

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

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

Wichita Speaker Biographies

Trent Armbrust is the Director of Strategy for Bioscience and Technology for the Kansas Department of Commerce. In this role, Armbrust serves as a member of the Commerce leadership team and is responsible for rebuilding relationships with private- and public-sector partners as the state seeks to help advance new technologies, support innovative research, create new jobs and further advance Kansas' leadership across key bioscience sectors. Armbrust is leading efforts to develop the Kansas Framework for Growth, the first comprehensive economic development plan for the state since the Redwood-Krider Report in 1986. Armbrust came to Commerce following seven years in Economic Development for the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce.

An active member of several economic development, bioscience and community organizations, Armbrust earned his B.S. in Biology and M.S. in Plant Physiology from Kansas State University and is a graduate from the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma.

Cheryl Childers is the Human Resource Manager from Cox Machine, Inc. Cox Machine is a precision aerospace parts and assembly manufacturer with locations in Wichita, KS and Harper, KS. Cheryl has been with Cox Machine, Inc. for five years and prior to that she worked for a local composite aerospace company. At Cox Machine, Cheryl is responsible for leading and overseeing all aspects of Human Resources and Safety for the organization. Cheryl attended Kansas State University where she studied Psychology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences as well as Business. Due to her course of study she started her post-graduate career in Training and Development for a national retailer. This experience resulted in her career having a concentration and passion for talent acquisition and recruitment, onboarding, training, development, community and workforce partnership and employee relations.

Michael Collins is a Vice President at Jobs for the Future (JFF). He recently took the helm of a new JFF initiative to directly address the ways in which postsecondary education and training systems can help members of vulnerable populations advance economically—with a special focus on Black learners and workers. In this new role, he will lead the development and implementation of a strategy that will serve as the foundation of a JFF effort to influence the practices of educational institutions, workforce organizations, intermediaries, associations, states, systems, and philanthropy. Before joining JFF, Michael served as assistant commissioner for participation and success at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, where he collaborated with state and federal officials, educators, and other stakeholders to develop pre-K to postsecondary education policy.

Earlier in his career, he taught English in San Antonio, Texas. Collins is chair of the board of the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center and is a member of the boards of the National

Student Clearinghouse and the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems. He also serves on the Guttman Community College advisory council and on the steering committee for the Scaling Partner Network convened by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Deltha Q. Colvin is the Associate Vice President for Special Programs at Wichita State University (WSU) in the Division of Regional Engagement and Economic Development. She has dedicated her time and effort to provide opportunities to students. She was also director of the Upward Bound Wichita Prep Program. Colvin has been involved with TRIO Programs for 54 years. Her responsibilities include supervision of: Disability Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers Program, Upward Bound Math-Science, Student Support Services, Talent Search, the Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program, Veterans Upward Bound, Upward Bound Wichita Prep, Upward Bound Empowerment and, the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) statewide grant (Kansas Kids@GEAR UP) and Haysville GEAR UP. Colvin has been responsible for the development and funding of 18 US Department of Education federal grants at WSU.

Colvin is a national advocate, trainer and consultant in the development of proposals, program management and operations, and TRIO/GEAR UP program reviews/evaluations. She has been a trainer for new directors and model programs she is currently a trainer with the Sonoma State University U.S. Department of Education TRIO Training Program providing training for 2 U.S. Department of Education Training Priorities. As an advocate, Colvin is committed to supporting the advancement of young people with a focus on low-income and first-generation students, persons with disabilities, and students in foster and adoptive care. Nationally, Colvin is very much involved in matters of diversity, student development, and general staff sensitizing and orientation. Colvin has assisted students, including non-traditional students, and their families in gaining equal educational opportunities. Colvin completed her undergraduate and graduate work in Education at Wichita State University.

Karen Elzey is Associate Executive director at Workcred, an affiliate of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), where she advances Workcred's mission to strengthen workforce quality by improving the credentialing system, ensuring its ongoing relevance, and preparing employers, workers, educators, and governments to use it effectively. Elzey has over 20 years of experience in areas of workforce development. Most recently, she was the Vice President of the Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF), where she was involved with incorporating 21st-century competencies—critical thinking, problem solving, analytical reasoning, communication, and working in multi-cultural teams—into the undergraduate experience to prepare students with the knowledge and experience to succeed in high-performing workplaces. She also led several of BHEF's projects, including the integration of data analytics into specific academic disciplines, the development of cybersecurity undergraduate programs, and the creation of new media engineering programs.

