



“Transforming Economic Development for a Changing Workplace” **WEDA 2019 SUMMER CONFERENCE**

Speaker Biographies (*in order of WEDA conference program*)



Washington State Department of Commerce Director Lisa Brown

Lisa J. Brown, Ph.D., was appointed Commerce director by Gov. Inslee and began serving the agency in February of 2019. Prior to serving as Commerce director, she served as chancellor of Washington State University, where she led the health science campus in Spokane.

Lisa served in the Washington State Legislature from 1996 – 2013 in the Senate where she was majority leader and chaired the Rules Committee, Ways and Means Committee, and Energy, Technology and Telecommunications Committee. She served in the state House of Representatives from 1993 – 1996, where she was minority whip and minority floor leader.

She has worked extensively on economic development in Eastern Washington and on gender equity. Prior to state office, she was an associate professor of economics at Eastern Washington University and an associate professor of leadership at Gonzaga University.

Lisa earned her bachelor’s degree in economics at the University of Illinois and her master’s and doctoral degrees in economics from the University of Colorado in Boulder.



Keynote Address: Suquamish Tribal Chairman & President, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Leonard Forsman

Leonard Forsman has served as Tribal Chairman of the Suquamish Tribe since 2005. His interests include tribal education, cultural preservation, gaming policy and habitat protection. He has served on Tribal Council for more than 25 years, worked as an archaeologist for Larson Anthropological/Archaeological Services and is the former director of the Suquamish Museum.

President Barack Obama appointed Chairman Forsman to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in 2013.

Forsman is a graduate of the University of Washington (B.A. Anthropology) and Goucher College (M.A. Historic Preservation). He grew up in Suquamish on the Port Madison Indian Reservation and continues to live there with his wife Jana Rice. Leonard regularly participates in cultural activities including Suquamish Song & Dance and the annual Tribal Canoe Journey.

He was elected to serve as President of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians in September 2017. He also serves on the board of the Washington State Historical Society, the Suquamish Museum, the Suquamish Foundation, the Washington Indian Gaming Association, the Washington State Committee of Geographic Names, and the Tribal Leaders Congress on Education.



Confederated Tribes of The Colville Reservation Chairman Rodney Cawston

Rodney Cawston is the Chairman of the Colville Business Council. Rodney's Indian name is tipyelene cicqn or Eagle Blanket which is a Nez Perce ancestral name that he received from his mother's side of his family. Rodney grew up on the Colville Reservation in Nespelem. He descends from the Nez Perce, Lakes and Okanogan Tribes. Rodney's 20 plus years of work experience with the Colville Confederated Tribes includes managing the Archives & Records Program, the Museum & Gift Shop, and the Language Program, all three of which he wrote the initial grants that funded them. He has also served as the Tribes' Contract Officer. Rodney wrote the initial grants for many of these programs. His work experience includes serving as a Regional Branch Chief for the Navajo Regional Office as the Self-Determination Officer. He also served as the Tribal Operations Manager for Washington State University to recruit Native American students and to work with signatory MOU tribes to establish research opportunities with the University. Additionally, Rodney was instrumental in the development of the Regents scholarship for Native American students attending WSU.

Rodney served two Commissioners of Public Lands, which is a state-wide elected official in Olympia, WA providing leadership to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). DNR has oversight over all of the public, commercial, agricultural, and aquatic lands in the State of Washington. At DNR, Rodney was responsible to work with all federally recognized tribes and he has met with each of their tribal councils on natural resource issues. Rodney drafted the "Commissioner's Order on Public Relations", which sets government to government policy between DNR and Washington's federally recognized tribes. Rodney also worked as the Self-Determination Specialist for the Puget Sound Agency, working with most of the tribal governments in Western Washington. Presently, Rodney is pursuing a PhD in the School of the Environment and Forest Sciences; he has completed all the required coursework and has to complete his dissertation.

Rodney has spent many years of learning traditional arts from many tribal Elders. He is a renowned traditional artist in weaving and beadwork. He and his family harvest and preserve as many of the traditional foods and plant materials of our Plateau people. He and his family participate in the dancing at local pow-wows and are active members in Nez Perce Longhouse.



