

Breakout and Workshop Sessions

Thursday, May 18, 2023

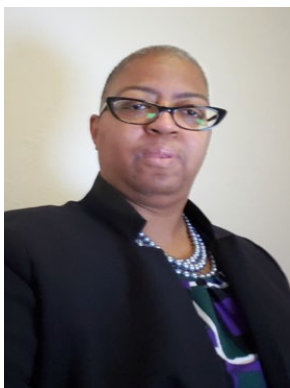
Yes, WIOA Can! Workshops; Focus Sessions: 10:30–12:20

Breakout Sessions: 10:30–11:30

Breakout #5: Reimagining Job Corps: Building Pathways to Infrastructure Careers



Michelle Mills-Ajayi is the Senior Advisor to the Administrator/National Director in the Office of Job Corps. Michelle has a particular focus on youth workforce development, strategic planning and execution, policy development, and partnership building. Prior to joining the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), she worked at U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a Special Assistant in the Office of the Secretary’s Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. At DOL, Michelle has served in various roles including as an International Relations Officer in the Bureau of International Labor Affairs developing congressional reports and policy recommendations to combat child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking in several countries. She traveled to Caribbean and sub-Saharan African countries to educate, train, and provide technical assistance to foreign labor representatives and community-based organizations regarding the application of fundamental international labor organization conventions to improve worker rights and conditions for vulnerable populations, including women and children. In DOL’s Employment and Training Administration Michelle worked in the Office of Apprenticeship where she managed the education and youth portfolios, expanded strategic partnerships, and supported the development of grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts. She also gained experience in the DOL’s Veterans’ Employment and Training Administration as a Supervisory Program Manager. She has a Juris Doctor (JD) from Howard University School of Law, a Master of Laws (LLM) from Thomas Jefferson School of Law, and is licensed in the state of New York. She is the recipient of 6 DOL Secretary Honors Awards for professionalism and innovation. Michelle enjoys traveling, cooking, and spending time with her husband and son.



Karen Bobo is currently serving as Senior Advisor for Workforce Development and Interagency Coordination in the US Department of Transportation’s Office of the Secretary. Prior to her current assignment, she became the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Director – Transportation Workforce Development in May 2019. Prior to taking this position, Karen served as the Division Administrator in the FHWA – Iowa Division from 2015 to May 2019. Before going to Iowa, she was the Assistant Division Administrator in the FHWA – Indiana Division from 2011 – 2015 and the Director – Local Agency Programs in the FHWA - California Division from 2009–2011. Karen has held other leadership and technical positions throughout her career and has over 30 years of experience with FHWA beginning with the Highway Engineer



Wendy Chun-Hoon serves as the 20th director of the Women’s Bureau, appointed by President Biden on February 1, 2021. Wendy is skilled at coalition building, bridging strategy across grassroots community organizing, and public sector policy making at state and national levels. She has held senior positions in Maryland state government and private philanthropy, overseeing large-scale, results-driven initiatives for worker and family economic justice.

For the past 10 years, Wendy’s led Family Values @ Work, a national network of grassroots coalitions that have won more than 60 new paid leave policies bringing new rights to 55 million workers and their loved ones and are organizing to win greater access to child care, and fair wages and employment conditions for workers. Recognizing the ways in which her own family would be excluded from new policies for paid time to care, Wendy spearheaded the development of the Family Justice Network, building cross-movement organizing among paid leave advocates, communities of color, groups working for reproductive and disability justice, equality for LGBTQ individuals, and organized labor that has made inclusive family recognition a hallmark of the paid leave movement. Under Wendy’s leadership, FV@W’s staff and board grew and are now majority women of color. She was also instrumental in bringing together dozens of organizations to form a coordinated national campaign known as Paid Leave for All.

Born and raised in Hawaii, Wendy graduated from Vassar College before earning master’s degrees in Philanthropic Studies and Nonprofit Management from Indiana University. An avid soccer player, Wendy lives with her wife and their two kids in Silver Spring, MD.



