

# 17TH ANNUAL KANSAS WORKFORCE SUMMIT

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 **CAPITOL PLAZA HOTEL • SUNFLOWER BALLROOM  
TOPEKA, KANSAS**



**ENERGIZING EDUCATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT:  
*LESS TALK, MORE WALK!***

**JANUARY 17-18, 2018**

 **KANSASWORKS**

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# 2018 KANSAS WORKFORCE SUMMIT AGENDA

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## DAY ONE • WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018

**9:00 A.M. REGISTRATION BEGINS**

**11:00 A.M. EXHIBITS OPEN**

**12:00 P.M. OPEN PLENARY LUNCHEON**

Kansas Lieutenant Governor *Jeff Colyer*

**12:45 P.M. BREAK AND EXHIBIT VISITATION**

**1:00 P.M. LESS TALK, MORE WALK - CREATING A CULTURE OF ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

*Josh Davies*, The Center for Work Ethic Development, will discuss how one of the greatest challenges a leader faces is dealing with issues of ethics and accountability. How do you ensure the people you're leading demonstrate integrity on a daily basis? Do you practice it yourself? Do you model accountability throughout your organization in your interactions with others, operating practices, and personal work habits? Personal and organizational ethics are one of the easiest things to talk about but hardest to walk. With the additional required partners in WIOA, we all have to work at creating powerful partnerships built on ethics and accountability.

This highly interactive keynote will address ethics and accountability directly through a practical, proven methodology you can employ to build accountability throughout your organization. Attendees will focus on how to get themselves, their team, and organization not just talking, but walking ethics and accountability. The content is driven by a collaborative and positive approach, cutting-edge literature, and real-world experiences of leaders across the country. Don't miss this opportunity to transform yourself and your team from talkers to walkers.

**2:15 P.M. KACCTE BUSINESS PANEL**

*Neil Fisher*, Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer, KBS Constructors, Inc.; *Joni Clark-Leiker*, JCL Consulting; *Jim Means*, Director of Career and Technical Education, Wichita Public Schools; *Dr. Randy Watson*, Kansas State Board of Education; *Deb Grunst*, Westar Energy; and *Alex Delaney*, Owner, Indepsys Technology Group.

**3:15 P.M. BREAK AND EXHIBIT VISITATION**

**3:30 P.M. FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION**

*Terry Lee*, Community Affairs Specialist (CAS), and *Tracie Morris*, Senior Community Affairs Specialist, will discuss the integration of our free financial education and safe, affordable, insured deposit accounts into workforce programs.

**4:30 P.M. BREAK AND EXHIBIT VISITATION**

**4:45 P.M. MAKE IT HAPPEN IN YOUR COMMUNITY!**

*Sponsored by the Kansas Enrichment Network*

You won't want to miss this session! Host *Jevan Bremby* interviews talented Kansas youth and their program leaders, *Tony Yungsberg* from Waterville and *Troy Chapman* from Emporia, about the best kept secrets in youth workforce development. Gather ideas for your community as interviewees share examples of how out-of-school programs spark youth interest in careers, develop 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills, and help youngsters prepare for future success.

**5:45 P.M. REFLECTIONS FROM DAY ONE - EDDIE ESTES**

**6:00 P.M. RECEPTION, CASH BAR AND EXHIBIT VISITATION**

**6:30 P.M. KANSAS CELEBRATION BANQUET SPONSORED BY THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

*The Times They are A-Changing*

*Larry Isaak*, President, Midwest Higher Education Compact

*SDA Performance Awards*

*Mike Beene*, Director of Employment Services, Kansas Department of Commerce

*KACCTE Award of Merit Presentation*

Presented by *Stacy Smith*, Kansas Department of Education

**DAY TWO • THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018**

**7:15 A.M. CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND EXHIBIT VISITATION**

**8:00 A.M. THE 2018 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

*Pat Roberts*, U.S. Senate (Invited); *Julia Lynn*, Kansas Senate; *Bud Estes*, Kansas Senate; *Ed Berger*, Kansas Senate; *Barbara Ballard*, Kansas House of Representatives; *Ken Rahjes*, Kansas House of Representatives; and *Brad Ralph*, Kansas House of Representatives.