Kyle Johnson, Executive Director, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Economic Development Authority

Kyle E. Johnson is the Executive Director of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's Economic Development Authority in Sequim, WA. He is responsible for leading efforts to help grow the Tribe's enterprise base and for providing support services to the Tribal Government. He directly oversees four separate enterprises to include a real-estate development and broadband company.

Kyle has a BA in Spanish from University of Idaho, an MBA from Portland State University and holds multiple certifications in project management and LEAN.

In 2004, Kyle was commissioned as an officer in the United States Marine Corps and later served as an infantry officer in Afghanistan, Iraq and Southeast Asia. Upon completion of his active duty commitment in 2010, Kyle



began a career in healthcare management where he eventually became the Director of Operations for the St. Charles Madras and Prineville Hospitals in Central Oregon.

In 2015, Kyle started MedicalBnB, which was a healthcare technology company funded by Silicon Valley technology investment firm Y Combinator. In 2016, Kyle sold his shares and left the startup world to move his family to Sequim, WA where he proudly serves the Jamestown S’Klallam people.



Amber Schulz-Oliver, Executive Director, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) Economic Development Corporation

Amber Schulz-Oliver an American Indian (Celilo/ Yakama Descendant) Oregonian and has established firm roots in Portland, Oregon. As Executive Director of Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Economic Development Corporation (ATNI-EDC), she is dedicated to assisting ATNI Member fulfill their economic development goals and priorities. ATNI-EDC are in the process of advancing our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which will form the strategic direction of the organization.

ATNI-EDC has a subsidiary organization, ATNI Financial Services, that is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and provides loans to Native American entrepreneurs that may not otherwise be able to obtain financing.

Embracing a liberal arts education, Ms. Schulz-Oliver graduated from Oberlin College and soon after joined the Peace Corps. She then worked at a Native American owned Engineering firm, Akana, where she managed several projects in and for the benefit of Indian Country. She moved on to work for the non-profit organization, Ecotrust on a project to research the economic development needs, goals, and priorities of ATNI member tribes, and evaluated the feasibility of a fellowship model to meet some of those goals. In 2013, Ms. Schulz-Oliver earned her MBA, graduating with honors from Willamette University.

Amber serves as a board member on the Potlatch Fund, Ecotrust Community Development Entity, and Ecotrust Investments. She is committed to environmental stewardship, sustainability, and service to the Native community. In her free time, she enjoys trying new Portland restaurants, frequenting the theater, traveling internationally, and scaling small mountains. She believes that by seizing opportunities, the world will open adventures and experiences beyond what one could imagine for oneself.



Maud Daudon, Executive Leader, Career Connect Washington

Maud Daudon is the Executive Leader of Career Connect Washington, which recently completed a 10-year vision and strategic plan for building a statewide career-connected learning and apprenticeship system in Washington state on behalf of Governor Jay Inslee. She is working with business leaders, national experts, labor leaders, educators, parents and students throughout the state to determine the resources and policies needed to create a system that will allow every Washington student an opportunity to have multiple pathways to college level learning and career including through apprenticeship, or other career-connected programs. Daudon is under contract with the governor’s office, and her effort is funded by seven philanthropic partners. The Washington state legislature passed a bill in 2019 that puts the Career Connect Washington framework into state law, and Daudon is now working on implementing the framework and plan across the state.



Maud wrapped up a six-year tenure as the President and CEO of the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce in February, 2018. During her leadership, Maud focused on the region's global competitiveness helping to secure a statewide transportation package, passage of Sound Transit 3, the creation of the Seattle Region Partnership (which focuses on retaining, growing and connecting residents to the regions' middle-income pathway jobs) and the 100% Talent initiative (focused on gender pay equity including the creation of the statewide paid sick and family leave bill).