Rachel Torres is the Administrator and National Director for the Employment Training Administration’s Office of Job Corps at the U.S. Department of Labor. Job Corps is a residential program that provides comprehensive and integrated academic and career technical skills training, workforce preparation, and support services for low-income young adults ages 16 to 24. In this role, she is responsible for operating the \$1.7 billion program, including the operation of its 121 centers across the country.

Across her 30-year career in Federal service, her positions have included serving as the Associate Administrator for Administrative Operations in DOL’s Wage and Hour Division, and as Budget Director of the Job Corps Budget Division, in the ETA’s Office Financial Administration.

Over the years, she has served as the Chair of the DOL’s Diversity and Inclusion Council and on several other department-level executive committees.

She is an active member of the African American Federal Executive Association, where she now serves as the Vice President. She is a board member of I Am We Are Youth, an organization that strives to empower youth with the tools to confidently own their future. Ms. Torres has also chaired the Board of the Directors of Washington Leadership Academy, a charter school in Washington DC that focuses on technology.



As the career Deputy Director, **Michele Hodge** leads the agency to achieve its mission to enforce equal opportunity laws, protect workers, and promote equity and diversity by expanding access to quality jobs and advancement opportunities for all workers, especially those who have been historically underrepresented. She implements the agency's operational and enforcement goals, manages OFCCP's budget, and oversees all human capital decision making. Ms. Hodge guides the agency's enforcement activities, including leading negotiations to settle systemic discrimination cases. Additionally, she collaborates with leaders across departments and partners with a variety of stakeholders to maximize OFCCP's enforcement activities and engagement initiatives.

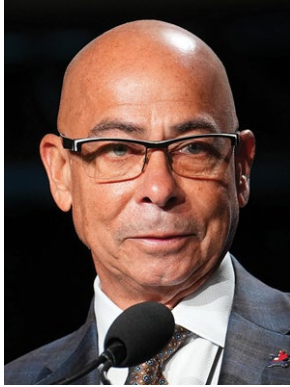
During her tenure with OFCCP, Michele has served in various roles, including Mid-Atlantic Regional Director, Deputy Regional Director for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regions, and District Director and Compliance Officer in the New Jersey District Office. In these roles, she has worked to ensure that those who do business with the federal government fulfill their affirmative action obligations to promote equal employment opportunity. Additionally, she has fought to ensure federal contractors do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, disability, or status as a protected veteran. Her relentless and strategic efforts to find, investigate and remedy systemic hiring, termination and pay discrimination cases in the construction and supply and service industries have resulted in tens of millions of dollars in remedies for job seekers and wage earners.

Ms. Hodge holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management.

Breakout #5: Worker Voice, a High Road Partnership Solution to Public Transit Workforce Needs



Mike Hursh was appointed the General Manager by the AC Transit Board of Directors in September 2015. He is a nine-year veteran of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), serving as the Deputy Director, Operations for Maintenance and Security, and between 2012 and 2015 as the Chief Operating Officer. As COO, Mike directed all VTA transit operations, including bus and light rail, operator training, accessible services, planning, scheduling, and facility maintenance. Among his previous positions, he served as Deputy General Manager for Maintenance, Safety and Training for the San Francisco Municipal Railway. Mike is a champion for the environment and has a thorough understanding of public transportation in the Bay Area. He values customers, key stakeholders and employees who make transit systems work. A native of Reno, Nevada, Mike is a long-time Bay Area resident and veteran of the United States Air Force, serving six years in active duty and five years as a reservist in the California Air National Guard. He is a past chair of the California Transit Association Rail Operations & Regulatory Committee and graduate of Leadership Contra Costa.



John A. Costa was re-elected International President at the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) 60th International Convention in Las Vegas, NV, on September 20, 2022. Costa was elected International President at ATU’s 59th International Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada in 2019. After the untimely and tragic death of ATU International President Larry Hanley in May 2019, Costa was elected as International President by the ATU General Executive Board.