**8:45 A.M. PROOF IS IN THE PANEL - TESTIMONY TO THE TECHNOLOGY-RELATED BACHELOR'S DEGREE**

See for yourself as *Jennifer Pfortmiller*, KSU Global Campus; *Joseph Chretien*, Fort Hays State University; and *Greg Belcher*, Professor and Director for the KCCTE, Pittsburg State University, facilitate a panel of graduates who will highlight the opportunities they had to specialize, customize and utilize their Bachelor's degree following completion of an AAS degree. Hear from these examples of outstanding, dedicated workforce-trained employees who launched leading careers after completing their technology-related Bachelor's degrees. In addition, learn how community college/ technical college Associate of Applied Science graduates and workforce-ready citizens of Kansas can complete this degree too.

**9:45 A.M. BREAK AND EXHIBIT VISITATION**

**10:00 A.M. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR UPDATE**

*Christine Quinn*, Regional Administrator of Region 5, U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.

**10:45 A.M. ROADMAP FOR KANSANS WITH DISABILITIES**

*Steven Gieber*, Executive Director, Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities (KCDD), will facilitate a panel of people with disabilities who have been able to obtain employment with the help of the employment systems that are working here in Kansas.

**11:15 A.M. KANSAS LABOR MARKET UPDATE**

*Tyler Tenbrink*, Labor Economist, Kansas Department of Labor, will present the latest statistics measuring the health of the Kansas labor market including job growth and industry performance.

**11:55 A.M. KEY STRATEGIES AND COMMITMENT - EDDIE ESTES**

**12:00 P.M. HIT THE HILL FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**\*SPEAKERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE\***

## PRESENTERS

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### **JEFF COLYER • KANSAS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

Lieutenant Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D. is a fifth-generation Kansan from Hays who is dedicated to making a difference in people's lives on the personal, state, national and international level.

Service is an integral part of Dr. Colyer's life. Over the past 25 years, he has volunteered both at home and internationally, including in dangerous war zones such as Afghanistan, Iraq, the Balkans, Libya, and Africa. In 1994, Colyer served as a volunteer with the International Medical Corps and was the only surgeon in southern Rwanda during the genocide. Dr. Colyer also has a heart for service here at home. As a craniofacial/plastic surgeon, he is passionate about reconstructing complex skull and facial deformities in children.

Colyer has been a leader on taxes, fiscally responsible budgeting, economic development and healthcare policy since being elected to the Kansas House of Representatives in 2006 and the Kansas Senate in 2008.

Dr. Colyer led the Kansas Medicaid transformation, which has already saved Kansans over a billion dollars. This was done without reducing provider payments and has increased the number of Kansans covered by the new KanCare managed care program.

Dr. Colyer also served as a White House Fellow for international affairs under Presidents Ronald Reagan and President George H.W. Bush.

Dr. Colyer holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Georgetown University, a master's degree in international relations from Cambridge University, and a medical doctorate from the University of Kansas, School of Medicine.



### **JOSH DAVIES • THE CENTER FOR WORK ETHIC DEVELOPMENT**

Josh Davies is passionate about helping others make a difference in their lives, jobs, and community. Through his work as a speaker, trainer, and mentor, he has produced results around the country. He has delivered keynotes and training workshops to a wide variety of organizations across all 50 states, including the American Society of Training and Development and the National Restaurant Association. Training Magazine recently named him as one of the top 10 trainers under 40 in America and the Denver Business Journal tapped him as one of Denver's 40 Under 40.