Dr. Sheila Edwards Lange, President, Seattle Central College

Dr. Edwards Lange has served as President of Seattle Central College since August 2015. She has a wide range of experience in higher education administration and has been a leading advocate for diversity and inclusion throughout her career. Prior to assuming the leadership position at Seattle Central, she served as vice president for Minority Affairs and vice provost for Diversity at the University of Washington (UW). In these roles, she was responsible for increasing diversity and working with senior leadership to improve the campus climate and retention of diverse students, faculty and staff.

Dr. Edwards Lange has served on a number of national, state and local committees and boards to advance educational excellence and inclusion. She is a charter member of the National Association of Chief Diversity Officers; and a past President of the Women in Engineering and Program Advocates Network (WEPAN). Most recently she serves on the Boards of the Seattle Art Museum, Washington Campus Compact and the Alliance for Education.

She is the recipient of numerous awards including the University of Washington's 2005 Diversity Award for Community Building, a 2011 Puget Sound Business Journal Woman of Influence, and the 2013 UW College of Education Distinguished Graduate Award.

Dr. Edwards Lange earned a doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Washington, and a bachelor's degree in social ecology from the University of California, Irvine.



Lewis McMurrin, Policy & Research Co-Manager, Future of Work Task Force, Washington State Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board

Lewis A (Lew) McMurrin comes to the Workforce Board with over two decades of experience in government relations, advocacy, and external affairs for a wide range of employers in the private, public and non-profit sectors. Lew has extensive experience with policy development, lobbying, and policy implementation across a wide range of issue areas including education, economic development, financial services, insurance, intellectual property, privacy, security, technology, utilities, water, workforce and more.

Since 2013, Lew has been involved in a range of entrepreneurial ventures, mostly recently as COO of software startup MaxSet Worldwide Inc. He was instrumental in the recent award of an SBIR grant from the U.S. Air



Force. He was a key member of the founding team responsible for administrative, business development, financial, marketing, operations and more.

Lew was the first Director of Government Relations for the Washington Software Alliance (now WTIA), rising to Vice President of Government and External Relations, (2000-2013). While there, he was involved in and led a number of initiatives, including Tech and Telecom Committee Chair for the Prosperity Partnership, Education Committee Chair for the AG Youth Internet Safety Task Force, Advisory Council of the Trade Development Alliance and remains Chair of the Career and Technical Education Foundation.



Kevin Perkey, CEO, Workforce Southwest Washington

Kevin Perkey is Chief Executive Officer of Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW). Workforce Southwest Washington leads the public workforce system for Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties, including oversight of WorkSource and job training programs for ages 16-24.

WSW contributes to regional economic growth by investing federal, state, local and private funds into programs and community-based organizations that improve the skills and education of our local workforce and provide companies with qualified talent. Since 2003, WSW has invested more than \$100 million in helping job seekers secure employment and businesses find the talent they need in Southwest Washington.

Prior to joining WSW, Kevin was the CEO of South Central Pennsylvania Works (SCPa Works) a regional workforce development board investing more than \$12 million of public workforce investment resources annually across an eight-county region of South Central, Pennsylvania.

Kevin currently serves on the Board of the Columbia River Economic Development Council, the Cowlitz Economic Development Council, the STEM Network Governance Committee, and the Mount St. Helen’s Institute and the U.S. Conference of Mayor’s Workforce Development Council (serving as Co-Chair of their Policy Committee).

Kevin has a BA in Environmental Studies and a Masters in Public Administration and Nonprofit Management, both from the University of Pittsburgh.



Anneliese Vance-Sherman, Ph.D., Regional Labor Economist, Employment Security Department

Anneliese has served as a regional labor economist with the Employment Security Department since February 2010. The region she covers includes King, Snohomish, Whatcom, Skagit, Island and San Juan Counties. Anneliese works closely with economic and workforce development partners (including colleges) throughout her region and statewide, providing local labor market intelligence to help inform strategic decision-making.

In addition to her work with the state, Anneliese serves on several boards and advisory groups including the Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference, the Border Policy Research Institute at Western Washington University, and several educational programs. Prior to state service, Anneliese was a visiting fellow at the Border



Policy Research Institute and instructor at the College of Business and Economics at Western Washington University.

