

Speaker Information

Jon Smith – Yakima County Development Association

Jonathan is a Certified Economic Developer with twelve years of rural economic development experience. His key accomplishments include successful recruitment of national and international companies and assisting local businesses with expansions and exporting projects. In total, Smith has helped with over fifteen companies locate or expand new operations. These companies have invested over \$1.5 billion in facilities and equipment and have created approximately 1,500 jobs.

Jon also has experience with infrastructure development and has helped secure over \$32 million of grant and loan funding for job creating projects. This includes funding for rail, water, sewer, roads, electrical infrastructure and fiber optics.

Some of Jon's most rewarding work has been coordinating workforce development programs between businesses and educational institutions. These training programs resulted in hundreds of local residents receiving the training and skills they need to be successful in local family wage jobs. Additionally, Jon has worked with small businesses and rural communities to help develop main streets and spur business growth in distressed areas.

Smith is the Chair of the Washington Economic Development Association and a board member of the South Central Workforce Development Council and Yakima SHRM, the local professional HR Association. He has a Master's Degree in Communication & Leadership Studies from Gonzaga University and a Bachelor's Degree in Public Communication with a minor in Economics from the University of Idaho.

Deb Heintz – Prosser Economic Development Association

Deb Heintz is the Executive Director for Prosser Economic Development Association. Prosser EDA is a private, non-profit organization devoted to promoting a sustainable community by leading projects to create economic growth. The association is funded by Benton County, the Port of Benton, the City of Prosser and private industry. Prosser EDA works closely and partners with Tridac and Yakima County Economic Development to bring economic prosperity to the Lower Yakima Valley.

Teresa Brum – 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 CDBG. 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.

Mike Bomar – Port of Vancouver

Mike Bomar was appointed Director of Economic Development in May 2018. His responsibilities include leading port economic development strategic planning; implementing appropriate initiatives and projects for the port district and Clark County; providing strategic leadership on transportation planning; seeking public and private partnership opportunities to achieve cargo growth and new industrial business, and; developing and maintaining strategic partnerships in the community.

Mike previously served as President of the Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC) for more than four years. Prior to joining CREDC, Mike served as the Executive Director of the Southwest Washington Contractors Association for three and a half years and spent six years with the Building Industry Association of Clark County in their governmental affairs department.

Mike currently serves on several professional and nonprofit organization boards, including the Washington Economic Development Association Board (Chair-Elect), Greater Portland 2020 Council, Washington Investment Board and the Ridgefield Main Street Economic Restructuring Committee.

Mike holds a master's degree in Public Affairs from Washington State University Vancouver and a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Communications from the University of Washington.

Mike is a long-time Southwest Washington resident and currently resides in Ridgefield with his wife Audri and their three children. In his free time, he enjoys coaching baseball, running and hiking with his family.

Brian Bonlender – Department of Commerce

Brian Bonlender was appointed director of Commerce by Governor Jay Inslee in January 2013. Under his leadership, the department has revitalized and increased the state's economic development capabilities, expanded and linked its economic and community development programs, implemented a metrics-driven performance system and refocused around the shared purpose of strengthening communities. A Yakima native, Brian served as Inslee's chief-of-staff and legislative director, running the congressman's office and acting as his primary advisor on economic issues. Brian has worked on legislation and policy in a range of industries, including agriculture, life sciences, information technology, aerospace, maritime and clean energy. He brings nearly 20 years of public- and private-sector experience to the post, including working for a non-profit organization, volunteering overseas, and consulting for industries across the state on regulatory compliance. He has a bachelor of science degree from Washington State University. Brian lives in Seattle with his wife and two children. Visit Brian's Director's Update blog.

Diahann Howard – Port of Benton

Steve Warner was appointed as President & CEO of the Washington State Wine Commission in February 2012. Steve came to the Commission from Merck & Co., Inc., where he was the Managing Director based in Bucharest, Romania. Prior to that, he held General Manager and marketing positions in global and regional marketing in the Asia Pacific region and led teams while living in Seoul, South Korea; Bangkok, Thailand; and several domestic markets.