Davies is also a published author and is frequently cited in national publications, including the New York Times and Hotel Motel Management. He is the past President of the Council of Hotel and Restaurant Trainers (CHART), served on the American Hotel and Lodging Association's Education Committee, and has been appointed by Governor Hickenlooper to serve on the Colorado Workforce Development Council and as chair of the State Training and Education Steering Committee.



### **NEIL FISHER • KBS CONSTRUCTORS, INC.**

Neil Fisher is a founder of KBS Constructors, Inc., where he has served as Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer since 1989. Fisher currently brings nearly 50 years of experience in the construction industry to the company. KBS provides consulting, design and building services, as well as project delivery. In addition, Neil serves on the board of multiple non-profit agencies.

Fisher attended Washburn University, majoring in Education.



### **JONI CLARK-LEIKER • JCL CONSULTING**

"Empowering the success of each student through career development is my passion."

Joni is a retired teacher and counselor and currently works as an educational consultant specializing in the areas of career development, individual plans of study, career and technical education and college and career readiness. She is a National Certified Counselor and National Career Development Facilitator-Trainer.

Joni earned her B.A. in Industrial Technology from the University of Northern Colorado, her M.A. in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Northern Colorado, and her Ed.S in Adult Education from Pittsburg State University.



**JIM MEANS • WICHITA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Jim Means currently serves as the Executive Director of Career and Technical Education for the Wichita Public Schools. During his 36 years as an educator, he has served at all levels of education and administration, secondary to postsecondary.



**DR. RANDY WATSON • KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Dr. Randy Watson was named Kansas Commissioner of Education by the Kansas State Board of Education in November 2014. He assumed his role July 2015.

As the state's chief education officer, he provides leadership to the Kansas State Department of Education in carrying out the policies and programs prescribed by the State Board of Education to ensure the necessary oversight and support is provided to assist Kansas schools, educators and students in achieving their goals.

Dr. Watson began his education career in 1981 as a high school social studies teacher in Tescott, KS. He has served as a high school principal and provided classroom instruction at the university level.

Most recently, Dr. Watson served the community of McPherson for 22 years — working as an assistant superintendent from 1993-2005 and as superintendent from 2005-2015.

A native of Coffeyville, Kansas, Dr. Watson attended Kansas State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in science in secondary administration, staff supervision and staff development, building level certification. Additionally, he received his Doctorate of Education in secondary administration, school law, curriculum development and instructional leadership, and district level certification.

The recipient of many awards, Dr. Watson was named an Alumni Fellow at Kansas State and, in 2015, was honored by being named the Kansas Superintendent of the Year.

Throughout his career, Dr. Watson has been sought out by schools, districts, education organizations and others for his educational insights as well as his clear thinking around the issues and challenges facing policymakers, educators and students.



**DEB GRUNST • WESTAR ENERGY**

Deb Grunst has been with Westar Energy since 2011. Starting as Director of Business Systems, she was appointed Executive Director of Information Technology in 2014, followed by Vice President of Information Technology in 2015.

Grunst received her Computer Science Degree in 1986 from South Central College, Mankato, Minnesota.

Her career in information technology began in Mankato, where she was Application Development Manager at National Independent Billing for 10 years. She helped found Telcon, Inc., in Mankato in 1996, serving as Vice President and Partner. In 1999, Grunst joined TXU Communications in Katy, Texas, where she was director of IT Applications from 1999-2000 and Director of Program Management Office from 2000-2001. She worked as Application Development Manager of Billing Solutions for Sprint in Overland Park, Kansas, from 2002-2006. She also was IT Director of Product Development, Revenue Management and E-Commerce Systems at CenturyLink in Overland Park, Kansas from 2006-2009.

Deb is a member of Edison Electric Institute's Chief Information Officer Executive Advisory Committee. She serves as a board member for the Prevention and Recovery Services (PARS) and for the Kansas Advisory Council for Career & Technical Education (KACCTE).



