

Workshop on Regional Innovation and Economic Development

May 8, 2023

Biographies of Speakers

OLUGBENGA AJILORE

Olugbenga Ajilore is a senior advisor for Rural Development at the United States Department of Agriculture. Prior to his current role, he was a senior economist at the Center for American Progress and former associate professor of economics at the University of Toledo. His expertise includes regional development, macroeconomic policy, and issues in diversity and inclusion. He has testified before Congress and has been featured in The New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post. He holds a Ph.D in economics from Claremont Graduate University and a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

DENNIS ALVORD

Dennis Alvord serves as EDA's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Development and Chief Operating Officer and is responsible for enterprise-wide operations and program execution. Active in the Department, he was elected as Co-Chair of the Department Management Council, comprised of senior executives from all of Commerce's principal operating units. Previously, as Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary, he worked on a broad portfolio of department-wide management, operations, program and policy issues and co-chaired the Department of Commerce's 2016-17 Presidential Transition, coordinating efforts across the Department and with the White House and President Elect's Transition Team. Preceding his Senior Advisor role, he led start-ups as Executive Director of BusinessUSA and as Executive Director of the Department of Commerce's CommerceConnect initiative.

Today, Alvord serves as Chair of the Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). His service as Chair provides an important opportunity to help shape the priorities of the RDPC in terms of their cutting-edge research and policy analysis for policymakers and practitioners across the 38-member-country committee.

Alvord holds a Master of Public Administration from George Washington University and a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the State University of New York College at Cortland.

AARON BRICKMAN

Aaron Brickman is a senior principal in Rocky Mountain Institute's (RMI) US Program, leading efforts at the intersection of clean energy and economic development. Building on RMI strengths with amazing colleagues, he works to accelerate clean energy deployment and investment in the cleantech manufacturing supply chain — catalytic actions with enormous potential to boost economic growth and competitiveness.

Brickman has been a successful entrepreneur, problem-solver, and leader in public- and private-sector roles, with 25 years of experience in building and leading economic development, investment, and trade programs in the government and beyond. Prior to joining RMI, he was the executive vice president of Global Business Alliance and founding deputy executive director of SelectUSA, a global agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce charged with promoting and facilitating foreign direct investment in the United States. He holds a B.A. in international studies from American University and an M.A. in international relations from University of Chicago.

SCOTT DEMPWOLF

C. Scott Dempwolf has been with the University of Maryland since 2007 and is currently a research scientist in the College of Information Studies (iSchool) focused on community information science—how information shapes emerging communities (ecosystems) and how those communities shape information as they grow. He teaches core iSchool courses on data science methods and graduate courses on smart cities. Before the iSchool, he was an assistant research professor in UMD's urban planning program, directing an EDA-sponsored university center for 10 years and teaching economic development. Dempwolf is a senior advisor on ecosystems and network modeling for the Agile Strategy Lab at the University of North Alabama working on platforms supporting innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystems. Research sponsors have included the US EDA, SBA, NSF, and Kauffman Foundation, among others. He has authored / co-authored several highly-cited papers and innovative client research reports. Prior to academia, Dempwolf practiced economic and community development for 20 years at neighborhood, city, county, and regional levels, earning a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) designation. He earned his Ph.D. from University of Maryland, a master's degree from Temple University, a bachelor's degree from MIT, and an Associate in Arts from St. Petersburg College.

MARYANN FELDMAN

(Co-chair of the Innovation Policy Forum)

Maryann P. Feldman is the Watts Endowed Professor of Public Affairs at Arizona State University. Her research and teaching interests focus on the areas of innovation, the commercialization of academic research, and the factors that promote technological change and economic growth. From 2014 to 2017, Feldman held a joint appointment at the National Science Foundation as the Science of Science and Innovation Policy (SciSIP) Program Director. Feldman's early work revealed that universities were necessary, but not sufficient, for technology-based economic development. These findings launched a new area of investigation into university technology transfer. She has written extensively on processes and mechanisms to commercialize academic research, areas germane to the SBIR/STTR programs. She earned her Ph.D. in economics and management from Carnegie Mellon University.

CARLA FRISCH

Carla Frisch is the Acting Executive Director and Principal Deputy Director of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Policy; she has served in this capacity since February 2021. As the leader of the DOE Office of Policy, Frisch is on point for domestic energy and climate policy. She works closely with the White House and Capitol Hill. She previously led the U.S. Program at RMI, focusing on state, city, and business climate action. Before joining RMI, Frisch worked at DOE for ten years directing policy and analysis offices focused on climate and environment, energy efficiency, renewable energy, clean transportation, and electricity systems. Frisch has worked extensively on climate vulnerabilities and solutions, including on the National Climate Assessment and U.S. Midcentury Strategy. She holds a Master of Environmental Management from Duke University and a B.A. from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is an Adjunct Professor at Northwestern University.