Anneliese has a Ph.D. in economic geography and a master's degree in economics both from the State University of New York at Buffalo.



Teresa Brum, Economic Development Division Manager, City of Vancouver

Teresa Brum is the Economic Development Division Manager for the City of Vancouver, where she manages a staff of 25 with oversight over business development, planning, parking and Community Development Block Grants. She leads city economic development programs and strategies. She serves on Greater Portland Inc.'s Economic Development Partners, the Washington Economic Development Association Executive Committee, and the Clark County Tech Consortium. Teresa's prior experience includes 23 years in other cities where she has served in multiple capacities including integrating economic development and city-wide objectives and creating and executing programs. She has served as a private consultant to local governments, and has lectured on urban planning as an adjunct professor. She holds a Master's Degree in Urban Planning and Public Administration.



Diahann Howard, Interim Executive Director, Port of Benton

Diahann Howard has been with the Port of Benton since 2006 as the Director of Economic Development & Governmental Affairs. In June 2019 she was appointed as the Interim Executive Director. She supports the Port of Benton's land and building development, grants and legislative requests both state and federal. In addition to her port responsibilities, she serves as the Executive Director for the Tri Cities Research District, one of 14 Washington State Innovation Partnership Zones. Prior to the Port, she was the City of Richland's Economic Development Manager. She was most recently appointed to the US DOE Environmental Management Advisory Board.

Diahann is a graduate of Eastern Washington University with a Bachelor of Science degree in International Affairs. She was president of Richland Rotary Club in 2017-2018 and was named Rotarian of the Year in 2012. She is recently completed her Professional Port Manager Certification through the American Association of Port Authorities.



Bruce Kendall, President & CEO, Economic Development Board Tacoma-Pierce County

Bruce Kendall is the President & CEO of the Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County (EDB); a position he has held since 1999. The EDB is a private, non-profit corporation focused on the retention and recruitment of primary businesses in Tacoma and Pierce County, Washington USA.

Over the past 10 years the EDB team has worked with companies that have invested more than one billion dollars in Pierce County and created more than 14,000 jobs. Key wins include: Toray, Mitsui-



Soko, GKN Aerospace, Infoblox, NewCold, Niagara, James Hardie, Amazon, Milgard, Burkhart, Sierra Pacific, and many others.

Bruce serves on the following boards: School of Engineering and Technology at University of Washington Tacoma, Washington Economic Development Association, Aerospace Futures Alliance, Central Puget Sound Economic Development District, and Tacoma-Pierce County Workforce Development Council.

Mr. Kendall received his undergraduate degree from Whitman College and earned a Masters degree in Business Administration from the University of Washington.



Melinda Goforth, Managing Director, Lead Development, Greater Seattle Partners

Melinda Goforth serves as Managing Director for lead development at Greater Seattle Partners (GSP). Prior to joining GSP, she served for close to a decade as Consul and Head of Trade and Investment for the UK's Department of International Trade (formerly UK Trade and Investment), based at the British Embassy in Washington, DC. She earned her master's degree in international housing and social policy from the London School of Economics, and her bachelor's degree from Santa Clara University. Melinda is a native of Edmonds, WA.



Kevin Clegg, Special Assistant to the Executive for Business Services, Pierce County Economic Development

Kevin Clegg is a Special Assistant to the Executive for Business Services, where he is a liaison to companies seeking to build or expand in Pierce County. Kevin helps firms navigate the permit process from start to finish, including helping find solutions to complex development issues and ensuring customers receive quick decisions on their projects. He has experience assembling permit review teams and helped advance the County's *Executive Priority* permit streamlining program for high profile company relocations and expansions.

Kevin has worked in the fields of municipal planning and economic development for over 30 years and has served in key liaison roles to such prominent companies as Microsoft, TORAY Composite Materials, Niagara Water and James Hardie Building Products.

Kevin enjoys spending time with family and driving classic cars, including his latest find which is a 1965 Ford Galaxie, prompting him to adopt the motto, "life is short, drive a long car!"