**ALEX DELANEY • INDEPSYS TECHNOLOGY GROUP**

Alex Delaney is the owner of Indepsys Technology Group, a technical consulting company in northeast Kansas. Alex is a graduate of both Leadership Lawrence and Leadership Kansas. He is an active member of the community, with a focus on issues concerning poverty and education.



**TERRY LEE • FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION**

Terry Lee is a Community Affairs Specialist (CAS) for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation’s (FDIC) Division of Depositor and Consumer Protection. He is responsible for convening banks, non-profits, and other community stakeholders to identify community development opportunities through appropriate outreach events in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Kansas. These outreach/events center around strategies that promote eligible opportunities, which are responsive to the credit, service and investment needs of communities.

CAS Lee serves as a point of contact and information exchange between the public, the financial industry, and other FDIC divisions and offices to share knowledge of activities and resolve issues related to the Community Reinvestment Act, fair lending, community development, consumer protection laws and regulations, and program initiatives.



**TRACIE MORRIS • FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION**

Tracie Morris serves as a Senior Community Affairs Specialist in the Outreach and Program Development Section at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. In this role, she supports the continued implementation of the Money Smart Product Suite. As a member of the Youth Savings Pilot team, Tracie worked closely with the pilot participants to identify promising practices for integrating financial education and access to safe, affordable accounts for children and youth in grades 1-12. She is also identifying opportunities to expand financial education and account access to youth engaged in employment programs.

Tracie has been with the FDIC since 1990 and gained experience in resolutions, international affairs, training, and financial information management. She holds a BA from Appalachian State University, and a certificate from the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin.



**JEVAN BREMBY • UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS CENTER FOR PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS & RESEARCH**

Jevan Bremby is an Assistant Researcher at the University of Kansas’ Center for Public Partnerships & Research (CPPR). CPPR is a nonprofit that strives to optimize the wellbeing of children, youth, and families in Kansas through the development of strong partnerships with community-serving organizations at the national, state, and local levels. Currently, Bremby is working with the Department of Children and Families toward the development of Links to Quality, the state’s child care quality recognition and improvement system (QRIS). Prior to his work as an Assistant Researcher, Jevan worked with the Kansas Enrichment Network (Network) as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer. During his year of service, he helped facilitate and organize professional development opportunities for out-of-school time staff throughout the state as well as worked to build the overall capacity of the Network.

Jevan was born and raised in Lawrence, Kansas and is a graduate of the University of Tulsa.



**TROY CHAPMAN • EMPORIA HIGH SCHOOL**

Troy Chapman grew up in Emporia and graduated from Emporia High School and Emporia State University. He received his master’s degree in Counseling K-12 in 1999. Chapman taught 4th grade in the Emporia school district for 15 years before accepting a guidance counseling position at Emporia High School, where he has been for 10 years.



### **TONY YUNGERG • VALLEY HEIGHTS 21ST CENTURY LEARNING CENTERS**

Tony Yungeberg is the Director for Colts Round-Up and Camp Exploration, USD 498, Valley Heights 21st Century Learning Centers programs. Valley Heights has been serving the students, families and communities of northeast Kansas for 20+ years with much success. On average, their programs serve 80+ students daily when in session with programs that include VEX robotics, Vernier wind energy, community service, homework help, physical fitness and health, and character education. In partnership with Cloud County Community College as well as Highland Community College, they are introducing programs with career options such as Wind Energy and Agra-Science. Tony is currently a Kansas and National Afterschool Ambassador. In his short six years working in after school, he has seen firsthand the impact that after school programming can have on families and their communities.



### **LARRY ISAAK • MIDWESTERN HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT**

Larry Isaak served as President of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) from November 2003 to November 2010 and was re-appointed in April 2011. During this time, Isaak has helped lead a significant expansion in MHEC activities related to student access and success, policy research, and cost savings initiatives.

