

The National Academies of **SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE**

MEETING REGIONAL STEMM WORKFORCE NEEDS IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19: A VIRTUAL WORKSHOP SERIES

Riverside Workshop - Speaker Biographies

Stuart Andreason is the director of the Center for Workforce and Economic Opportunity at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. He conducts research and works across the country to support Federal Reserve and partner organization efforts in workforce development, the labor market, and economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income workers. Andreason has been at the Federal Reserve since 2014 and previously served as a senior adviser on human capital and workforce development. In that role he has published articles on workforce development practice and policy and labor market trends, including deep analysis of opportunity occupations, or middle-skill jobs that pay high wages. He is the editor of *Developing Career-Based Training and Models for Labor Market Intermediaries*.

Prior to joining the Atlanta Fed, Andreason was a research associate at the Penn Institute for Urban Research at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn IUR). There, he helped develop a set of indicators of livable and sustainable communities for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funded by the Ford Foundation. He was a fellow of the Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences at Penn and a Lincoln Institute of Land Policy C. Lowell Harriss fellow. Previously, he led two nonprofit organizations focused on economic revitalization in central Virginia and worked for the Pew Partnership for Civic Change. He has bachelor's and master's degrees in urban and environmental planning from the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania.

Rex Beck is a Professor at Norco College. He is the founder of the college's Logistics Management Program and is responsible for development and implementation of Logistics Management courses. He has over 20 years of successful logistics management experience, including materials management, logistics analysis and administrative support, logistics customer field and call center support, warehouse management system implementation, reverse logistics, warehouse management, and quality system implementation and management.

While maintaining close relationships with local industry and professional associations, Professor Beck has also consulted other institutions in the process of developing logistics management programs. Articles written by Professor Beck have been published by *Inbound Logistics Magazine* and *APICS Magazine*. He also serves as a reviewer of business curriculum state-wide for the California Community College's C-ID office. Beck has been recognized by the largest professional societies in the logistics industry. Most recently he was honored as a Fellow by APICS (the Association for Supply Chain Management). In addition to his Fellow status as Certified in Logistics, Transportation & Distribution, Beck was among the first individuals to be designated as a Certified Professional in Supply Management by the Institute for Supply Management (ISM). He has also been awarded lifetime status as both Certified in Production and Inventory Management by APICS, and as a Certified Purchasing Manager by the ISM. Beck's international credentials include acceptance as a fully qualified Member of the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply, as well as a Diploma in Supply Chain Management from the International Trade Centre, a joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations.

A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, Beck has an M.B.A. from the California State University at San Bernardino. He is a member of the Warehousing Education and Research Council (WERC), and the International Supply Chain Education Alliance (ISCEA).

Chris Cagle is the Regional Affairs Manager for the South Bay Workforce Investment Board. His duties include managing the special projects department, grant writing, program design and apprenticeship development. He also serves as the organization's Marketing Director. Chris was instrumental in securing a \$12MM Department of Labor grant for apprenticeship development, which was the only award provided to California under that offering. Chris was also part of the team that created Aero-Flex and Bio-Flex, which are both apprenticeship programs for advanced manufacturing. This work resulted in an apprenticeship occupation for Aerospace engineering, which became the first of its kind to be registered in United States with the U.S. Department of Labor. Chris is frequently a guest speaker on workforce development issues at many community events and was previously a two-term city council member representing the residents of District 2 in Redondo Beach, CA; he holds a master's degree in Political Science.

Byron Ford is the Associate Dean of Pre-Clerkship Medical Education at the University of California, Riverside (UCR) School of Medicine. Prior to joining UCR in 2015, he was Professor and Vice Chairman in the Department of Neurobiology at the Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM). Ford served as a Senior Staff Scientist at National Institutes of Health (NIH) before joining the faculty at MSM. His laboratory has studied mechanisms of neuroprotection and inflammatory mediators in ischemic stroke for over 20 years. He has been the recipient of NIH and Department of Defense grants to investigate the neuroprotective roles of neuregulin-1 in stroke, traumatic brain injury, cerebral malaria and as a countermeasure for nerve agent exposure. His work has yielded nine full U.S. patents and several additional patent applications. Ford was a member of the National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke Advisory Council at NIH from 2012-2016.

