

## ***“Going Global, Thinking Local”* 2020 WINTER CONFERENCE**

### **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

*(in alphabetical order)*

#### **Candice Bock, Director of Government Relations, Association of Washington Cities**



**Candice Bock** joined AWC in December 2009 and serves as a lobbyist primarily in the areas of public safety and criminal justice, personnel and open government. She has 15 years of experience working in municipal government. Prior to joining AWC, Candice served as City Manager of Carnation, a small town in east King County. Candice worked for the City of Lakewood holding a variety of positions including Assistant City Manager and Government Relations Director. Her work with cities has also included working for the cities of Richland, Washington, and Colorado Springs, Colorado, in the field of economic development. Candice holds a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Colorado.

#### **Lisa Brown, Ph.D, Director of the Department of Commerce**



**Lisa Brown** was appointed Director of the Department of Commerce by Governor Jay Inslee in January 2019. Before joining Commerce, she served as chancellor of the Spokane campus of Washington State University where she worked primarily in health sciences and played a major role in the creation of the new Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine. Prior to her work at WSU, she served in the Washington State Legislature as a senator for 16 years, serving as Senate majority leader, chair of the Ways and Means Committee, chair of the Rules Committee and chair of the Energy, Technology and Telecommunications Committee. Lisa served in the state House of Representatives for four years where she held the positions of minority whip and minority floor leader and served as an associate professor at both Gonzaga University and Eastern Washington University. Lisa earned her Ph.D. and master’s degree in economics from the University of Colorado and her bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois. She has served on the boards of Ignite Northwest and YWCA Spokane.

Her prior community service ranges from Greater Spokane Incorporated and the Empire Health Foundation to the Washington State Investment Board, among many others. Lisa has been honored by Catalyst Magazine with the “Power 50 Celebrating Influence” and “Women in Business Leadership” awards. She was also named Woman of the Year by Washington State University in 2013 and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Early Learning Action Alliance that same year.

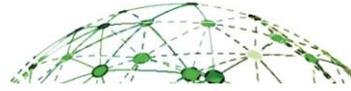
#### **Mike Ennis, Government Affairs Director, Association of Washington Business**



**Mike Ennis** is AWB’s director of government affairs on transportation and environmental issues, including water resources and air quality. He joined AWB in 2013. Before joining AWB, Ennis was the director of transportation policy at Washington Policy Center, a free-market think tank based in Seattle. Ennis is the author of numerous studies on transportation policy in Washington, including “Five Principles of Responsible Transportation Policy,” “Vanpools in the Puget Sound Region: The Case for Expanding Vanpools to Move the Most People for the Least Cost,” and “Roadmap for Mobility.” His work has been covered in many local and national media



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outlets, including The Seattle Times, The Wall Street Journal, and Investor's Business Daily, as well as on CNN and Bloomberg News.

Ennis served in the U.S. Army with the 2nd Ranger Battalion and is currently in his third term on the Enumclaw City Council. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Washington and his Master of Public Administration degree from the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs, also at the University of Washington. He lives in Enumclaw with his wife, Heidi, and their two children.

### **Cheryl Fambles, Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Mountain Workforce Council**



**Cheryl Fambles** has served as Chief Executive Officer for Pacific Mountain Workforce Council (PacMtn) since 2012. She is an articulate advocate for rural communities, issues of inequity and the redemptive power of work. Cheryl is a Board Director for the Seattle Branch of the San Francisco Reserve Bank, and a Trustee for the Thurston County Chamber and Capital Medical Center. She represents workforce issues on the Governor's Poverty Reduction and Military Transition Council. She has longstanding involvement with SafePlace Shelter, the YWCA and Women United of Thurston County. Cheryl completed her Master's Degree in Public Administration at Baruch College in the CUNY system and a Senior Executive certificate at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. She graduated from the Evergreen State College and lives in West Olympia on Eld Inlet with her husband and bossy cat.

### **Jeremy Field, Regional Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)**



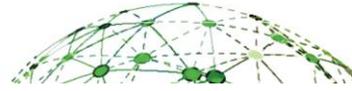
**Jeremy Field** leads the economic development, small business initiatives and program operations for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Region X Office – also known as the SBA Pacific Northwest Region – which serves Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington state.