THOMAS GUEVARA

(Co-chair of the Innovation Policy Forum)

Tom Guevara joined the IU Public Policy Institute (PPI) as its fifth director in April of 2017. Prior to PPI, Guevara spent six years as deputy assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. In his role there, he led the federal economic development agenda, promoting innovation and competitiveness to help U.S. workers and businesses compete globally. As the agency's most senior career officer, he led the Economic Development Administration during the transition of presidential administrations while performing the duties of the assistant secretary for economic development.

Guevara has worked in a variety of state and local government positions in Indiana in addition to a six-year career in the private sector with Crowe Horwath LLP in Indianapolis. He served as the assistant budget director for the Health and Human Services division of the Indiana State Budget Agency and also worked as controller for the city of Bloomington.

SUSAN HELPER

Susan Helper is the Senior Advisor for industrial strategy at White House Office of Management and Budget, and Frank Tracy Carlton Professor of Economics at the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University. She served as the chief economist of the U.S. Department of Commerce from 2013 to 2015, and as senior economist at the White House Council of Economic Advisors in 2012-2013. Her research focuses on the globalization of supply chains and on how U.S. manufacturing might be revitalized. Helper received her B.A. from Oberlin College in economics, government, and Spanish, and her Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University.

DAVID ISAACS

David Isaacs is vice president of government affairs at the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA), where he is responsible for all aspects of the association's work related to government policy and advocacy before the U.S. Congress, the Executive Branch, and international organizations. Before joining SIA, Isaacs was senior vice president, government relations of Solazyme Inc., a leading renewable energy startup based in South San Francisco, California. In that capacity he was responsible for securing government support to advance Solazyme's commercialization and research objectives. He previously served as director, government affairs for Hewlett-Packard Company, where he led the DC office and directed a global team on HP's technology, environmental, energy policy, and other priority policy matters. He was an associate at the law firm of Beveridge & Diamond, P.C. in Washington, DC, and started his career as a law clerk at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco.

Isaacs is a graduate of Tufts University, and received a law degree at Columbia University. He lives with his family in Washington, DC. He is admitted to the bar in New York and the District of Columbia.

MELINA KENNEDY

Melina Kennedy is CEO of Central Indiana Corporate Partnership which consists of CEOs of prominent businesses, academia, and philanthropy to drive economic prosperity for the region. She has more than 25 years of experience in law, government, and business, including 11 years as a senior leader at Cummins Inc., a fortune 500 global power technology company where she held a variety of leadership roles in the Engine and Power Systems businesses as well as Vice President in Compliance and Regulatory Affairs. In addition, she had a successful law career at Baker and Daniels LLP; and was Deputy Mayor for Economic Development for the City of Indianapolis.

Kennedy is active in her community and served as President of the Capital Improvement Board and is currently a board member for the National Bank of Indianapolis; chair of the IU Health Foundation REV event; a board member of the Indiana

University Academic Medical Center; and on the NBA 2024 All Star Committee. She has been recognized as a IBJ 250 Most Influential Leader, IBJ Forty Under 40, IBJ Influential Women, and Indiana University Varsity Club Leanne Grotke Award recipient as a former IU Varsity letter winner. She is a graduate of Indiana University with B.S., M.S. and J.D. degrees.

KATHLEEN KINGSCOTT

(Member of the Innovation Policy Forum)

Kathleen Kingscott is Senior Advisor, consulting in support of IBM Research. She recently retired as Vice President, Strategic Partnerships, IBM Research, where she was responsible for developing collaborative research partnerships between IBM, industry, academia and government. Ms. Kingscott served as IBM's alternate member of the Semiconductor Industry Association Board of Directors and held the IBM Industry Chair at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University. Earlier roles include Director of Worldwide Innovation Policy for the IBM Corporation, responsible for worldwide public policy matters regarding innovation, science and technology. Her global team provided political and legislative support on innovation policy matters ranging from fundamental and applied multidisciplinary research to semiconductor and supercomputing technology policy. She also focused on innovation-based regional economic growth. She is a founder and served as co-chair of the Task Force on American Innovation, a coalition of 60+ companies, university and trade associations, and professional societies which supports federal investment in scientific research. She is a member of the Innovation Policy Forum of the National Academy of Sciences and the Board of Managers of the American Institute of Physics Publishing.

ONNA LEBEAU

Onna LeBeau, a member of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, serves as the Director of the Office of Indian Economic Development (OIED) at the Bureau of Indian Affairs. LeBeau comes to the Department of Interior as the former Executive Director of the Black Hills Community Loan Fund since 2015, where she had the honor of expanding the loan fund from a solely homeownership-focused non-profit to one that provides the community with options for credit building and business development. LeBeau's passion for community development started in 2001 shortly after graduating from Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD, with degrees in finance and economics. She worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Great Plains Region, Office of Economic Development, serving as loan specialist for the BIA loan guarantee program from 2002 to 2007.