Marnie Farness, Relationships and Strategy Manager, Columbia River Economic Development Council

Marnie Farness is the Relationships & Strategy Manager for the Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC) in Southwest Washington, where she is responsible for establishing strong relationships with business and community leaders to build awareness that Clark County presents opportunities for companies to thrive. With years of private and public sector experience under her belt, Farness has broad knowledge of workforce



development efforts and a vast track record working with community-minded organizations in the region. Farness holds a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Warner Pacific University.



Doug Lein, Economic Development Manager, City of Auburn

Doug is currently Manager of Economic Development for the City of Auburn Washington. The City's goals are to develop a vibrant business assistance and retention program, attract new and expanding businesses to the City of Auburn. Doug is also administrator of The Washington State Innovation Partnership Zone #15, "Urban Center for Innovative Partnerships".

Doug was Manager of Economic Development for the City of Las Vegas. Doug's responsibility was to oversee the City's business assistance, marketing and business development. As Las Vegas worked to diversify its workforce and business base he helped companies to expand outside of Nevada with their goods and services and attract new companies to locate in southern Nevada.

Doug has participated in numerous trade shows and conferences over the years, representing the City throughout the United States and overseas. As a speaker and panelist Doug has been asked to speak on the subject of public/private partnerships and project planning and entitlements. He is and has been active in many professional and community-based organizations including Urban Land Institute, Information Management Network, Cornet and NAHB. Doug is a past member of the Board for the School of Business Marketing Department at University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Numerous brochures, articles and video productions showcasing economic opportunities have been directed or published by Doug. In 1998 he was the recipient of the IABC Bronze Quill Award of Excellence for his publication of "Las Vegas Medical Technology for 21st Century". In 1999 Doug was the recipient of the IABC Silver Quill Award of Excellence for the publication of "Las Vegas a downtown Renaissance".



Colleen McAleer, Executive Director, Clallam Economic Development Corporation

Colleen serves as Executive Director of the Clallam Economic Development Corporation.

Colleen is also a Commissioner at the Port of Port Angeles. She previously served as the Port's Director of Business Development. After challenging the status quo, she ran for office, and won 59 of 59 precincts to become the first female Commissioner in the Port's 91-year history.

They have since won an award from the Coalition of Open Governments. At the Port, Colleen has spearheaded the Composite Recycling Technology Center, which has received millions in private and public funding to create jobs in rural Washington.

Colleen owned and operated a successful commercial real estate office. She is a decorated combat veteran who served 10 years in the Army as a helicopter and fixed wing pilot and as a military intelligence officer.



Brian Kuh, Executive Director, EDC Team Jefferson

Brian is a former banker and business lender who has worked throughout the North Olympic Peninsula since 2004. During that time, he has worked with established and start-up businesses throughout a variety of sectors, including local tribes. He is the former President of both the Clallam EDC, and the Port Angeles Regional Chamber of Commerce. Brian currently serves on the North Olympic Development Council, Olympic Workforce Development Council, and The Chamber of Jefferson County Board. He is also an elected School Board member. Prior to his career in banking, he worked in marketing and the private aviation sector.



Annette Roth, ArtsWA Creative Districts Program Manager

Annette joined ArtsWA in October 2017 as the Creative Districts Program Manager. She oversees the development and implementation of this statewide program, which works to prepare communities for state certification as a Creative District. She is currently working with almost 30 communities across the state to help them develop and grow their creative economy. She is the former Marketing and Communications Director for the Thurston Economic Development Council. She previously co-founded a boutique marketing and design firm in Tacoma WA, working with small to mid-sized businesses on their strategic branding and marketing needs. Annette holds an adjunct faculty position at South Puget Sound Community College, teaching graphic and web design. Annette studied English at Wayne State University in Detroit MI. She is a 2013 graduate of Leadership Thurston County. The Creative Districts program is the recipient of WEDA's 2019 Innovation in Economic Development Award.



United States Representative Derek Kilmer (6th District-Washington)

Derek Kilmer serves as the United States Representative of Washington's 6th Congressional District.

