is a fourth-generation Oklahoman, a father of two, and a proud resident of North Tulsa.

■ SESSIONS

02:45 PM, 08/26/2024 301A TIF'n with a Mission



MITCH SURRETT

Mitch Surret serves as Deputy General Counsel for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, with 34 years of experience in public transportation law, policy, administrative law, and regulatory compliance. A native of Tulsa, he earned his B.A. in business administration from the University of Oklahoma

and his J.D. from the University of Tulsa. Mitch provides strategic legal counsel on regulatory matters, transportation infrastructure, and policy, overseeing the Eminent Domain, Contracts, and Commercial Motor Vehicle Permitting sections.

■ SESSIONS

10:45 AM, 08/27/2024 301B The Economics of Modern Surface Infrastructures



SENATOR KRISTEN THOMPSON

Senator Kristen Thompson was elected in 2022 to represent District 22, covering parts of Oklahoma and Canadian counties. A fourth-generation Oklahoman, she grew up in Fort Gibson and graduated from the University of Oklahoma. Kristen and her husband Bryce have founded multiple small businesses in

construction and hospitality, employing over 200 people in the Oklahoma City area. She previously served on the Visit Edmond Tourism board and now serves with the Tri Delta Children's Foundation. Kristen and Bryce have three children and attend Frontline Church.

■ SESSIONS

10:15 AM, 08/26/2024 Grand Ballroom Oklahoma's Competitive Edge: Fireside Chat with Global Site Consultant and Oklahoma State Legislators



BRIEN THORSTENBERG

Brien Thorstenberg is the Vice President for Economic Development at the Tulsa Regional Chamber, leading business retention and expansion efforts. With 25 years in economic development, he brings extensive knowledge of the Tulsa region's business landscape. He holds a B.S. in Management and Economics from Oklahoma State University, an MBA in Management from Southeastern Oklahoma

State University, and is a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD). Brien also serves on the Board of Heartland Basic Economic Development Training. His background includes over 15 years in non-profit management, Peace Corps service in Liberia (1985-1987), and roles at the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance, Ardmore Development Authority, and Muskogee City/County Port Authority.

■ SESSIONS

02:45 PM, 08/26/2024 301B Land a Slam Dunk with Your BR+E Program



JIM TULL

Mr. Tull advises leaders and teams on business transformations, with 25 years of experience designing and delivering tailored workshops for Fortune 100 companies across sectors like energy, tech, and finance. He coaches executives on strategies for communication, consensus building, and mergers. In the public

sector, Mr. Tull has supported national conflicts and trained leaders in organizations like the UN and ministries worldwide. He is an adjunct professor at Boston University's Questrom School and previously worked with Professor Roger Fisher. Mr. Tull holds an MPA from Harvard and a B.A. from Kenyon College.

■ SESSIONS

08:20 AM, 08/27/2024 Grand Ballroom Breakfast Keynote Address

10:45 AM, 08/27/2024 301A Negotiation Theory in Practice for Economic Development

GARRETT WRIGHT



Garrett Wright serves as the Economic and Business Development Director for the Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) and American Electric Power's (AEP) western states. In this role, Garrett is responsible for economic development activity in PSO and AEP's west operating companies. Garrett collaborates with community partners across Oklahoma to support expanding companies and to recruit new industry to the state. Before assuming his current position, Garrett served as the Manager

of Economic and Business Development at PSO. Previously, Garrett served as the Vice President in Florida and Director of Business Development for the Area Development Partnership in Greater Hattiesburg, MS. Garrett was also a project administrator with Eutaw Construction Company, Inc. performing project management on civil construction projects throughout the Southeast. Garrett is originally from Mississippi.

■ SESSIONS

04:00 PM, 08/26/2024 301D Building the Next Oklahoma Economy - Lessons on Leveraging Federal Funding for Site Readiness

10:45 AM, 08/27/2024 301A Negotiation Theory in Practice for Economic Development

JOE WUEST



Joe Wuest has served as the Director of Economic Development at the City of Glenpool for the past two years. In this role, he has successfully established the Economic Development Department, focusing on business retention and expansion support for local companies. Under his leadership, the department has secured significant funding to drive business growth and played a pivotal role in acquiring new land for development, paving the way for future city expansions. Prior

to his tenure in Glenpool, Joe held executive positions in both Ed Tech and Higher Education sectors. His roles encompassed overseeing operations, enhancing student support services, driving marketing and enrollment strategies, and managing athletics programs. His comprehensive approach and innovative strategies have consistently led to improved operational efficiencies and enhanced organizational growth.

■ SESSIONS

09:40 AM, 08/27/2024 301B Increasing Your Assist-to-Turnover Ratio with the Latest Tools

ANGIE ZARICOR



Angie Zaricor serves as Senior Director of Economic Development at the Tulsa Regional Chamber, where she specializes in business retention & expansion efforts with existing companies in the professional services, information technology and energy sectors. Angie is a lifelong Oklahoman, spending

most of her life in the Tulsa region. She works collaboratively with regional cities, municipalities, and economic development organizations to strengthen the economy of regional partners in the Tulsa region. Angie has been involved in economic development for more than 15 years.

■ SESSIONS

02:45 PM, 08/26/2024 301B Land a Slam Dunk with Your BR+E Program



JEREMY ZELLER

Jeremy Zeller is currently the Woods County Economic Development Director helping in business retention, recruitment, and expansion. In 2005, Jeremy helped create and launch the Oklahoma Site Ready program at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and later became the economic developer for the

Oklahoma Main Street Center specializing in helping businesses in downtown areas of their community. In 2021 he moved to Northwest Oklahoma as the Workforce one-stop operator before taking on his role with Woods County. He is married to Sarah and shares 7 kids and 8 grandkids.

■ SESSIONS

09:40 AM, 08/27/2024 301C County Economic Development: Your Project's Assist Leader

SELECT 
OKLAHOMA

to our **SPEAKERS** and
ESTEEMED GUESTS

*Thank
You!*