Ford has been involved with professional undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral student training for over twenty years and has been directly involved in the training of 10 postdoctoral fellows, 23 graduate/medical students and over 100 undergraduate students. In 2017, Ford received a grant from the NIH Bridges to the Baccalaureate (B2B) Program, which was established between UCR and Riverside City College (RCC) to create a research education program to facilitate transfer of diverse RCC students into STEM majors. Ford holds a B.S. in Biology from Grambling State University and a Ph.D. in Physiology/ Neuroscience from Meharry Medical College. He completed his post-doctoral work in neurobiology at Harvard Medical School.

Van Freeman currently serves as Director for Future Workforce Development and Strategy for the Aerospace Industries Association, where he is focused on developing a strong workforce pipeline for members through programs with government agencies, national STEM skills initiatives, and coherent workforce policy principles. Freeman previously served as Deputy Chief of Staff at the DC Department of Employment Services, directing the District of Columbia's state labor agency. He oversaw all employment, training, business development, labor law enforcement, worker safety, universal paid family leave, and unemployment insurance programs funded at more than \$150M in local, state, and federal funds. He also managed an additional \$80M in active capital projects, including the DC Infrastructure Academy and the Universal Paid Family Leave program. Freeman managed the strategic messaging, communications, legislative portfolio, stakeholder engagement, and regulatory rule-making process for the Department, as well as human resource and talent acquisition for over 700 employees and the unemployment compensation unit that provides benefits to all district residence.

Freeman served as the Senior Advisor to the National Director at the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), where he advised the National Director and senior leadership team on strategic decisions, national programing, high level fiscal approaches, and congressional priorities. Before transitioning to his role at MBDA, President Obama appointed Freeman to serve as a Deputy Director in the Department of Commerce's Office of the Secretary in 2013.

Freeman began his career at General Motors (GM) as a Manufacturing Engineer, eventually moving up to Production Supervisor at GM's parts distribution center in Pontiac, MI. He then held a position with UBS Investment Bank in London, UK, as a Business Analyst. He then joined President Obama's campaign staff in Cleveland, OH, for the 2008 and 2012 election cycles. Freeman holds a B.S. in Mathematics from Morehouse College and a J.D. from Southern University Law Center.

Noel Hacegaba is the Deputy Executive Director of Administration and Operations for the Port of Long Beach, California. He is responsible for managing the day-to-day administrative and operating functions of the Port, including finance, human resources, real estate, business development, operations, communications and security. Hacegaba served as the Port's Managing Director of Commercial Operations and Chief Commercial Officer from 2014-2018. In this role, he was the senior executive responsible for developing and executing business development strategies to drive cargo and revenue growth. Hacegaba successfully managed the Port's commercial activities during a period of significant industry realignment and led the swift recovery of its largest container terminal following the biggest bankruptcy in shipping line industry history, clearing the path for record volumes in 2017 and 2018. He also led the Port's business development, operations, customer service and security functions, and collaborated with customers and industry partners to optimize the supply chain and drive cargo growth. Previously, Hacegaba served as the Port's Acting Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer and was responsible for managing the day-to-day business activities of the Port. He began his career at the Port in 2010 as the Executive Officer to the Board of Harbor Commissioners, a position that reported directly to the Board and coordinated the governing body's policy, administrative and communications functions.

An active member of the community and the goods movement industry, Hacegaba serves in various leadership roles, including Chairman of the Professional Development Board of the American Association of Port Authorities. He is also a member of the Marine Exchange of Southern California Board of Directors, Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce Board of Directors, St. Mary Medical Center Board of Trustees, Long Beach City College Foundation Board of Governors and the Los Angeles/Long Beach Propeller Club. He was also elected to the Board of Directors of the Intermodal Association of North America, the largest organization representing the combined interests of the intermodal freight transportation industry. Hacegaba is a graduate of the University of Southern California, where he earned degrees in economics (B.A. and M.A.), business administration (B.S.) and urban planning (M.P.L.). He earned his doctorate in public administration at the University of La Verne, where he continues to serve on the faculty of the school's College of Business and Public Management.

Wolde-Ab Isaac is the Chancellor of Riverside Community College District, the fifth largest community college district in the state of California with colleges in the cities of Moreno Valley, Norco and Riverside. A noted scholar and education activist, Isaac has more than 35 years of experience as an educator, faculty member and administrator. He came to RCCD in 2006 as Dean of Health Science at the Moreno Valley campus. In 2012 he was named Vice President of Academic Affairs at Riverside City College (RCC), and later as interim president of RCC. In 2015, he was appointed as Riverside City College's 11th president. Isaac served as president of the University of Asmara in Eritrea from 1993 to 2006 and previously was a senior clinical researcher with AstraZeneca, a position he held for 12 years.