With over a decade of experience working in economic development in the Puget Sound region, Derek Kilmer is focused on getting our economy and our Congress back to work. Derek has a strong record as a problem solver for Washington families and he's been recognized by veterans organizations for his support of our troops, their families, and those who have served. As the dad of two little girls, he is working to make sure all our children receive a quality education. He is committed to honoring our promises to seniors by protecting Social Security and Medicare. Derek grew up on the Olympic Peninsula and has worked to promote local economic development and to be responsible stewards of our natural resources.

Born and raised in Port Angeles, Derek saw firsthand how the region's economy has struggled, and the impact that has had on families and communities. The son of two school teachers, Derek was taught to appreciate the value of education. Derek wanted to make a difference in his community, so he chose to study public policy,



looking for ways to help economically struggling communities. He received a BA from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and earned a doctorate from the University of Oxford in England.

Derek put his education into practice right here in Washington, first as a business consultant for McKinsey & Company, where he helped businesses, non-profits, and government agencies run more efficiently. He moved closer to the community he was raised in so he could put his experience in economic development to use helping to retain jobs and attract new employers during the decade he worked for the Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County.

After seeing how the decisions that government made affected employers in our region, Derek decided to put his experience to work in Olympia. He served in the Washington state House from 2005 to 2007 and the state Senate from 2007 until he was elected to the US House in 2012. While in Olympia, Derek was the principal writer of the state's capital budget, and helped author a bipartisan infrastructure package that has been credited with creating 18,000 jobs. He also led a successful bipartisan effort in the Washington state Senate to balance the budget and reduce state debt.

Derek was reelected to a fourth term in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2018 and chosen by his Democratic colleagues to serve on the House Appropriations Committee, one of only four 'exclusive' committees in the House. Derek serves on the Interior and Environment Subcommittee, Defense Subcommittee, and Energy and Water Development Subcommittee.

Derek is a strong supporter of Naval Base Kitsap and Joint Base Lewis-McChord and has secured key investments to ensure that these installations will continue to play an essential role in our national defense and our local economy. He also believes we must provide servicemembers and their families, veterans, military retirees, and the civilian workforce with the support they deserve.

Along with fighting for the region's military community Derek has championed bipartisan efforts to better leverage federal research dollars to spur private sector innovation and job growth and bolster a 21st century workforce. As a native of the Olympic Peninsula, Derek knows the important role that natural resources play in our region, and is committed to protecting our waters and improving the health of our forests. It's also why he helped found the Puget Sound Recovery Caucus to bring increased focus and attention to the cleanup work that needs to be done to restore our region's waters.

Derek has learned that addressing the challenges facing our nation will require an end to political brinkmanship and a focus on finding common sense, practical solutions. He's a member of organizations like the Bipartisan Working Group which works to bring Democrats and Republicans together to forge greater consensus on a wide variety of issues. In his four years serving in the House of Representatives, Derek has returned over \$300,000 from his office budget to help pay for deficit reduction.

In his time in Congress, Derek has been recognized by a wide variety of groups for his effectiveness and advocacy. He's been awarded the U.S. Navy's Distinguished Public Service Award, the highest honor a civilian not employed by the Navy can receive from the Secretary of the Navy. Derek has also received a Silver Helmet award from AMVETS and a Friend of the National Parks award from the National Parks Conservation Association, been named a Hero of Main Street by the National Retail Federation, an Outstanding New Member by the Voices for National Service, and a Humane Champion by the Humane Society. Derek and his wife Jennifer live in Gig Harbor with their daughters Sophie and Tess and their Australian Shepherd Truman.



Keynote Address: John Karras, Senior Consultant, TIP Strategies: “The Rise of Remote Workers”

John has devoted his career to the bold idea that every community has the potential to become a more vibrant place. John channels his energies to empower economic development professionals and civic leaders with the knowledge and tools needed to make their communities more vibrant.

John has spent more than a decade working as a national economic development strategist. John has worked with thousands of community and business leaders who shared their insights and contributed to the strategic growth of big cities, suburbs, and rural communities.