As SBA regional administrator and a political appointee, Field also supervises SBA district offices in the region and promotes the President's and SBA Administrator's policies, messages and priorities throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Prior to joining the SBA in January 2018, Field spent nine years in Pocatello, Idaho as the regional director and state grant coordinator for U.S. Senator James E. Risch (R-Idaho), the chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. The position allowed him to work with a congressional team, collaborate with local leaders on federal issues and evaluate policy impacts on Idahoans.

Prior to working for Senator Risch, Field was a staff assistant for former U.S. Senator Larry Craig (R-Idaho) on the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging in Washington, D.C.

An Idaho native, Field has a master's degree in public administration from Idaho State University, a juris doctor degree from University of Idaho, a bachelor's degree in political science from Brigham Young University and an associate's degree in mathematics and physical science from Brigham Young University-Idaho.



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Hilary Franz, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands



Elected in 2016, Commissioner of Public Lands **Hilary Franz** protects and manages nearly six million acres of public lands in Washington State – from coastal waters and aquatic reserves, to working forests and farms, to commercial developments and recreation areas. Commissioner Franz is committed to ensuring our public lands are healthy and productive, both today and for future generations.

She is leading the push to make Washington’s lands resilient in the face of climate change, investing in carbon sequestration and clean energy with wind, solar, and geothermal infrastructure.

As the leader of our state's largest wildfire fighting force, she has pushed for new strategies, innovations, and resources to protect our communities.

In order to restore wildfire resilience in our forests, Commissioner Franz developed a 20-year Forest Health Strategic Plan. This plan will make more than one million acres of forest healthier and more resistant to wildfires – a scale and pace that is unprecedented.

And she has prioritized investments in our rural communities, allocating millions of dollars to spark economic opportunities in struggling communities. She knows that our working lands – and the communities that depend on them for family-wage jobs – are integral to our success as a state, and she is investing in their success.

Hilary is a third-generation farmer and small forest landowner and has raised three wonderful boys.

She holds a bachelor’s degree from Smith College and a juris doctor from Northeastern University Law School.

## Robert Hamilton, Governor’s Advisor for Trade Policy

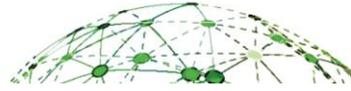


As the Governor’s Advisor for Trade Policy, **Robert Hamilton** has advised Washington governors on international trade issues, trade agreements and federal trade legislation for over two decades. He serves as the state’s lead in collaborating with federal officials in defending state programs subject to legal challenge under international trade agreements, including the World Trade Organization (WTO) cases involving federal and Washington state subsidies for Boeing.

As Chair of the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee (IGPAC), he provides state and local government views on international trade agreements to the United States Trade Representative, the federal trade-negotiating agency. In his role on IGPAC, Robert Hamilton reviews U.S. negotiating proposals to evaluate the potential exposure of state laws and regulations to legal challenge and to influence the final text of trade agreements.

Prior to working for the state, Robert Hamilton worked for the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, DC for five years, where he focused on the administration of U.S. fair trade laws and trade with countries of the former Soviet Union.

Robert Hamilton grew up in New York City and received a BA in history from Hamilton College and a Masters Degree in International Policy Studies from the Monterey Institute of International Studies.



## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Amber Hunter, Vice President – North America, Research Consultants International**



**Amber Hunter** acts as Vice President, Business Development of North America at Research Consultants International. After completing her BA in Political Science from Concordia University, Amber began her career in economic development as a market research consultant and gained extensive experience in marketing, investment attraction strategies and media relations. In her role as VP, Amber works with several North American economic development organizations to help them promote their regions to potential investors and has developed tremendous expertise in both domestic and international business recruitment programs, resulting in numerous significant investment project wins for her clients.

Amber's insights on effective recruitment campaigns and FDI trends has earned her speaking engagements with organizations such as SelectUSA Canada and the BC Economic Development Summit. Amber is also a founding board member of a Montreal-based not-for-profit, Dēmoskratos, that promotes civic literacy and engagement to marginalized communities through interactive workshops. As well as a Director for F.A.C.E.S an NGO whose mission is to help at-risk youth and young adults achieve their full potential. Born in the UK but raised in Montreal and fluent in French, Amber has managed contracts for EDOs throughout the U.S, United Kingdom and Canada.

## **Eric Johnson, Executive Director, Washington State Association of Counties**



Eric Johnson has served as the Executive Director for the Washington State Association of Counties since 2008. Prior to joining the WSAC staff, Eric served as a Lewis County (Washington) Commissioner being first elected in 2000 and again re-elected in 2004. As a County Commissioner, Eric primarily focusing on transportation and public works, land use and natural resources, and improving health and human services in distressed rural communities.