MHEC's cost savings programs and contracts have expanded rapidly – saving states, institutions, and local governments an estimated \$123 million annually in FY 2017. Together MHEC's contracts and programs have saved nearly \$1 billion since 1991.

MHEC is actively engaged in a number of new and evolving initiatives including health insurance solutions, the Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit, and State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement. Additionally, MHEC prepares biennial reports on a number of higher education performance indicators for each of the MHEC member states and is currently pursuing a special policy focus on affordability. Isaak's leadership highlights MHEC's mission of advancing education through collaboration and resource sharing through MHEC's convening of educators, policymakers, and other leaders in ways that foster and promote interstate and inter-sector dialogue, problem-solving, and cost savings. MHEC collaborates with many other national and regional organizations as well as foundations that have generously provided funding to support some of MHEC's initiatives.

Previously, Isaak was the Chancellor of the North Dakota University System for nearly ten years and was named Chancellor Emeritus upon his departure in October 2003. Isaak is credited with guiding collaborative leadership efforts transforming the North Dakota University System through the North Dakota Higher Education Roundtable, proclaimed as a national model for collaborative leadership. Prior to being named Chancellor, he served as Vice Chancellor for Administrative and Student Affairs from 1984 to 1994.

Isaak also worked in the North Dakota Office of Management and Budget, serving both as Acting Director and as the State Executive Budget Analyst. He also served as the Assistant Legislative Budget Analyst and Auditor for the North Dakota Legislative Council. Prior to serving state government, he was employed with a private CPA firm.

Isaak has served as Chair of the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) and as a commissioner to both the Midwestern Higher Education Compact and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

Isaak, a certified public accountant, received both his master's degree and his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the University of North Dakota. He also completed the program at the Stanford University Business Management Institute.



### **PAT ROBERTS • U.S. SENATE (Invited)**

Pat Roberts is a senior member of the United States Senate. A member of the Republican Party, Pat has served since 1997. He previously served as the Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Born in Topeka, Kansas, Roberts is a graduate of Kansas State University. He served as a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps and worked as a newspaper reporter before entering politics in the late 1960s. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1980. He served eight terms in the House, including one as

chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. Roberts was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1996 and is currently service his fourth term.



**JULIA LYNN • KANSAS SENATE**

Senator Lynn was elected to the Kansas Senate in 2006 after a long career in Marketing and Sales. Senate Committees include Chair of Commerce, Vice Chair of Judiciary, Tax, Utilities, Legislative Post Audit. Other appointments include Governors Council on Tourism, **KANSASWORKS** Board, the Judicial Council Sub Committee on CINC.

When not serving in Topeka, Senator Lynn is an Account Executive for an IT Business Solutions company.



**BUD ESTES • KANSAS SENATE**

Bud Estes represents District 38 in the Kansas Senate. Senator Estes resides in Dodge City, Kansas, and formerly represented the 119th District in the Kansas House of Representatives from 2013 until 2017.

Estes, along with his brothers, owns Bucklin Tractor & Implement, which includes five John Deere dealerships in western Kansas. Bud is a graduate of Fort Hays State University.



**ED BERGER • KANSAS SENATE**

Ed Berger is a lifelong Kansan raised on a small family farm in Harvey County. He attended Hutchinson Community College, has bachelor's and master's degrees from Wichita State University and a Doctorate in Education from Kansas State University. Berger was part of the charter faculty at Seward County Community College in 1969 before becoming Dean of Continuing Education. He then served as Dean of Continuing Education at Hutchinson Community College before becoming President, a position that he held for 23 years. He is now President of Berger Training and Consulting. In 2016, Berger was elected State Senator for the 34th District in Kansas.



**BARBARA BALLARD • KANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Rep. Barbara Ballard was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives in 1992. She represents the 44th House District, covering most of western Lawrence.