In addition to his national strategic consulting portfolio, John has built a reputation as a leading thinker on urban revitalization trends and their impact on economic development. He founded urbanSCALE.com in 2013, which introduced the first comprehensive measure of how urban a city is on a scale of 1 to 10. Through regular blog posts, urbanSCALE reaches an audience of thousands of economic development professionals, urban planners, and local government leaders. Opinion pieces and research from urbanSCALE have been featured in Planetizen, *Outside Magazine’s* annual “Best Places to Live” feature, and dozens of local media outlets around the US.

John lives in Austin, Texas with his wife (Cyndy) and son (Gavin) where he lives out his obsession of finding and tasting the world’s best tacos and barbeque.



John Flanagan, Policy Advisor, Economic Development, Office of the Governor

John is one of Governor Jay Inslee’s policy advisors working on economic development and transportation. His focuses include rural economic development, broadband, rural infrastructure, land use, planning, growth management, and housing. He provides strategic counsel to Governor Inslee, drives policy, and works with state and federal agencies, the Washington State Legislature, tribes, and stakeholders to drive progress in Washington.



Hon. Scott Hutsell, Lincoln County Commissioner; Chair, Public Works Board

Scott Hutsell is a lifetime resident of Lincoln County, Washington. He currently serves as a Lincoln County Commissioner – first elected in 2008. Scott is the current President of the Washington State Association of Counties. He also serves as the Chairman of the Public Works Board – appointed in 2012. He has owned Scott’s Tire Service/Les Schwab in Davenport for 30 years. He has 48 years total in the tire business. He has been married to his wife Debbie for 38 years, and has two daughters and four grandchildren.



Betty Buckley, Executive Director, Washington Independent Telecommunications Association (WITA)

Betty Buckley has been an advocate for rural economic development and rural broadband for two decades. Prior to her current position as Executive Director of the Washington Independent Telecommunications Company she was the Executive Director of Communities Connect, a coalition of public and private organizations funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation which worked to create broadband adoption programs throughout Washington.

Betty was also the co-founder and Executive Director of Stone Soup, a nonprofit organization that worked to improve the lives of women in rural communities through entrepreneurship and microenterprise.

Prior to founding Stone Soup Betty spent fifteen years in executive management in state government. During this time she was actively involved in working with the state legislature on a wide variety of rural policy issues. In 1991 Betty was the youngest recipient of the Governor's Excellence in Management/Leadership award for her efforts to use staff diversity and employee involvement techniques to create a program that significantly improved service while reducing costs.

Betty, her husband Gregg and their draft horses operate a ranch in the remote mountains of Northeast Washington.



Gina Stark, Economic Development Project Manager, Port of Bellingham

Gina spent 16 years working for Washington state government. Prior to starting her career at the State Legislature she spent a summer working at TVW under the tutelage of now Congressman Denny Heck who helped prepare her for her many years of public service. In the House of Representatives, she started as and an Executive Assistant under Representative James L. McIntire then worked on policy such as housing, infrastructure, health care, capital and operating budgets. She then served as the Director of External Affairs

at the Washington State Treasurer's Office. She focused on banking relations, banking policies, and financial education and empowerment. As a representative of the Treasurer, she served on the Washington State Housing Finance Commission.

Gina currently serves as the Economic Development Project Manager for the Economic Development Division at the Port of Bellingham. The economic development division is the regional economic partner for all of Whatcom County and serves as the Associate Development Organization (ADO). Gina works with the Technology and Recreation sectors, as well as clean energy, opportunity zones, infrastructure, and work force housing. She is also the Project Manager for the Whatcom Country Rural Broadband Initiative. She has a B.A in Political Science from Western Washington University and a Master's Degree from the Evans School of Public Policy at the University of Washington.



Briahna Murray, Esq., Vice President, Gordon Thomas Honeywell, Tacoma

Briahna Murray is a Vice President in the firm. She specializes in advocating for cities, counties, and other local governments to the Washington State Legislature and Executive Branch.