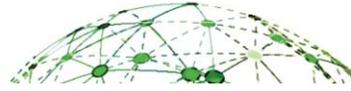
Eric started his professional career in parks, recreation, and natural resource management, serving in administrative positions with Lewis County as well as the cities of Chehalis and Bellingham. He served for 9 years as Assistant Director for the, then, Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (now Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office).

Eric is passionate about effective and efficient delivery of public services. He works tirelessly to improve public policy and processes, strategic organizational improvement, and ensuring prioritization and accountability for public expenditures.

Eric holds a Bachelor of Arts from Western Washington University and a Certificate in Executive Management from the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Policy and Governance.



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## **Senator Mark Mullet, (D) 5th Legislative District, Majority Whip, Chair, Financial institutions, Economic Development & Trade Committee**



**Mark Mullet** is proud to represent the 5th Legislative District communities of Black Diamond, Maple Valley, Issaquah, North Bend, Carnation, Snoqualmie, and parts of Enumclaw and Renton.

First elected to the Senate in 2012, Mark chairs the Senate Financial Institutions, Economic Development & Trade Committee and the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee. He is also a member of the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee and the Senate Ways & Means Committee, where he is part of the team that negotiates the state's capital construction budget.

Mark worked for more than 12 years in international finance at Bank of America – where he served as the Global Head of Foreign Currency Options Trading, which made him responsible for doing business across three different continents – before returning to his home state. From 2009 to 2012, he served on the Issaquah City Council. Mark currently owns several small businesses, including a Zeeks Pizza restaurant and three Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream shops.

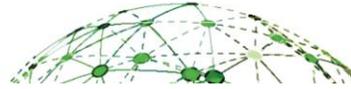
Mark earned a master's degree in Public Administration from the Evans School at the University of Washington and he graduated Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in finance from Indiana University. He attended Foster High School in Tukwila and was the Washington State high school tennis champion in 1989 and 1990. Mark lives in Issaquah with his wife Kelley and their six children.

## **Laura Raymond, Regional Markets Program Manager, Washington State Department of Agriculture**



**Laura Raymond** leads the Regional Markets Program at the Washington State Department of Agriculture which is dedicated to supporting vibrant local and regional food economies. Laura hails from the fertile Willamette Valley but fell in love with agriculture on the prairies of the Midwest and the hillsides of Latin America where she first witnessed the impact of more direct farmer to consumer connections.

In her work at WSDA, Laura is responsible for the Small Farm Direct Marketing Assistance and Farm to School Programs that work to increase the economic viability of small farms and encourage procurement of Washington-grown products by schools and other institutions. Laura holds an MBA in Sustainable Business.



## **Christie Skoorsmith, Production Manager/International Business Development, SPIO Works, Inc.**



**Christie Skoorsmith** is the International Business Manager and Quality Manager for SPIO, Inc. located in Burien, WA, which manufactures and distributes medical compression orthotics for children with sensory and motor delays. She was hired in 2006 to take this small, in-home business and launch it into a national company. Within 3 years it was one of the top three names in compression orthotics in the US. In 2015 SPIO, Inc. launched its international strategy and Christie moved into the role of International Business Manager in order to design and implement the international export growth. Since 2015 SPIO, Inc has expanded into 21 different countries with 25% of its total revenue coming from international sales. It is now recognized as one of the top 5 global brands in compression orthotics.

Christie has lived and worked in a number of countries including Honduras, Spain, the Netherlands, Malawi, Kenya, and Ukraine. She has a BA and MA in International Studies and speaks Spanish and Dutch. In her International Business Manager role she facilitates the vetting and selection of new distributors, is responsible for their on-boarding, site-visits, and trainings as well as helping them with their marketing strategies and sales implementation within their country. In her Quality Manager role she is responsible for managing a variety of national and international certifications, and complying with the multitude of regulations required for exporting medical devices globally. She also oversees the local manufacturing and production of the devices. Christie has a passion for global business and exporting. She enjoys the excitement of learning how each new country handles imports and trade and sees this as a microcosm of how they view the world.