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In addition to a bachelor's degree in biology, Steve holds a master's of business administration in international business and finance from Rutgers University.

Born and raised in eastern Washington State, Steve graduated from West Seattle High School before serving in the United States military's Special Operations Command, first as a Sergeant in Pararescue and then as a Lieutenant Commander in U.S. Navy Special Operations.

Carl Adrian – TRIDEC

Carl Adrian has been President of the Tri-City Development Council (TRIDEC) since 2003.

Before moving to the Tri-Cities Carl served for nine years as President of the Cedar Valley Economic Development Corporation in Waterloo/Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Prior to accepting the position with the Cedar Valley EDC, Carl served as the President of the Casper Area Economic Development Alliance, Inc. based in Casper, Wyoming and before that was Vice President of the Quad-City Development Group in the Quad-City area of Iowa and Illinois.

Carl's educational background includes a BA in Political Science and Geography and an MA in Urban and Economic Geography from the University of Iowa.

Jayson Bisbee – Union Pacific Railroad

Jayson Bisbee currently serves as lead - Economic & Industrial Development for Union Pacific Railroad. In his position, Bisbee is responsible for the company's economic and industrial development activities in Northern California, Oregon and Washington. Bisbee works with various stakeholders on the development, expansion and site location of new (and expanding) customers served by Union Pacific Railroad.

Previously, Bisbee served as senior business manager on Union Pacific's Agricultural Products Team, a position he held since January 2014. Since joining Union Pacific in 2005, Bisbee has held a variety of roles in marketing, sales and logistics.

Bisbee graduated with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and also earned an MBA from Bellevue University.

He and his wife, Heidi, have two children.

Ron Bertasi – GIS WebTech

Ron has over 25 years of experience in business leadership positions, the last 15 at the CEO and board level. Ron joined GIS WebTech in 2016 and led the company to its current position as the fastest-growing provider of technology to the economic development sector, with clients of all sizes across the country.

Ron has served on numerous corporate and community boards. He began his career as a geologist, back in the stone age.



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Ron has a BA from Colgate, MS from UCLA, and MBA from Dartmouth. He and his wife Cathy have three children and are looking forward to making the last of their college tuition payments.

Steve Warner – WA Wine Commission

Steve Warner was appointed as President & CEO of the Washington State Wine Commission in February 2012. Steve came to the Commission from Merck & Co., Inc., where he was the Managing Director based in Bucharest, Romania. Prior to that, he held General Manager and marketing positions in global and regional marketing in the Asia Pacific region and led teams while living in Seoul, South Korea; Bangkok, Thailand; and several domestic markets.

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Jim Huffman – Port of Douglas County

Jim Huffman served four years in the US Navy starting in 1968 at the height of the Vietnam War and was involved with the early application of integrated circuits in airborne electronic warfare equipment. Following his service, he completed his college education at Central Washington University. He returned to his pre-war job at Chelan County Public Utility District in 1974 overseeing environmental and regulatory compliance and later managing the PUD's power sales contracts.

Jim is a Port of Douglas County Commissioner and has been since 1994. He has also served as the Executive Director of Quest for Economic Development and Executive Director of Mission Ridge Public Development Authority. He currently serves on the Boards of Greater Wenatchee Area Technology Alliance and the North Central Washington Economic Development District. The Port of Douglas County has been involved with cryptocurrency miners and blockchain technology for the past four years working extensively with the Douglas County Public Utility District.

Marc Spinner – Waypoint Health Mgmt

Marc has over 20 years of experience in navigating his clients' investments through the treacherous waters of Wall Street. Focusing on individual bonds and systematic allocation of mutual funds and exchange-traded funds, Marc blends a personalized set of investment choices for his clients. Marc employs the use of the DisciplinedIQ method to promote suitable investing practices.