Costa had served as an International Vice President since being elected at ATU’s 56th International Convention in Orlando, FL in 2010. Previously he was Chair of the ATU New Jersey State Council from 2008-2010.

Known for his tough bargaining style, Costa has negotiated groundbreaking contract agreements for countless ATU Locals across the United States.

A native of Newark, NJ, Costa launched his career in organized labor at NJ Transit in 1981, joining ATU Local 819 in Newark, NJ. In 2001, after serving his Local in various capacities, he was elected President – a position he held for three consecutive terms before moving on to become Chair of the ATU New Jersey State Council and then ultimately ATU International Vice President.

Costa also previously served as Vice President of the Executive Board of the New Jersey AFL-CIO and Vice President of the Essex-West Hudson Labor Council. He resides in Monmouth County, NJ, with his wife and has two daughters and two grandchildren.



Deborah Moy, Ed.D ABD, is the Co-Founder and Senior Strategist for California Transit Works! (CTW), a consortium of transit agencies, transit unions, and educational institutions dedicated to promoting high road training partnerships (HRTPs) in the transit industry. CTW’s model centers worker voice as the foundation for strong, effective labor-management partnerships in the transit industry. Ms. Moy is the third-party neutral consultant/facilitator whose seminal work in 2005-2006 was instrumental in designing and building the first transit H RTP in the country: Joint Workforce Investment (JWI), the labor-management partnership between Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 265. Ms. Moy established the first in the nation US-DOL coach operator apprenticeship in 2015. She also

designed five public transit credit certificate programs at Mission College (Santa Clara) as part of the California Community College’s “California Apprenticeship Initiative” (CAI) in 2016-17, with more than 600 graduates to date. With Ms. Moy’s guidance, CTW has expanded from a nucleus of three labor/management public transit partnerships in 2017, to a statewide initiative working with 14 public transit agencies and their unions in 2023. Ms. Moy also serves as a mentor for the UC Berkeley Labor Center’s High Road Training Partnership Learning Lab series.



Rob Gamble is a nationally recognized expert in workforce development with substantial experience at the national, state, and local levels. Rob is currently serving as the Director of Workforce Development and Career Technical Education for California Transit Works (CTW). In this position, he assists Public Transit Agencies develop apprenticeships and training programs utilizing the Labor Management partnership model founded by CWT.

For over 25 years, Rob has been a leader in the theory, practice and of delivery Rapid Response and Layoff Aversion services. With experience working in the workforce and economic development fields, Rob has built successful collaborations between business, education, and government. This collaborative approach has assisted communities in building stronger economies through more effective utilization of their education and workforce development assets.

Prior to joining CTW, Rob was the Director of the Department of Workforce and Business Development at Mission College where he guided the development of apprenticeship programs in Public Transit and Information Technology.

Rob is also the founder and managing partner of the Innovation Foundry, a consulting firm established to build a stronger workforce development system. Rob has developed, and managed some of the nation's most innovative and effective training programs including STEP, an information technology career program for non-traditional students and the Bay Area Biotech Consortium, an award winning, bio-technician training program. Through the Innovation Foundry, Rob has taught Rapid Response, Layoff Aversion and Business engagement skills and tactics from Honolulu to Boston.



Tim Rainey is the Executive Director of the California Workforce Development Board, having been appointed by Governor Brown on November 22, 2011. As required by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, the State Board is responsible for assisting the Governor in the development, oversight, and continuous improvement of California's workforce investment system.

Previously, Mr. Rainey was the Director of the Workforce and Economic Development Program (WED) of the California Labor Federation, where he was responsible for policy development at the state and local levels, and brokering industry-based training partnerships among unions, employers, community organizations, education, and public workforce agencies.

Mr. Rainey was also the Policy Director for the California Workforce Association, where he advocated on behalf of Local Workforce Development Boards in legislative, policy, and administrative deliberations in Sacramento and Washington DC.

Prior to joining CWA, Mr. Rainey was a consultant to the Senate Democratic Caucus of the California State Senate.