Isaac embraces collaboration through shared governance with the District stakeholders and uses research-based evidence to support new initiatives. A Fulbright Scholar, Isaac was born in Eritrea, East Africa, and graduated from Ethiopia's Haile Selassie University where he majored in chemistry. His graduate studies and work later took him to the University of Uppsala in Sweden, eventually returning to Eritrea to work as government secretary of Human Resources. He went on to attend the University of Michigan, earning an M.S. and Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry.

Jeannie Kim is the Interim Vice Chancellor, Educational Services & Strategic Planning at Riverside Community College District. As a cultural anthropologist, Kim is a keen observer of socio-cultural ecology both ideological and human, particularly in the nexus between education and technology. Her 25+ years of experience as a leader and change agent in higher education fuels her insights into how best to create communities of innovation within bureaucratic and systemically entrenched organizational structures. Kim is a global keynote speaker and trainer on higher education, leadership and innovative practices. She has given talks in Russia, Japan, Cambodia, South Korea and most recently was the signature speaker for the Career Technical Education Symposium, a Los Angeles and Orange County-wide forum sponsored by Los Angeles City College. Kim's career activities have influenced state and federal educational policies in the United States as well as higher education institutions in California, Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos in the areas of service-learning and community engagement. She is an organizational advisor to the think tank Innovation for Jobs (i4j) and product advisor to GainX Global, Inc., an innovation strategy management start-up company most recently featured in Forbes, Inc. and Finovate.

Kim has a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology from University of California, Los Angeles, an M.A. in Cultural Anthropology from California State University, Fullerton, and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Policy, Evaluation & Reform from Claremont Graduate University.

Eloy Ortiz Oakley was appointed the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges in December 2016. Prior to that, he served as the Superintendent and President of Long Beach City College, a position he held from 2007-2016. He joined Long Beach City College in 2002, first as the Vice President of Administrative Services then as the College's Executive Vice President of Administrative Services from 2004 to 2006. Ortiz Oakley was Vice President of College Services at Oxnard College from 2001 to 2002 and an assistant vice president at Keenan and Associates from 1999 to 2001.

Ortiz Oakley is best known throughout California and the nation for implementing innovative programs and policies that help students succeed in college. He strongly believes that California's emerging economies demand a workforce with quality credentials and that the state's 113 community colleges play a pivotal role in moving California forward. Under his leadership, the Long Beach Community College District has received numerous awards and recognitions for its efforts to improve student completion rates and for directly supporting a strong small business and entrepreneurship eco-system throughout the greater Southern California region. Ortiz Oakley was appointed as a Regent in 2014 by Governor Brown to a term ending in 2024.

Ortiz Oakley earned a B.A. in Environmental Analysis and Design and an M.B.A. from the University of California, Irvine.

Toni E. Symonds is the Chief Consultant for the California State Assembly's Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy. Symonds has held a variety of senior-level public policy positions in Washington, D.C. and California during her 30-year career in government, including public appointments during President Bill Clinton's and California Governor Gray Davis's administrations. She is the former California State Deputy Controller for Investments and Corporate Governance serving as representative to the California Public Employees Retirement System and the California State Teachers Retirement System. Throughout her public service, Symonds has advocated for a greater examination of the coinciding impact of public policy and private sector actions on the economy. Her work has been recognized by a number of economic and community development organizations, including the Small Business Development Corporations and the California Association for Local Economic Development, who awarded her the Golden Bear lifetime achievement award. Symonds currently serves as a senior policy advisor to the policy committee in the California State Assembly responsible for issues relating to small business development; workforce development; international trade; capital formation; and, other

issues related to the global, national, and state economy. Symonds earned a B.A. in Sociology from Macalester College.

Rodolfo H. Torres is the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development (VC-RED) and a Distinguished Professor of Mathematics at the University of California, Riverside (UCR). As VC-RED, he provides a broad vision and executive leadership for campus-wide research initiatives and is responsible for inspiring and managing a diverse portfolio of research and creative activity, as well as economic development activities in coordination with the region, state, and other external partners, via technology transfer, commercialization of intellectual property, entrepreneurship, and affiliations with established companies.