## **Representative Norma Smith, (R) 10<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, Ranking Member, Innovation, Technology & Economic Development Committee**



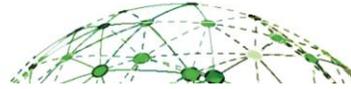
Since 2008, **Rep. Norma Smith** has served the people of Washington state's 10th Legislative District, which includes all of Island County and parts of Skagit and Snohomish counties. She currently serves as the ranking member on the House Innovation, Technology and Economic Development Committee, and as the assistant ranking member on the House Capital Budget Committee. She also serves on the House State Government and Tribal Relations Committee.

During her time in office, Norma has been committed to finding positive solutions to the most pressing issues facing the 10th District and the state. She has built and been involved with multiple bipartisan coalitions addressing a number of critical issues.

In 2017, she was asked to help lead the behavioral and mental health portion of the capital budget. Working with a bipartisan team of legislators, record investments across the continuum of care were secured. During the 2018 session, she helped negotiate and pass the first state net neutrality law in the country, which is preserving a fair and free internet, protecting consumer choice, and ensuring entrepreneurs and small business owners can remain competitive globally.

Norma has also been a strong advocate for the adoption of long-term environmental stewardship policies that recognize the responsibility we have to the generations that will follow us. In 2013, she successfully led the effort to secure the final \$3.5 million needed to complete the removal of derelict fishing nets from Puget Sound.

During the 2015 legislative session, she introduced legislation to establish the Joint Center for Deployment and Research in Earth-Abundant Materials. Her bill passed with overwhelming support, putting Washington state on a



path toward becoming a leader in advancing the use of earth-abundant materials in clean technologies. These technologies will have a profound impact on the future of our national security, energy independence, sustainability and environmental responsibility.

In recent years, Norma has introduced a number of bills that have been signed into law, giving individuals more control of their personal data and demanding greater accountability and transparency from those who seek to profit from monetizing it.

Norma also remains strongly committed to supporting economic policies that help strengthen the middle class and allow job creators to grow. That means holding state agencies accountable when they are not being fair to small business, fighting to keep energy costs low for families and the production sector of our economy, and supporting responsible tax policies that do not overburden taxpayers.

Norma lives in Clinton on Whidbey Island. She is active in her church and community and dedicates her time to mentoring young adults. She served for a time on the South Whidbey School Board and was also honored to serve as special assistant to Congressman Jack Metcalf from 1995-2000.

### **Weston Taylor, Business Development Manager, Taylor Shellfish Farms**



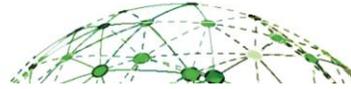
Taylor Shellfish Farms began in Totten Inlet with the tiny Olympia Oyster. Our great great-grandfather found his true calling in oyster farming, which started the legacy that lives on today. Since then, every generation of the Taylor family has grown up with a passion for shellfish and for the close-knit communities and rugged landscapes of Western Washington.

Today the company is led by Bill and Paul Taylor and their brother-in-law Jeff Pearson who have grown the company past the tidelands, bringing their product from tide to table. In the last thirty years they have expanded their product line to include geoduck, mussels and a variety of half-shell oysters. They have created a family environment of over 500 dedicated employees, including their children.

### **Julia Terlinchamp, Governor's Sector Lead, Director of Life Science & Global Health Development**



Before joining Commerce, **Julia Terlinchamp** worked as Governor Jay Inslee's Northwest Regional Representative, serving Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, Island and San Juan counties. While working for the Governor, she focused on stakeholder engagement and coalition building. Prior to that position, she worked in the Bothell Office as Congressional Liaison to Rep. Suzan DelBene of Washington State's 1st Congressional District. She also worked in Washington, DC both on and off the hill. She has a Masters of Public Administration with a concentration in Public and Economic Policy from London School of Economics and Political Science and a B.A. in International Studies from Pitzer College. She was a Fulbright Scholar to Bulgaria where she focused on the sociopolitical implications of Bulgaria's nuclear energy sector while they prepared for EU accession.



## **James Thompson, Executive Director, Washing Public Ports Association**



**James Thompson** was appointed as Executive Director of the Washington Public Ports Association in September 2019. As Executive Director, James represents the state ports' interests to state and federal elected and appointed officials as well as to international and domestic business, trade and investment interests. James is also responsible for directing the day-to-day operations of the Association, including administration, budget, communications, policy and strategic planning functions. James Thompson joined the Washington Public Ports Association in 2014 as the Senior Director of Trade and Transportation and in Affairs Director. In 2016, he was promoted to Deputy Director.