LeBeau wanted to further her experience working with the people and left the federal government to pursue her career in the non-profit world by working at Oweesta Corporation as Lending and Reporting Director. She furthered her education at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, where she earned her Master's in Applied Sciences with an emphasis on non-profit management in native communities and native community development. Subsequently, she worked at the Great Plains Tribal Leader's Health Board as Development Director and at Partners with Native Americans, where she focused on Native food sustainability projects and managed the American Indian education fund. LeBeau's passion for the people led her to advocate for those who are driven to survive their historical trauma by providing a means to a healthier way of living financially. She does this in a way that further empowers the individual by providing access to technical assistance and loan capital.

BRANDON MCBRIDE

Brandon McBride joined the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) as the Executive Director in November 2020. In this role, McBride works closely with the Federal Co-Chair and 13 Member Governors and their staffs to lead implementation of the Commission's economic and community development initiatives.

Previously, McBride served as the Administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service. In this role, McBride led the agency as it made significant investments in improvements to existing and new infrastructure across rural America with a focus on water and waste treatment, electric power, and telecommunications services. McBride has also served as the Vice President for Federal Relations at the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), overseeing legislative and regulatory issues affecting the organization. He has legislative experience as well, having been a senior staff member for the United States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, and a senior legislative assistant for a United States Senator from Arkansas. McBride earned his undergraduate degrees as well as his Master's degree in Public Administration from Arkansas State University.

IRA MOSKOWITZ

Ira Moskowitz is the Chief Executive Officer of the Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing (ARM) Institute, a national consortium of 400 organizations representing the entire ecosystem of the U.S. robotics industry. The ARM Institute's mission is to accelerate the adoption of automation and AI technologies, the foundations of advanced manufacturing. ARM leverages a consortium across industry, academia and government to make robots and artificial intelligence more accessible to U.S. manufacturers, train and empower the workforce, and help the nation become more resilient and competitive.

Prior to ARM, Moskowitz served as Director, Advanced Manufacturing Programs for Massachusetts and led the state's efforts for manufacturing innovation. Previously, Moskowitz spent over 35 years managing semiconductor manufacturing including wafer fabrication, assembly and testing in the U.S., Europe and Asia. Most recently, he was the Vice President and General Manager of U.S. Operations at Analog Devices. Prior to Analog Devices, Moskowitz was a Supervisor and Distinguished Member of Technical Staff at AT&T Bell Labs.

Moskowitz holds an MBA from New York University, an M.S. in electrical engineering and computer science from MIT, and a B.S. in electrical engineering from University of Rochester.

PRAVINA RAGHAVAN

Pravina Raghavan is the Director of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Since 1988, MEP's industry experts have worked side by side with their partners in the public and private sectors to strengthen communities and U.S. manufacturing.

Raghavan has more than 20 years of experience providing advisory services to businesses in the startup, growth, expansion and maturity phases of development. She most recently served as executive vice president in the Division of Small Business and Technology Development for Empire State Development, the New York State economic development agency. While there, she led the New York MEP, which provides more than \$10 billion in economic impact. She also led several statewide COVID-19 response programs focused on small business recovery.

Raghavan previously served as deputy associate administrator of investment and innovation at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), district director for SBA's New York District Office, and was a senior adviser to then-Deputy Secretary of Commerce Bruce H. Andrews. Raghavan has wide experience in the private sector, as an entrepreneur, in investment banking, and more. She has an MBA from Seton Hall and a B.S. in finance from Pennsylvania State University.

CAROL ROBBINS

(Member of the Innovation Policy Forum)

Carol Robbins is a senior economist and analyst in the Science, Technology, and Innovation Analysis Program in the National Science Foundation's (NSF) National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES). Her work at NCSES is focused on improving the data provided within the federal statistical system on the measurement of intangible investment and innovation, including R&D, open-source software, patents, and trademarks. She is the author of the 2022 Science and Engineering Indicators report, *Invention, Knowledge Transfer, and Innovation*. Prior to joining NCSES, she worked for more than a decade at the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), where she played a leading role in the conceptual and empirical work behind the BEA-NSF R&D satellite account and subsequent inclusion of R&D as investment in U.S. national, industry, and regional economic accounts.

While at BEA, Robbins was awarded the U.S. Department of Commerce Gold Medal for work creating an R&D satellite account. At NSF, she was awarded the Director's award for her role in reinventing the Science and Engineering Indicators report in 2020. She has served on several international advisory bodies on the measurement of R&D and intangibles in national economic accounts and is a member of the National Bureau of Economic Research's Conference on Research in Income and Wealth.

Robbins has a B.A. in economics from Bryn Mawr College and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Delaware.