Mr. Rainey is a co-founder and executive committee member of the EDGE Campaign, member of the California Apollo Alliance Steering Committee, and serves on several other committees and commissions related to workforce and economic development.

He holds a B.A. degree in Government from California State University, Sacramento.

Breakout #5: Effectively Leveraging Partnerships and Tools to Expand Registered Apprenticeships



Katie Adams oversees Safal Partners' workforce practice which provides technical assistance, training, strategic planning, and program management expertise to public sector clients including the US Department of Labor (DOL). Katie is a nationally recognized subject matter expert (SME) in Registered Apprenticeship (RA) and workforce development and leads the DOL RA Technical Assistance Center of Excellence on Strategic Partnerships and System Alignment and a national Industry Intermediary contract. Over the past 13 years she has led, managed, and served as SME on several DOL and National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education (NSF ATE) contracts and grants which have built industry-driven, secondary and post-secondary academic-aligned apprenticeship programs registering thousands of new youth and adult apprentices in high-demand occupations across several sectors. She is a frequent speaker at national workforce and education conferences and currently serves as the co-chair of the NIST National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Apprenticeship Community of Interest, as well as on the Information Security System Association (ISSA) Apprenticeship, Internship and Mentorship Committee. Katie is a graduate of the College of William & Mary and resides outside of Washington, D.C.



Melissa Robbins is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP), an organization that provides professional development, resources, and certification credibility to individuals seeking to thrive in the workforce development industry as thought leaders and innovators. Melissa began her career in workforce development as a Fiscal Assistant and through training, received primarily through NAWDP, she became a Certified Workforce Development Professional (CWDP). It was this training, development, and credentialing that led to her role as the Executive Director of a local workforce development board before her current role. Melissa has also served as a board member of the Missouri Association of Workforce Development.



Chris MacLarion began his career by serving for three years in the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After leaving the Army, Chris spent 16 years working at the RG Steel plant in Sparrows Point, Maryland as a steelworker and the Vice President of the local union. When the RG Steel Corporation closed Chris attended the University of Baltimore, initially as a participant in the USDOL funded RG Steel National Emergency Grant, earning his Bachelor's Degree and becoming an employee of the Maryland Department of Labor. In the ten years Chris has been with Maryland's Department of Labor he has managed numerous grants, including two USDOL National Dislocated Worker Grants and three State Apprenticeship Expansion Grants. Chris is currently the Director of the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Program.



Jeffrey Smith has served in various positions related to workforce development, government relations, and development/public affairs throughout his career in both the public and private sectors. For workforce development, Jeff has conducted successful advocacy efforts through direct interaction with Members of the Maryland General Assembly, legislators from Congress, and with local government officials across Maryland. He also has administered a number of workforce development initiatives, including those related to apprenticeship, business services, workforce board operations, grants development, and job-seeker assistance.

Jeff presently serves as the senior Program Manager for Apprenticeship and Training with the Maryland Department of Labor, where among other duties he oversees the state's Apprenticeship Maryland Program youth apprenticeship initiative, which has grown to include all of Maryland's twenty-four local public school systems. Earlier in his career, Jeff served as the Acting Chief of Staff and Director of Government and Community Relations for the Maryland Transportation Authority, the state's toll facilities agency. He also served the City of Baltimore as the Executive Liaison for Public Policy for the Mayor's Office of Employment Development. Later this month, Jeff will be joining USDOL/ETA's Office of Apprenticeship, working with their Division of Industry Engagement and Strategic Partnerships.

Jeff has also served in various community service roles including as the Treasurer for the Baltimore County Board of Library Trustees, the Chairman of the Prince George's County Park and Recreation Advisory Board, the Chairman of the City of College Park Recreation Board, and as the Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Maryland Parks and Recreation Association. He is the recipient of the 2018 Maryland Library Association Outstanding Volunteer Award, the 2008 Maryland Recreation and Parks Association Member of the Year, a Governor's Citation for Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer in 1990, and was inducted into the Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society in 2007. Jeff is a 1995 Honors graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park where he studies History and Government and Politics.