Within the Lawrence community, Rep. Ballard serves on the Board of Directors at the Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center and Cottonwood, Inc. She and her husband attend Plymouth Congressional Church, where she participates in the Chancel Choir. In the past, Ballard has also served on the board of directors of the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and was a member of Rotary International. She also served eight years as the first black woman on the Lawrence Public School Board and was elected Board President twice.

As a state legislator, Rep. Ballard is active on the House Appropriations Committee. She also serves on the House Committees on Social Services Budget. Rep. Ballard was the first black member elected to the House Leadership team and has served as Democratic Caucus Chair for over 10 years.

Nationally, Rep. Ballard has been extremely active in the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL), a policy organization committed to advancing the welfare of African Americans. She currently serves as the Vice President of the NBCSL Executive Committee and has also served as a State Regional Chair and Vice-chair. Rep. Ballard was recognized in 2007 as the organization's Outstanding Legislator of the Year.



**KEN RAHJES • KANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Ken Rahjes was raised on a family farm and ranch in north central Kansas near the community of Agra, where he lives today. He is beginning his third year as a member of the Kansas House of Representatives, serving the 110th District. He currently serves on the Taxation and Transportation committees and is Vice-Chairman of the Water & Natural Resources Committee.

Rahjes is also President of Authentic Ag, Inc., a multi-channel agriculture media company, including the Kansas Ag Report television program along with AgView.net and radio network.





### **BRAD RALPH • KANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Senator Representative Ralph is currently the City Attorney for Dodge City, Kansas. Prior to this position, he was in private practice with the firm of Williams, Malone & Ralph for 25 years. He is in his first term in the Kansas legislature.

Representative Ralph currently serves on Committee on Appropriations, Judiciary Committee, and the Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development.

Brad has been active in his community in leadership positions with his church and the Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas. He has also served the legal profession on several professional committees, including the Kansas Bar Association's Professional Ethics Committee.

Representative Ralph is a graduate of St. Mary of the Plains College and Washburn University School of Law.



### **JENNIFER PFORTMILLER • KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY**

As the Academic Program Coordinator for Kansas State University's Global Campus, Jennifer Pfortmiller recruits and pre-advises students for K-State's online degree programs. In addition, she works to build 2+2 partnerships between K-State and all community colleges in the state of Kansas as an option for students to remain in their home area and still complete their degree online from K-State.

Jennifer's K-State office is based 'in the field' at Barton Community College in Great Bend, Kansas.

This background and experience working with the community colleges and universities makes Jennifer well rounded in understanding the policies, procedures and intricacies related to the community colleges and university sectors.

Jennifer received her Master of Science Degree from the University of Georgia and her Bachelor of Science Degree from Kansas State University.



### **JOSEPH CHRETIEN • FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Joseph Chretien is an Associate Professor of Applied Technology at Fort Hays State University and the Coordinator of the Bachelor in Technology Leadership Program, which began 17 years ago as a workforce development program.

Chretien has been teaching in technology for over 30 years and, in that time, he has also worked in the fields of electronic communication, electrical systems, and manufacturing engineering. He is a holder of a lifetime FCC radio repair license with a radar microwave endorsement.

Joseph received his Master of Science Degree in Technology Education from Pittsburg State University and his Bachelor of Science Degree in Electronic Engineering Technology from Metropolitan State University of Denver.



### **GREG BELCHER • PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY**

Greg Belcher is a professor at Pittsburg State University and the Director for the Kansas Center for Career and Technical Education. As a faculty member, his main duties are advising undergraduate and graduate certification and degree-seeking students who are teaching within CTE programs at the secondary and post-secondary level. As the director of the KCCTE, he oversees all activities in the area of Technical Workshops, Resources, Mentoring and Coursework provided for CTE teachers in the state of Kansas. His career and technical work experience is within the welding and diesel industry. His doctorate was obtained from The Ohio State University.

State University.