Before arriving at UCR in 2019, Torres was University Distinguished Professor of Mathematics, at the University of Kansas (KU) where he served for more than six years in the Office of Research, first as Associate Vice Chancellor and then as Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and President of the Kansas University Center for Research Inc. (KUCR). He is also a former Faculty Senate President at KU. Torres has received several awards for his efforts with students, including a Kemper Foundation Excellence in Teaching Award. In 2013 Torres was elected to the inaugural class of Fellows of the American Mathematical Society (AMS), in 2017 he was featured in the Lathisms Calendar of Latinxs and Hispanics in Mathematical Sciences and the AMS, and in 2019 presented a Congressional Briefing invited by the AMS and the Mathematical Science Research Institute at Berkeley.

Torres did his undergraduate studies at the Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Argentina; received his Ph.D. in Mathematics from Washington University in St. Louis; and held postdoctoral positions at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences of New York University and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, before moving to KU.

Leslie Trainor serves as Deputy Director of the Riverside County Workforce Development Division and the Riverside County Workforce Development Board. Leslie has been involved in private- and public-sector business for over 18 years. She particularly enjoys helping disadvantaged individuals become self-empowered and developing her team. Leslie is also a lover of learning. She earned a Master's degree in Business Administration, is currently a sixth year doctoral student in Organizational Psychology at Claremont Graduate University, and is a Research Associate at LeAD Labs. Her two research streams are women in leadership and toxic leadership. Trainor earned a B.S. in Psychology from Colorado State University and an M.B.A. from California State University-San Bernardino..

Sid Voorakkara is the Senior Vice President of Strategies 360. With expertise in communications and messaging, business development, government affairs and advocacy strategy, Voorakkar serves non-profits and private businesses looking for creative collaboration to address their unique challenges. This includes creating a resource website for California's small-medium businesses looking to navigate options during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most recently, Voorakkara served as Deputy Director for External Affairs at the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development. There, he was responsible for promoting California business investment resources with businesses, economic development stakeholders, local communities, and trade associations. Prior to his state service, Voorakkara was a Program Manager at The California Endowment. He worked closely with non-profits, foundations, and workforce investment boards to build pathways into high-wage, high-growth jobs for Californians.

In his early career, Voorakkara served as the Field Director at the United Nations Foundation when the SARS coronavirus erupted. He helped the UN Foundation serve as a conduit between the World Health Organization and reporters in the United States by coordinating national and local media conference calls with the WHO's Director of Communicable Diseases.

Voorakkara currently serves as Chair of the San Diego City Ethics Commission and on the San Diego Community College Trustees Advisory Council. He is a past Trustee of the San Diego Museum of Man and a past Chair of the San Diego City College Foundation Board of Directors. Voorakkara earned a B.A. in American Government and Politics from NYU.

Kim Wilcox is Chancellor at University of California, Riverside. During his tenure, UC Riverside has seen historic growth across its education, research, and public service missions, including record improvements in student success, research funding, and philanthropic giving as well as the establishment of new schools of medicine and public policy. Guided by UC Riverside's long-term strategic plan, Wilcox has initiated an ambitious effort to grow the faculty and the campus's physical facilities. Over the last four years, UCR has grown its faculty by nearly 200, while increasing the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity among incoming faculty members. Likewise, UCR has added or renovated more than 100,000 square feet of building space on campus since 2013 with another \$1 billion in capital projects underway.

Under Wilcox's leadership, four-year graduation rates at UC Riverside have increased by 16 percentage points and six-year rates by 5 points. UC Riverside is one of the few institutions nationwide that has eliminated graduation-rate gaps across income levels and ethnicity. In 2016, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) recognized this achievement with their "Project Degree Completion Award," which goes to one university nationwide that has demonstrated innovation in student success. Wilcox has been an active participant on a variety of higher education advisory boards and committees. He currently serves on the NCAA Presidential Forum and as a member of the board of directors for the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities. He serves as a representative of the University as a member of the Council on Competitiveness, a nonpartisan organization consisting of university presidents, CEOs, labor leaders, and national lab directors working to promote innovation and growth in the U.S. economy.

From 2005 to 2013, he served as provost at Michigan State. Previously, he was dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Kansas, from 2002 to 2005, and president and chief executive officer of the Kansas Board of Regents from 1999 to 2002. He also spent ten years as the chair of the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing at the University of Kansas.

A first-generation college graduate, Wilcox attended Michigan State University, where he earned a B.A. in Audiology and Speech Sciences. He also holds master's and doctoral degrees in speech and hearing science from Purdue University.