Breakout Sessions: 11:30–12:30

Breakout #6: Filling the Chasm, Creating the Bridge: Addressing Barriers and Linking Returning Citizens to Good Jobs



Jason Whyte is the Founder and Chairman of the National Reentry Workforce Collaborative (NRWC), a network of organizations that spans across 173 cities in 40 states. He is responsible for casting the vision and guiding the collaborative’s strategic direction. A leader with a keen aptitude for social justice and a strategic thinker, Jason is also the Director of Partnership Strategy at the Latino Coalition for Community Leadership (LCCL). In this role, he develops strategies and build relationships to expand the organization’s national footprint. Before joining the LCCL, Jason led operations and strategy for the OIC of America national network, where he secured over \$30M in federal and foundation funding; replicated national initiatives, programs and projects that support the organization’s ambitions of breaking the cycle of poverty; and expanded a national reentry program from one to ten cities. Jason served on a committee that provided expert advice to the Office of America Innovation at the White House. Jason holds a BS in Business Administration from Biola University and an MBA in Economic Development from Eastern University.



Traci R. Scott leads the National Urban League’s Workforce Development Division as its Vice President, overseeing programs that serve the entire labor force, from youth to mature workers. NUL’s Workforce Development Division also serves specific populations and industries such as reentry, apprenticeships, and tech. Prior to NUL, she led the Education and Workforce departments at Covenant House New York, one of the nation’s largest shelters for homeless youth and young adults, as Director. Other accomplishments include serving as Managing Program Officer for a New Jersey statewide funder of out-of-school time programs and expansion of a new workforce within the state. Her work in creating NJ’s first district-wide youth program was published in *The Foundation Review* and earned her an appointment on the Mayor of Trenton’s Youth Development Task Force. Ms. Scott holds a BA Kenyon College (OH) and a MPA from CUNY-Baruch as a National Urban Fellow.



Ashley Furst is the Senior Program Manager, Employment Opportunities at the Responsible Business Initiative for Justice (RBIJ), an international nonprofit that works with companies to champion fairness, equality, and effectiveness across systems of punishment and incarceration. In her role, she spearheads RBIJ's Second Chance Hiring efforts and works on the groundbreaking Unlock Potential (UP) program, an employment program looking to confront economic immobility and disrupt the prison pipeline.

As an individual who is justice-impacted, Ashley believes that career opportunities are vital to ending mass incarceration and supporting successful reintegration into society. Ashley also works with Breakthrough, a nonprofit in Denver, CO, to empower individuals who have been incarcerated to embrace new possibilities and realize their full potential. She also serves on the Colorado Fair Chance Hiring Initiative Advisory Council. Before joining RBIJ, Ashley spent over 10 years in the Marketing and Communications world for a variety of nonprofit organizations, most recently Goodwill of Colorado where she managed MarComm efforts within the state. Ashley holds a MS in Marketing from Johns Hopkins University and a BS in English from Towson University.

Breakout #6: Pathways for Youth in Puerto Rico



Olga Ramos is a transformational leader with vast experience in finance, business development, general management, commercial operations across several industries and multinational companies, and the non-profit sector.

She has excelled in applying her private sector experience to manage a high-performing team of 400+ employees in nineteen different project sites offering quality services to youth and low-income families. She also leads the implementation of strategies that have successfully transformed the organization from a prevention services entity to a socioeconomic development engine for communities across the Island.

Olga's diverse background and people-first approach have enabled her to position the organization for ongoing and sustainable growth. Amidst the effects of an economic recession, hurricanes, earthquakes, and most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic, she has been able to adapt BGCP's work systems and turn them into an efficient result and data-driven operation. Before being President, she served eight years as Vice-President of BGCP's Board of Directors.

Olga has a passion for people development and believes in paying it forward by being a mentor and a sponsor of many. In 2019 she was recognized with the Hipólito Mejías medal of excellence, a recognition that distinguishes graduates from the Interamerican University School of Law.

Olga holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Puerto Rico and a Juris Doctor from the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico. In 2021, she completed the Harvard Business School's Strategic Agility and Inclusive Leadership course. She serves on the National Workforce Development Board and is certified as a Leadership Professional in Ethics and Compliance (LPEC).

Her family means the world to her, and she loves spending time with her husband, Noel, daughter Mia Noelle, and their relatives and friends.

Olga is a transformational leader with vast experience in finance, business development, general management, commercial operations across several industries and multinational companies, and the non-profit sector.

She has excelled in applying her private sector experience to manage a high-performing team of 400+ employees in nineteen different project sites offering quality services to youth and low-income families. She also leads the implementation of strategies that have successfully transformed the organization from a prevention services entity to a socioeconomic development engine for communities across the Island.

Olga's diverse background and people-first approach have enabled her to position the organization for ongoing and sustainable growth. Amidst the effects of an economic recession, hurricanes, earthquakes, and most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic, she has been able to adapt BGCP's work systems and turn them into an efficient result and data-driven operation. Before being President, she served eight years as Vice-President of BGCP's Board of Directors.

Olga has a passion for people development and believes in paying it forward by being a mentor and a sponsor of many. In 2019 she was recognized with the Hipólito Mejías medal of excellence, a recognition that distinguishes graduates from the Interamerican University School of Law.

Olga holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Puerto Rico and a Juris Doctor from the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico. In 2021, she completed the Harvard Business School's Strategic Agility and Inclusive Leadership course. She serves on the National Workforce Development Board and is certified as a Leadership Professional in Ethics and Compliance (LPEC).

Her family means the world to her, and she loves spending time with her husband, Noel, daughter Mia Noelle, and their relatives and friends.



Juan A. Rosario Hernandez, born on January 11, 1991. He has a Bachelor's Degree in General Sciences, a Master's in Clinical Social Work, a Master's in Planning and Strategy, and a Master's in Finance. He has carried out about ten investigations on Youth, Behavior, Labor Market and Occupational Demands. Pioneer in making proposals for the Registered Apprenticeship and Registered Pre-apprenticeship Program on the island. He has around 13 years of experience in the creation of Public Policy and Labor Market on the island of Puerto Rico. It offers your work environment dynamism, confidence, respect, challenges, security, and strength. The key to his work is Teamwork.



Mrs. Jenny Mar Cañón Feliciano possesses a bachelor's degree in business administration with a major in Finance from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus. She also obtained a Professional Certificate of Entrepreneurial Development from the same university. After culminating her studies, she was admitted in the University of Puerto Rico Law School, where she obtained her Juris Doctor. While in law school, she was editor for the University of Puerto Rico Law Review and was President of her graduating class. She was also a member of the Students Commission for the Bar Association of Puerto Rico and a member of the American Bar Association.

After culminating her studies, she worked for Toyota Financial Services as the Legal and Compliance Supervisor. Afterwards, she clerked for Associate Justice

Mildred G. Pabón Charneco at the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico.

Since 2021, Mrs. Cañón Feliciano serves as Deputy Secretary for Federal Programs and Director of the Workforce Development Program for Puerto Rico's Department of Economic Development and Commerce (DEDC).



Samaris Awilda Tejada Cruz was born in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Office Systems and a Master's degree in Office Administration.

Since 2021, she has been the Executive Director of Conexión Laboral Norte Central, working on the planning and coordination of all the programs, activities and services offered under the WIOA Law. These services are offered to eight (8) towns in the North Central region of Puerto Rico. Through the services that are offered, it has been possible to impact a large number of participants, training them and reintegrating them into the workforce. Also, large employers have benefited from the incentives that WIOA Law provides

we have been able to help them in the recruitment of their employees through the On-the-Job Training (OJT) program, such as Chick Fil A, Arby's, Taco Maker, among others.