Marc has always enjoyed exercising his civic responsibility to improve the world around him. He is currently a member of the Prosser Rotary, senior advisor to the Willowbrook homeowners association and is a board member of the Friends of Badger Mountain, a non-profit organization promoting intelligent use of open space.

Marc, his wife Linda, and his children Jeffrey and Paul enjoy camping, mineral collecting, skiing, backpacking and any other activity which takes them outdoors. Marc is an avid tennis player.

Jason Levine – Dun & Bradstreet

Since 1993, Jason Levine has been a leader in information technology sales and sales management with a focus on the government marketplace. As vice president for D&B State and Local Government, Jason manages all aspects of sales and marketing of Dun & Bradstreet capabilities to state, and local governments throughout the United States.

Dun & Bradstreet enables better government by uncovering truth and meaning from data. For over 90 years, Dun & Bradstreet has adapted our proprietary data and analytics into high-impact public sector solutions – delivering maximum taxpayer value. Dun & Bradstreet enables better outcomes for government organizations across the globe, partnering with many federal, state, and provincial agencies including all 15 U.S. Cabinet-level departments, the European Commission, and the United Nations – as well as nearly 90% of Fortune 500 companies.

From the largest federal agencies to the smallest state and provincial jurisdictions, Dun & Bradstreet works with agencies in every facet of government—providing timely and critical information to support national security, improve operations, drive economic growth, and reduce fraud, waste, and abuse.

Dr. Lav Khot – WA State University

Dr. Khot works in the Agricultural Automation Engineering research emphasis area of the Department of Biological Systems Engineering. His research and extension program focuses on “Sensing and automation technologies for site specific and precision management of production agriculture”. Special emphasis is towards integration of

Remote Sensing (Unmanned and Manned Aerial Systems)

Ground-based (Proximal) Crop Sensing

Decision Support Systems and Information Delivery Technologies

Precise Applications of various Production Inputs

Agricultural Machinery and Processes

Data-based Modeling

Mark Scheffel – Advantage Capital

Mark Scheffel serves as a senior vice president for InState Partners. Given his experience as both a legislator and practicing attorney, Mr. Scheffel plays an important role in helping Instate Partners clients navigate the challenges presented by state governments.

With over 25 years of professional experience in business and public service, Mr. Scheffel most recently served as the Senate Majority Leader in the Colorado State Senate, representing State Senate District 4 as the second-highest-ranking Republican in the Colorado Senate. A member of the Colorado Senate

since 2008, he has dedicated his career in public service championing both small businesses and Colorado's taxpayers, leading legislative efforts to help small businesses grow and expand and provide more transparency in state government for taxpayers. Mr. Scheffel has worked as a practicing business and tax attorney since 1989, starting his own firm, Reid and Scheffel, P.C. in 1993. He has represented individual, corporate, and governmental entity clients in tax, business, and regulatory matters.

Mr. Scheffel received his J.D. from John Marshall School of Law, his LL.M. degree in taxation from New York University's School of Law and his bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Denver.

Bruce Kendall – EDB Tacoma/Pierce County

Bruce is the driving force behind the EDB. He's an impassioned liaison to the board members and broader community, enthusiastically advocating for regional economic opportunity in Tacoma-Pierce County.

Donald Meseck – Regional Labor Economist

Donald W. Meseck is assigned to the Workforce Information and Technology Services (WITS) Division of the Washington State Employment Security Department. He has worked for the Department since 1983 with the exception of several recalls from reserve to active military service with the U.S. Army, totaling approximately seven years. As a man who wore "two hats," Don hung one of them up in February 2001 when he retired from the Army Reserve with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. For the last five plus years of his military reserve service he was assigned to the 364th Civil Affairs Brigade, U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command. However, from February 2009-February 2010 Don was recalled to Active Duty and served in Iraq as Agricultural Chief for the 1st Corps, Multi-National Forces - Iraq. His military tenure spanned 26 years with 16 overseas assignments. His military decorations include the Combat Action Badge and the Bronze Star.