Elzey previously served as vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for a Competitive Workforce, where she worked on K-12 education reform and job training policies. She was the founding director of Skills for America's Future, an employer-led policy initiative

that was initially part of the Economic Opportunities Program at the Aspen Institute. Her previous experience also includes coordinating public-private partnerships between K-12 school districts and employers for a local economic development agency in Indiana, and teaching English as a second language in Poland. Elzey earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Amanda Duncan joined the Workforce Alliance (WA) of South Central Kansas, Inc. in 2007 and has held several positions in the organization; she was promoted to her current position of Vice President and Chief Business Development Officer in 2012. Duncan serves as a liaison to the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), the Kansas Department of Commerce, local Economic Development Organizations and business groups throughout the region. She is also responsible for oversight of the WA's Communications Department, Rapid Response, Youth Services and Employment Programs, Registered Apprenticeship, and Adult Re-Entry Programs. In addition, Duncan manages grant programs for the WA, serving as the Site Director of the PACES Project, a local collaborative site of the National Fund for Workforce Solutions (NFWS). Duncan is active in the workforce development and human resource professional communities, as well many local professional, civic and service organizations. A native of Garden City, Duncan holds a Bachelor of Public Administration degree from Washburn University, and a Master of Public Administration degree and Graduate Certificate in City and County Management from Wichita State University. She also holds certifications from Society of Human Resource Management and the Human Resource Certification Institute.

Michele Gifford is a Human Resources Director for Textron Aviation. In this role, Gifford is responsible for talent acquisition, workforce planning and programs, and business partner support for the global operations and supply chain teams. Prior to her current role, Gifford was part of the project team that designed and launched the new Kansas Career and Technical Education Aviation Pathway in conjunction with the Kansas Department of Education, Wichita Public Schools and WSU Tech. Gifford's 20-year tenure with Textron Aviation has included roles of increasing responsibility in the Finance, Continuous Improvement and Human Resources functions. Most notably, her leadership of Human Resources for the Integrated Supply Chain organization included all aspects of the employee lifecycle, encompassing fabrication, assembly, quality, tooling, completions, hiring, training, development and employee relations for more than 4,000 professional and direct labor employees. Gifford sits on numerous local boards and committees, including for United Way, the Local Workforce Development Board and the Chamber Advanced Manufacturing Talent Pipeline team. Gifford earned a bachelor's degree in Accounting at Fort Hays State University and an M.B.A. at Webster University.

Donna Ginther is the Roy A. Roberts Distinguished Professor of Economics and Director of the Institute for Policy & Social Research at the University of Kansas and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Prior to joining the University of Kansas faculty, she was a research economist and associate policy adviser in the regional group of the Research Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta from 2000 to 2002, and taught at Washington University from 1997 to 2000 and Southern Methodist University from 1995 to 1997. Her major

fields of study are scientific labor markets, gender differences in employment outcomes, wage inequality, scientific entrepreneurship, children's educational attainments, and child abuse and neglect.

Ginther has advised the National Academy of Sciences, the National Institutes of Health, and the Sloan Foundation on the diversity and future of the scientific workforce. She was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Southern Economic Association and of the Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession of the American Economic Association. Ginther received her doctorate in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Deb Miller is Director of the University of Kansas Public Management Center. She served as the Kansas Secretary of Transportation from 2003-2011. Her appointment spanned the terms of three Kansas governors, and she still carries the distinction of being the longest-serving Secretary of Transportation in Kansas history. In 2011, Miller took a position as Senior Consultant for Cambridge Systematics, a Washington, D.C. based firm specializing in transportation planning and policy, primarily for public-sector clients. From 2014-2018, she served as a member of the Surface Transportation Board (STB), the successor agency to the Interstate Commerce Commission. The STB is an economic regulatory agency charged with resolving railroad rate and service disputes and reviewing proposed railroad mergers. Miller has also held leadership positions on many transportation regulatory boards and committees including the Transportation Research Board's Executive Committee (one year as chair), the American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials, and the Eno Foundation's Board of Advisors. