

Plenary Sessions

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

9:00–9:50 Opening Session



Mitch Landrieu serves as Senior Advisor to the President and White House Infrastructure Coordinator where he is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, including the most significant and comprehensive investments in roads, bridges, rail, transit, ports, airports, safe water, clean energy, and high-speed internet in generations.

Landrieu served as the 61st Mayor of New Orleans from 2010 to 2018. When he took office, the city was still recovering from Hurricane Katrina and in the midst of the BP Oil Spill. He kick-started the city’s recovery by fast-tracking over 100 projects and securing billions in federal funding for schools, hospitals, parks and critical infrastructure. Under Landrieu’s leadership, New Orleans is widely recognized as one of the nation’s great comeback stories. In 2015, Landrieu was named “Public Official of the Year” by *Governing*, and in 2016 was voted “America’s top turnaround mayor” in a Politico survey of mayors. He also served as President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Landrieu gained national prominence for his powerful decision to take down four Confederate monuments in New Orleans, which also earned him the prestigious John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award. He is the author of the New York Times bestseller *In the Shadow of Statues: A White Southerner Confronts History*, which recounts his personal journey confronting the issue of race and institutional racism that still plagues America.

Prior to his two terms as Mayor, Landrieu served two terms as lieutenant governor and 16 years in the state legislature. Prior to public service, Landrieu had a successful law practice for 16 years and became an expert mediator, focusing on alternative dispute resolution. He and his wife Cheryl live in New Orleans, where they raised their five children.

More Speaker Bios to Come

1:30–2:30 Plenary Session: Industry Partnerships



Bridget Gainer is Global Head Public Affairs & Policy for Aon which focuses on developing innovative solutions to help governments and other public institutions reduce volatility and increase the resiliency of their mission. Bridget leads Aon’s engagement with governments around the world for both commercial and strategic opportunities. Leveraging risk transfer and expertise to create greater opportunities for public sector Infrastructure development, healthcare & retirement delivery, government insurance programs and international market access.

Bridget brings over 25 years of experience in non-profit, government and corporate sectors, including community development, public private partnerships and infrastructure development. Bridget joined Aon in 2001, where she began working at Aon beginning in finance with a focus on mergers and acquisitions and treasury. She later transitioned to manage the firm’s business development and engagement with the public sector. Bridget holds an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago.



Fredrick D. Redmond is the secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO. On June 13, 2022, he was unanimously elected to the position as the highest ranking African American officer in the history of America’s labor movement.

AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Fred Redmond was first elected to this position by the AFL-CIO Executive Council on Aug. 20, 2021. He filled the vacancy of the executive vice president position from March to June 2022. He had previously served on the federation’s Executive Council since 2008.

Redmond’s path to the federation’s second-highest office began in 1973, when he went to work at Reynolds Metals Co. in Chicago and became a member of the United Steelworkers (USW). He was active in his local union almost immediately, serving as shop steward and eventually vice president. He served three terms as local president.

In 1996, Redmond joined the USW staff, working with local unions in the Chicago area before accepting a position at the international union’s headquarters in Pittsburgh in 1998. For decades, Redmond served the USW in various staff and leadership roles, assisting local unions, developing and conducting training programs, and bargaining contracts.

As international vice president for human affairs, a position to which he was first elected to in 2006, Redmond oversaw the union’s Civil and Human Rights Department and worked with USW allies across the country in responding to attacks on voting rights and in combating economic inequality.

Redmond has spent his entire life fighting for racial justice in the workplace and throughout our communities. In 2016, he was appointed to Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf’s Advisory Commission on African American Affairs, and in 2020, Redmond was tapped to chair the AFL-CIO Task Force on Racial Justice, a body focused on taking concrete action to address America’s long history of racism and police violence against Black people.

Redmond has served on the board of directors of Working America, the TransAfrica Forum, the Workers Defense League, the National Endowment for Democracy, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Interfaith Worker Justice and, since 2007, has served as chair of the board of directors of the A. Philip Randolph Institute. In 2021, Redmond was elected president of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas, a prestigious international post.



Mayor Victoria Woodards of Tacoma, Washington serves as the President of the National League of Cities (NLC). She was elected mayor in 2018.

Woodards has called the “City of Destiny” her home for almost her entire life. She is a proud graduate of Tacoma’s Lincoln High School and has served as a soldier in the United States Army. Before becoming mayor, she served for seven years as an at-large member of the City Council. During that time, she launched the city’s Equity and Empowerment initiative which led to the establishment of its Office of Equity and Human Rights. She also brought partner organizations together for then-President Barack Obama’s My Brother’s Keeper initiative and spearheaded the city’s Project PEACE initiative which bridged community members with the Tacoma Police Department.

As mayor, she continues to be a champion of these important issues while expanding her involvement in regional and national conversations on affordable housing, transportation, strengthening youth and families, public safety, growing local business, and the creation of family wage jobs. She has also worked to more fully engage the city’s youth in community decisions that impact them every day, by expanding Student Government Day and establishing the city’s first Youth Commission.

Woodards has been selected to serve in a number of national leadership roles that allow her to share information with other cities across the country and bring best practices back to Tacoma. In addition to her role as President, she has served as co-chair of both NLC’s Council on Youth, Education, and Families and its Race, Equity and Leadership program. At the United States Conference of Mayors, she serves on the advisory board; as vice-chair of the Committee on Jobs, Education, and the Workforce; and as cochair of the Women Mayors Leadership Alliance.

Some of her other leadership roles as Tacoma’s mayor include positions on the Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Board, Sound Transit Board, Tacoma-Pierce County Economic Development Board, Pierce Transit Board, Foundation for Tacoma Students Board, and the Workforce Central Board. In partnership with County Executive Bruce Dammeier and County Council Member Connie Ladenburg, she also convened elected leaders from across Pierce County for Mayoral Roundtable to explore opportunities for regional collaboration on the issue of housing attainability in the region, an initiative that formally came to be known as the ‘South Sound Housing Affordability Partners.’

Woodards has consistently reaffirmed her support for immigrant and refugee families, and Tacoma remains a welcoming city committed to providing immigrant and refugee communities with equitable access to City services. Alongside her peers on the City Council, she advocates for policies that provide safety and stability for all members of the community, and she uses her national leadership roles to join with mayors across the county in calling for federal reforms. Under her leadership, the city appointed members to its first Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. This commission was established to better engage with immigrant and refugee communities, and to work with local organizations to identify and advance positive outcomes for community members in need.

Demonstrating a lifelong track record of public service, Woodards has served as president of the Tacoma Urban League and as director of community development for the Tacoma Rainiers. Her past civic engagement work has also included leadership positions with the Tacoma Metropolitan Parks Board, the Washington State History Museum, and the Washington State Commission of African American Affairs.

More Speaker Bios to Come

5:15–5:50 Plenary Session: Youth



Dr. Stephanie Rodriguez is a Sr. Workforce Fellow at the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration, in the Office of the Assistance Secretary. While at ETA Stephanie is coordinating the development and launch of the DOL youth employment strategy focused on centering young people in critical workforce development opportunities. The strategy will empower the workforce system to launch young people into good jobs and high-quality career pathways. This includes helping to connect different offices and programs across the Department of Labor and other federal departments to break down silos and barriers.

Stephanie has prior government experience at the National Science Foundation, working on the computer science education equity portfolio, and then took that focus to the Afterschool Alliance as STEM Policy Director, ensuring access to STEM engagement and computer science learning in the out of school space. She spent several years as VP of Policy and Engagement at AnitaB.org a global nonprofit advancing women technologists into positions of power in the tech workforce. In this role, Stephanie developed and led the workforce policy portfolio, managing Hill and Executive branch relationships. Most recently, Stephanie served as the Federal Partnership Director at Tech Talent Project, working to increase the ability of the U.S. government to recruit modern technical leaders. An immunologist by training, Dr. Rodriguez brings evidence-based approaches to workforce development, equity, and policy advancement.



Marie Mackintosh has served as President and CEO of EmployIndy since the fall of 2022. As a workforce development board and nonprofit intermediary in Indianapolis, EmployIndy is focused on creating strategic partnerships, connections, and opportunities that enable all Marion County residents to grow and prosper in a career that meets employer demand for talent.

Mackintosh joined EmployIndy seven years ago and has led the implementation of several pivotal initiatives that collectively work to create economic prosperity across Indianapolis for all residents. Whether launching the [New Skills Ready Network Collaborative](#), [Modern Apprenticeship](#), [Talent Bound](#), [Rapid Re-Employment Response](#), or the [Good Wages Initiative](#), Mackintosh has led the EmployIndy team to integrate investments and to focus on engaging businesses to provide inclusive, high-quality employment and career-connected

learning opportunities for residents. Simultaneously, EmployIndy ensures that individuals have access to coaches, equitable postsecondary options, and barrier-busting supports, with the goal of creating a diverse and well-prepared talent pool so that Indianapolis' economy can grow and thrive.

Mackintosh brings over 20 years of relevant experience to this role, having worked immediately prior to EmployIndy in various leadership roles at the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, in marketing at a global manufacturer, and in advising and academic affairs at Butler University, DePauw University, and the University of Kent in Canterbury, England. She holds an MBA from Butler University and a BA from Indiana University, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa. She was named one of Indy's Best and Brightest in 2017 and has served on numerous committees and boards for organizations that include the U.S. Conference of Mayors Workforce Development Council, Midwest Urban Strategies Consortium, Indy Chamber, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Business Equity for Indy, Far Eastside Collective Impact Council, Near Eastside Innovation School Corporation, and IndyFringe.



Stephanie Bothun is the Vice President and Co-Founder of Ascend Indiana, a non-profit striving to make Indiana a place of economic opportunity for all by connecting talent to jobs and building talent pipelines between employers and education. In 2020, Bothun was instrumental in launching a modern youth apprenticeship program in Indianapolis, accelerating youth apprenticeship pilots in multiple sites around Indiana, and initiating a statewide community of practice to create stronger linkage between education and employers. Previously, Bothun served as the Director of Education Initiatives for the City of Indianapolis leading forward early childhood, STEM, and workforce efforts. Prior to joining the Mayor's office, Bothun served as a human capital analyst with Deloitte Consulting LLP in Chicago and as a Teach for America Indianapolis corps member, where she was named Teach For America's Indianapolis Teacher of the Year.

In 2020, Bothun was named to the Indianapolis Business Journal's (IBJ) prestigious Forty Under 40 list. In 2023, Bothun was named one of 60 Presidential Leadership Scholars (PLS). PLS serves as a catalyst for a diverse network of leaders brought together to collaborate and create meaningful change in the United States and around the world as they learn about leadership through the lens of the presidential experiences of George W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Lyndon B. Johnson and their administrations.

Bothun received her Bachelor of Science in Finance from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University and a Master of Arts in Education from Marian University.



Joanna Mikulski serves as the Senior Policy Advisor, Labor and Higher Education with the White House Domestic Policy Council. Joanna was previously the Chief Federal Policy and Data Officer for the non-profit organization America Achieves. During the Obama-Biden Administration, Joanna worked on job training, education, and youth policy issues at the Office of Management and Budget. More recently, while in Berlin and London with her husband and daughter, Joanna collaborated with international organizations, foundations, and businesses on communications and policy campaigns on a wide range of topics—including violence prevention, maternal and child health, and clean air. Joanna began her career as a Presidential Management Fellow with the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration. She has a Master of Public Policy from Georgetown University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Notre Dame.