Since 1998, Don has been serving as a Regional Labor Economist with the Washington State Employment Security Department. His geographic area of responsibility for economic analysis is Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Kittitas, Okanogan, and Yakima Counties. On a monthly basis he reviews nonagricultural employment estimates for each of these counties which are prepared using a Current Employment Statistics (CES) sample. Don writes monthly Labor Area Summaries about employment trends in these local labor markets, and prepares annual County Profiles for each of the seven counties he serves. He also conducts numerous economic presentations to local business and government organizations (i.e., WorkSource offices, economic development councils, chambers of commerce, banks, realtors, Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, community colleges, universities, etc.) throughout Central Washington, and has spoken at, and/or organized, several regional economic symposiums.

Don earned a BA degree from Alfred University, Alfred, New York in 1973; an MA from Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington in 1981; and an MBA from Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma,

Washington in 1988. He also graduated on the Commandant's List from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Erin McCallum – FIRST Washington

Erin McCallum has spent 25 years successfully raising more than \$162 million for a number of high-profile community organizations in this region and is a proven leader in both non-profit and political fund raising communities. Erin is an active volunteer with several nonprofit and community organizations including serving on the Board of Directors for Girl Scouts of Western Washington and troop leader and member of Snoqualmie Valley Rotary. The mentors, coaches, and volunteers are the people who inspire her every day as they work to ignite and excite Washington youth to find their passion for STEM.

Rebecca Kennedy – City of Vancouver

As Vancouver's Long Range Planning Manager, Rebecca oversees projects and programs that together enhance Vancouver's livability and ensure that it continues to be a great place to live, work and do business. This includes planning for the physical and economic development of Vancouver through comprehensive land use, transportation, economic, environmental, neighborhood and district planning. Rebecca has significant experience in land use and redevelopment planning, including transit-oriented development, adaptive reuse, creative placemaking, and equity-based neighborhood revitalization strategies. She holds a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from Portland State University, and undergraduate degrees in Journalism and Political Science from the University of Oregon. Rebecca is a long-time board member of Housing Land Advocates, a non-profit that advocates for affordable and accessible housing, and the Urban Land Institute's Northwest Chapter.

Brittany Bagent, Columbia River Economic Development Council

As Director of Strategy at the Columbia River Economic Development Council, Brittany Bagent manages research projects, local and regional policy, and Clark County's Comprehensive Economic Development Plan implementation. Brittany previously worked as an urban planner for a private consulting firm in Chicago where she designed fiscal impact tools, economic development strategies, and feasibility studies. She holds a B.A. in Urban and Regional Planning from Miami University (Ohio) and a master's degree in Urban Planning and Policy with a concentration in economic development from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Linda Nguyen – WorkForce Central

Linda Nguyen is the Chief Executive Officer for WorkForce Central and chief staff to the Pierce County Workforce Development Council (WDC). As such, she oversees all facets of the organization, including strengthening partnerships to enhance the local workforce development system. Her primary focus is to ensure that our residents gain skills to fill available family wage jobs and ensure that our local businesses are able to find qualified talent to be globally competitive.

Nguyen has 27 years of experience in all aspects of workforce development, beginning as youth case manager and advancing through program management and development, planning and compliance, department lead, and funds acquisition. She holds a Baccalaureate degree from the University of Puget Sound and is a board member of the Tacoma Pierce County Economic Development Board, Chair of United Way of Pierce County, board member of Geneva Foundation and the U.S. Conference of Mayors Workforce Development Council. She is also active on multiple college and K-12 advisory committees.

Janea Delk – CERB Program Director

Janea Delk is the Program Director & Tribal Liaison for the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB). She came to CERB in 2004, and – other than working for CERB – she has also worked with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the Public Works Board (PWB). CERB is a 20-member volunteer board. The Board is comprised of stakeholder members, business members and Legislators. CERB invests in public infrastructure to support private job creation and investment. Janea works with potential clients to develop projects to bring to the Board for approval. CERB's construction projects have a public and private component, which is a very unique aspect of the program. With this, she has first-hand knowledge of the challenges that many of our local jurisdictions are facing when trying to fund economic development in their area. She works with the Board's Policy Committee to develop Board policy and potential legislation. Janea is also the Co-Chair of the Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC). Janea is also working towards her Professional Community and Economic Develop (PCeD) certification through the Northwest Community Development Institute (NWCDI).