James' experience includes roles as Director of International Logistics and Trade for the Terex Corporation (including Genie Industries) and North American Transportation Manager for Starbucks Coffee Company. Early in his career, he worked in state government with a variety of state agencies in Olympia. He is a native of Cowlitz County and has lived in six port districts including Walla Walla, Port Angeles, Wahkiakum, Longview, Olympia and Seattle. His career in the global logistics industry has taken him to ports throughout the world, giving him a wide array of experience to serve the interest of the public ports of Washington State.

## **Robin Toth, Governor's Sector Lead and Director of Aerospace**

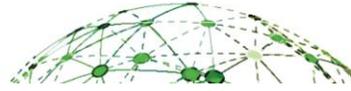


**Robin Toth** has been with the State of Washington, Department of Commerce, since November 1, 2018. Her role is to support the aerospace industry, including new space, unmanned systems and electric aircraft activities. Prior to joining the State, Robin served as the Vice President of Business Development for Greater Spokane Incorporated. In this role, Robin's primary responsibilities were to manage recruitment, retention and expansion activities, government contracting, international trade and entrepreneurship.

Before being recruited to Greater Spokane Incorporated, Robin assisted in leading the City of Spokane's economic development efforts, and was a marketing and communications professional for World Wide Packets, Packet Engines and Itron, Inc.

Robin attended Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, California, majoring in transportation and received a full scholarship to Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona. She also attended the Organizational Leadership Course at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington.

In addition to being the past Chair of the Washington Economic Development Association, Robin also participated on the boards of the Inland Northwest Economic Alliance, the Aerospace Futures Alliance, the Washington Military Alliance, Washington Aerospace Partnership and the Washington Clean Technology Alliance.



## **Senator Lynda Wilson, (R) 17th Legislative District, Ranking Member, Financial Institutions, Economic Development & Trade**



**Lynda Wilson** was elected Senator from the 17th Legislative District in 2016 following a two-year term in the House of Representatives. Her priorities as a lawmaker begin with a strong economy and positive business climate, to increase job opportunities across Washington; they also include public safety, veterans' issues, housing, responsible budgeting, reducing regulations that hinder economic growth, and holding government agencies accountable.

Lynda's work in the Senate reflects her priorities. She is Republican leader on the Financial Institutions, Economic Development and Trade committee, serves on the Law and Justice committee and is a member of the Ways and Means (budget) committee. She is secretary of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee, after serving as vice chair; and is a member of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Trade Policy, the Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs, the Washington State Building Code Council, and the Joint Oregon-Washington Legislative Action Committee addressing replacement of the I-5 bridge between Washington and Oregon. Lynda is a former member of the Senate committee on Labor and Commerce, and recently concluded her service as an *ex officio* member of the Washington State Gambling Commission.

Growing up in an Air Force family that lived around the United States and in Germany before settling in Clark County, Lynda graduated from high school (Evergreen) and attended Clark College. Her decades of business experience began in the financial sector, working in banking and credit unions, then expanded to manufacturing: she and husband Tracy are owners in DeWils Industries, a third-generation business with a presence in the United States, Canada, and Japan.

A graduate of the Washington-based leadership institute named for the late longtime U.S. Representative Jennifer Dunn, Lynda is a past chair of the Clark County Republican Party and served in leadership positions in the House at the caucus and committee levels before her election to the Senate.

## **Brian Young, Director of Economic Development for the Clean Technology Sector**



**Brian Young** brings diverse strategic and operational experience to his role as Governor Inslee's Clean Technology Sector Lead. He is the point of contact for clean technology companies who want to navigate Washington State's political and economic landscape. He is focused on developing a prosperous and varied clean tech sector based on the state's existing strengths.

Prior to joining the Department of Commerce, Brian worked in a variety of clean tech industries. After serving as an officer in the United States Navy, he joined an early stage biofuel start-up that grew into Imperium Renewables, the largest independent US biodiesel producer. After Imperium, Brian created Element Strategic Partners, a clean tech consultancy that led the development of the Washington Clean Energy Leadership Council and worked internationally on sustainability and carbon issues. In 2011, he became a business development manager for a Tri-Cities engineering firm working on nuclear remediation efforts at Hanford and elsewhere within the Department of Energy complex. Brian graduated from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service with a degree in Science, Technology, and International Affairs. He has a lovely wife and two precocious young boys. In the winter, you can find him on the slopes at Alpentel, where he is a member of the National Ski Patrol.