She worked at the Catholic University of Puerto Rico, in the Arecibo Campus for 10 years as coordinator for the division of continued education for the proposals of Mathematics & Science Partnerships Program, Victims of Crime Act and the Upward Bound Program, she was in charge of drafting the proposals for the Office of Federal Affairs of the Department of Education, the selection of courses to be offered, evaluation of the professors to be hire, preparation of the budget of the proposal, supervision of office personnel, writing letters and reports, she also gave orientation to visitors and students.

Breakout #6: Good Jobs Initiative



Rochelle Ramsey-Walker is a Field Organizer for The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT). Currently, Rochelle is charged with recruiting new members and meeting with contractors to encourage signatory and partnership with IUPAT to expand their work.

As an experienced tradeswoman, Rochelle is passionate about her role and is motivated to recruit and support women of color into the trades, to promote financial independence for youth and to advocate for benefits to create quality jobs for workers and their families like harassment free workplaces, safety, equitable pay and other benefits.

Prior to moving to Maryland to join IUPAT District 51 Commercial Painting Apprenticeship Program, Rochelle was lifelong resident of Brooklyn, NY. Early on in her career she was a passionate artist which led her to join and successfully complete her pre-apprenticeship with Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW) in New York City.



Brendan Danaher is the labor policy advisor at the US Department of Transportation. Before joining the DOT, he worked at the Transport Workers Union (TWU) as the Executive Director in the Office of the President. Earlier in his career, Brendan held positions at the AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department (TTD), Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS) and American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE). Brendan served on the DOT Agency Review Team during the Biden-Harris Transition.

Brendan has a masters of public administration degree from Columbia University.



Tammi Fleming is the Infrastructure Investment Equity Fellow at the United States Department of Labor, where she serves as a member of the Women's Bureau and the Good Jobs Initiatives. Tammi accepted the opportunity to embed equity into the Biden-Harris Administration's historic infrastructure investment in December 2022. Tammi works across federal agencies and with the White House to ensure the creation of economic opportunities for all workers. She leads the state and local place-based strategies and engagements.

Prior to joining the Department of Labor, Dr. Fleming spent 10 years as a Senior Associate at the Annie E. Casey Foundation as a program officer focused on Reproductive Health, System Involved Youth and Young Adults, Equity and Inclusion and scaling evidence-based practices. Tammi's work and expertise extends over 30 years and include her roles as community organizer, program design expert, administrator, and researcher. Dr. Fleming has a PhD in Public Health from Walden University, and she earned her Master of Public Health from Tulane University with a dual concentration in Maternal Child Health and Health Education and Communication. Tammi is a native of New Orleans and resides in the Philadelphia area with her family.



Nicole Schwartz is the Executive Director of TradesFutures and leads with ample experience in education and workforce development. Most recently, Schwartz served as North America’s Building Trades Union’s (NABTU) Apprenticeship Readiness Program Coordinator, overseeing nearly 200 ARP programs across the U.S. in conjunction with state and local Building and Construction Trades Councils and their partner community-based organizations.

Prior to her time at TradesFutures, Nicole spent nearly a decade educating youth as a High School and Middle School Social Studies and Spanish Teacher in Milwaukee Public Schools in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Outside of the classroom, Nicole worked on several initiatives, including Restorative Practices, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, and Potter’s Forest – Ropes and Challenge Course. After moving to DC in 2015, Nicole worked as a Pastry Cook and Urban Farmer before deciding to focus her efforts on workforce development and broadening pathways to family-sustaining careers for all.

Nicole graduated with a BA from Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI in International Affairs and Spanish for the Professions in 2004. In 2007, Nicole received her Masters in Education from the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse.



Nick Beadle is policy counselor for The Good Jobs Initiative, focusing on job quality and equity in Department of Labor funding programs. He joined the Department in 2013 as an honors attorney in the Office of Solicitor, where helped build experimental grant programs and new apprenticeship regulations. He also has served as a special assistant in the Office of Apprenticeship and acting director of policy for Job Corps.

A native of Greenhill, Alabama, Beadle is a graduate of the University of Alabama and the American University Washington College of Law. Prior to entering the law, he was an award-winning investigative reporter.