### **STEVE MOODY • KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY - TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

For 40 years, Steve Moody has been protecting and serving people in the state of Kansas. A graduate of Hutchinson Community College in both the paramedic program and the Emergency Management Services Associate's Degree program, Steve spent over half of his career working for the City of Salina, quickly climbing up the ranks to Assistant Fire Chief. It was during this time while he was working as a fireman, paramedic AND supporting his wife and two sons, that he pursued his Bachelor of Technology

Management Degree from Kansas State University so that he could further his career opportunities.

Not long after graduating from K-State, Steve utilized the management skills from his bachelor's degree to serve as the Fire Chief in Leavenworth for three years, then as the Emergency Management Services Director in Stafford County for nearly five years and finally as the Fire Chief for the City of El Dorado for four years. He assisted with the Hurricane Katrina recovery in 2005 and then served a critical role as an Operations Chief during the Greensburg tornado disaster recovery in 2007.

Steve is a problem solver, a positive change maker, and he embraces and advances the technology used to better assist, protect, educate and communicate with the people he serves. He empowers individuals to further their education and training, equips the communities to be successful and shares his passion for protecting others. In addition to his skills and educational background, Steve graduated from the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer program.

Due to his recent retirement, he is no longer managing emergency crises and can now be found fishing and hiking, spoiling his four grandchildren, spending time with his wife and family, and cheering on the K-State wildcats!



**MAC LOUCKS • FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY - BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

Mac completed his Associate of Applied Science Degree in Diesel Mechanics at Dodge City Community College in 2011 and is an ASE Certified Master Technician. He has been teaching at Salina Area Technical College for four years.

Mac started the Bachelor of Science in Technology Leadership (BSTL) program in the fall of 2015, choosing the Career and Technology Education concentration, and completed the program in the summer of 2017. He continued through the BSTL program entirely online while teaching full time and handling all of usual family duties.



**PRESTON BECHTEL • PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY - BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE PROGRAM**

Preston Bechtel is a Pittsburg State University graduate with the Bachelor of Applied Science in the CAT Think Bigger emphasis. He first obtained his CAT Think Big Associate's Degree with the Institute of Technology at Oklahoma State University at Okmulgee. During his studies at Okmulgee, he interned with Foley Tractor in Topeka, Kansas. After graduating from PSU with his bachelor's degree, he continued his employment with Foley. Preston has seen first-hand the benefits of a Bachelor of Applied Science that fully recognizes the transferability of an Associate of Applied Science.



**CHRISTINE QUINN • U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

Christine Quinn was appointed as the Regional Administrator of Region 5 – Chicago, US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, on November 29, 2015. She provides leadership to ten states in America's heartland in designing and oversight of Workforce Systems for employers, youth, and adults – with a focus on customer satisfaction, continuous improvement, and effective and efficient management of resources.

Prior to her appointment Quinn was Director of the Michigan Workforce Development Agency overseeing the staff and programs, including the state's workforce initiatives, adult education, the Veterans' Services Division, and programs related to migrant and seasonal workers. Over two years she was successful in obtaining \$30 million to fund the Skilled Trades Training Fund, providing competitive awards for the development and implementation of employer responsive training that enhances talent incomes, productivity, and employment retention, while increasing the quality and competitiveness of Michigan's businesses. The STTF program will ensure Michigan's employers have access to the talent pipeline they need to compete and grow, and participants have the skills they need for in-demand jobs. This program is meant to create and expand collaboration between the Local workforce boards, economic development, and educational agencies by funding demand-driven training that addresses talent shortages hampering the growth of Michigan's priority industries.

Quinn previously served as President of South Central Michigan Works!, a local workforce board. She earned national recognition for establishing business solutions processes within Michigan's workforce system, and for partnering with

Michigan State University to create a curriculum leading to Business Solutions Professional certification. This remains a cornerstone for the systems demand driven approach to workforce/talent development.

Quinn served as Executive Director of the Clinton County Task Force on Employment, a nonprofit operating workforce programs. She has also held leadership positions at several Michigan advocacy and community organizations.