Senator Sharon Brown – 8th Legislative District

Sharon R. Brown was appointed 8th District state senator in February 2013 and was elected by voters later that year to a full four-year term.

In 2014, Sharon was chosen by her colleagues to serve as Vice President Pro Tempore of the Senate, one of two members elected by the Senate to preside over the chamber during the absence of the Lieutenant Governor. She is currently the Deputy Leader of Senate Republican Caucus.

Since her arrival in the Legislature, Sharon has been a vocal advocate for employers and the Senate's leading voice for regulatory reform, working tirelessly to make it easier for entrepreneurs and small-business owners to grow, expand and hire more workers.

Michelle Hennings – Washington Association of Wheat Growers

I grew up on a family wheat and cattle farm in Ritzville, WA. My husband, Scott, farms and ranches wheat, hay and cattle. We have two children, daughter Harlee, 12 and son Hayes, 10. I attended college at Washington State University and finished my bachelor's degree in accounting and business at Eastern Washington University. I worked at an accounting firm for 3 years right out of college. When I moved back to my hometown Ritzville 13 years ago, I went to work for the Washington Association of Wheat Growers as finance director. In 2014, I became the Executive Director of WAWG. I provide

overall management, planning, vision and leadership for all aspects of WAWG. I assume a leadership role throughout the state in partnering with and collaborating with government officials, like minded agriculture groups and the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG). I love working for the industry because I understand and relate to the issues at hand, and how important advocating for the livelihoods of farmers. As executive director, wheat farmers can expect me to work hard and mobilize individuals, partners, and key stakeholders towards accomplishing goals that directly benefit the industry. The wheat industry, along with all of agriculture, is facing pressure from every angle. It is imperative the wheat industry works closely with other commodity groups and provides responsible and economical solutions to issues. I never thought I would be involved in policy or politics of any nature when I was younger. It's rewarding to me to know that something I thought I couldn't do is now something I love and have a passion for. My message to those who don't know a lot about agriculture or farming is that we feed the world and provide a reliable, safe food supply. Farmers are good stewards of the land. They care about the environment and land because their livelihood depends on it. I wouldn't pick any other lifestyle. My husband and I are raising our children with the same core values, work ethic, and having respect for our family, land, water, people and livelihood as we were raised with. Nothing is more rewarding or better than that. Hobbies include coaching youth girls school and AAU basketball, softball, and equestrian youth drill team; horseback riding on our ranch; Recreational activities on Lake Roosevelt.

Steven Sudol – Ste Michelle Wine Est.

Steven Sudol is the Director of Operations for Ste Michelle Wine Estates. Based at company headquarters in Woodinville, WA, he is responsible for the entire company's Procurement activities, as well as wine production, maintenance and capital projects for the company's 105-acre Woodinville campus.

He earned an MBA with a concentration in Management from Seattle University, and holds a BA in Social Sciences from San Jose State University. He lives in Edmonds, WA.

Ste Michelle Wine Estates is Washington's founding winery, with a distinguished history that dates back to 1934. Its Washington portfolio includes Chateau Ste Michelle, Columbia Crest, 14 Hands, Col Solare, Northstar, and Spring Valley, as well as other emerging brands.

Mike Ennis - Association of Washington Business

Mike Ennis is AWB's director of government affairs on transportation, land use, regulatory reform, water resources, aviation, and telecom. Mike also manages AWB's election process. 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



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“Roadmap for Mobility.” His work has been covered in many local and national media 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 served three terms 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 Buckley with his wife, Heidi, their two children, Camryn and Collin, and their two dogs, May and Millie.

This event is recognized by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) as a professional development event that counts towards the recertification of Certified Economic Developers (CECDs).



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