Briahna's clients have formally recognized her exceptional service, responsiveness, and advocacy. She has a strong knowledge base in finance, growth management, transportation, criminal justice, human services, and more. Briahna's knowledge of local government issues and her ability to strategically navigate Washington State government is an invaluable combination. As a result of her advocacy, her clients have received multiple state funding appropriations, and have successfully passed or defeated legislation. Briahna takes great pride in representing communities throughout Washington State in Olympia.

Prior to joining Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs in 2006, Briahna served as legislative staff in the Washington State Senate and in 2005 was commissioned by the State Auditor to research and author a monograph titled *A Citizens Advocate: History of the Washington State Auditor's Office*. Briahna graduated cum laude from Seattle University School of Law, where she also served as a member of Seattle University Law Review. Briahna graduated summa cum laude from Pacific Lutheran University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and English-Writing. She now lives in Tacoma, Washington.



Ellen (Elly) Walkowiak, Assistant Director, City of Tacoma Community and Economic Development Department

Ellen (Elly) Walkowiak is the Assistant Director of the City of Tacoma, Washington, Community & Economic Development Department. She has worked for over 25 years in land use planning and economic development. She has extensive experience in negotiating complicated, multifaceted development agreements, brownfields redevelopment, attracting domestic and foreign investment, acquiring infrastructure funding, and lobbying at the Federal and State levels to enable community vitality.

Since September 2007, Elly has been involved in some of the most complex and challenging economic development projects in the City of Tacoma. She led the highly technical negotiation and pre-development activities on the \$150 million Convention Center hotel and mixed use project—the largest downtown private foreign investment in the City's history. In 2017, she won a lifetime achievement award for excellence in public service from the Center for Creative Land Recycling.

Elly has an M.S. in Resource Administration and Management from the University of New Hampshire and a B.A. in Environmental Anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh as well as professional certifications in economic development, finance and public management.



Captain Edward "Alan" Schrader, Commanding Officer, Naval Base Kitsap

Captain Alan Schrader graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics. Additionally, he holds a Master of Science degree from the University of Colorado in Electrical Engineering.

His submarine assignments were as a Division Officer on USS BATFISH (SSN 681), Combat Systems Officer on USS SPRINGFIELD (SSN 761), Executive Officer on USS KENTUCKY (SSBN 737) (BLUE), and Commanding Officer of the USS NEVADA (SSBN 733) (BLUE). During his command tour, he led the combined crew through the final stages of a 27-month, 200 million dollar Engineered Refueling Overhaul. After crew split, he then led the Blue Crew through all certifications for strategic operations and four strategic deterrent patrols.

His staff and shore assignments include as Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) Instructor at the University of Colorado; Executive Officer of Moored Training Ship (MTS 635); Action Officer and Executive Assistant to the Director for Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment (J8), the Joint Staff; and Branch Head, Operations, Evaluation, and Training, Strategic Systems Programs (SP 205).

Capt. Schrader is authorized to wear the Legion of Merit, Joint Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards), the Joint Staff Achievement Award, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards), and the Battle "E" Efficiency Ribbon (three awards).

In Sept. 2016, Capt Schrader assumed command of Naval Base Kitsap (NBK), which encompasses nearly 11,000 acres in Washington, Alaska and a site in British Columbia. Locally, NBK's installations include Bangor, Bremerton, Keyport, Manchester and Jackson Park.



Washington State Senate Ways & Means Chair Christine Rolfes

State Senator Christine Rolfes lives on Bainbridge Island and represents north and central Kitsap County. She is the chair of the powerful Senate Ways & Means Committee, and the lead negotiator for the Senate on state's two-year operating budget. Earlier this year, she helped write the largest budget in the state's history, which made significant investments in education, health care, housing, and environmental health.

Since her election to the state House of Representatives in 2007, Christine has been a leading voice on education funding and reform, economic development, ferry infrastructure, support for military-families and veterans, and environmental protections. Before her election to the House, Christine served two terms on the Bainbridge Island City Council. Christine also worked for the Kitsap County Department of Community Development and for the United States Agency for International Development. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Virginia and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Washington.