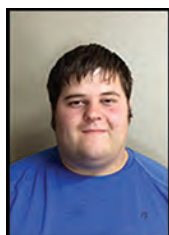
Quinn earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Ferris State University, and holds a number of specialized certifications in Balanced Scorecard, strategic planning and foresight, business services and workforce development. She was also a member of a number of economic and workforce development committees, organizations and associations across her career.



#### **STEVEN GIEBER • KANSAS COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Steven Gieber is the Executive Director of the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities (KCDD) and serves as Treasurer on the Area One Local Workforce Board. The Council has a long history of providing leadership in the area of employment for people with disabilities from supporting self-employment, supported employment and bringing Project Search to Kansas. The Council is currently working with the state to implement the, “Roadmap to Employment for Kansans with Disabilities.” The Speaker of the House appointed Steve to the Kansas Employment First Commission in 2015.

Steve is a lifelong Kansan who earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Art, then a Master of Arts Degree in Organizational Leadership from Fort Hays State University.



#### **BRENDAN DARNELL**

There is a quote by Roy T. Bennett that says “it’s only after you’ve stepped outside your comfort zone that you begin to change, grow, and transform”, and Brendan Darnell is a perfect example of this. Brendan is going to present his employment journey from school to community employment. Brendan is currently employed at two local businesses in Beloit. His first employment experience was found using traditional Vocational Rehabilitation Services. His latest employment was through the End Dependence Kansas Initiative. Besides his jobs, Brendan also takes an active role in advocating efforts at OCCK. Brendan has also testified before the centers for Medicaid and Medicare about his and his peers concerns. Brendan is a community council member for DPOK, which is the Community Developmental Disability Organization. He is also serving as Vice President on the board of the Kansas Council Developmental Disabilities.

Brendan recently was awarded the Interhab Outstanding Personal Growth Award. This award is presented to a person who has attained significant goals in their personal life. Brendan has accomplished a lot since graduating from high school.



#### **OLGA DECKMAN • JOHNSON COUNTY COURT SERVICES**

Olga Deckman graduated from Blue Valley North High School (Class of 2012). She is also a proud graduate of the Project SEARCH program through Johnson County Developmental Supports. At first, Olga was hired as an intern by Johnson County Court Services. After completing her Johnson County Court Services internship, she was hired by Sunflower Health Plan as an intern. Before she could finish her second rotation at Sunflower Health Plan, Johnson County Court Services had a full-time Front Desk Secretary Position at Court Project. She was offered the full-time position. She is honored to say that she has been working at Court Services for almost ten months now and, since then, has been promoted to Telephone Administrator



#### **DALLAS HATHAWAY • DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER OF KANSAS, INC.**

Dallas Hathaway is a Disability Rights Advocate at the Disability Rights Center of Kansas, Inc. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communication Studies from Washburn University in 2016. He has previously worked with several disability-oriented organizations in the past. Some of these include the Topeka Independent Living Resource Center (TILRC), the Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy (KYEA), and ADAPT, a national grassroots disability rights organization. Dallas is a person with a physical disability who uses a power wheelchair. He has previous experience with self-advocacy and has worked with people who have disabilities of all kinds. Dallas has been a member of the DRC team since 2016.



**TYLER TENBRINK • KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

Tyler graduated from Kansas State University in 2005. While at Kansas State, he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Economics. Tyler then attended graduate school at the University of Kansas starting in 2005. In 2006, he graduated with a Master of Arts Degree in Economics. Upon graduation, Tyler joined the workforce taking a job in the financial services industry. Nearly two years later, he started as a Labor Economist for the Labor Market Information Services (LMIS) division of the Kansas Department of

Labor.

Since 2008, Tyler has worked in LMIS moving from Labor Economist to his current position as Senior Labor Economist. He works on several projects within LMIS including long-term employment projections, high demand occupations, and the monthly labor report.

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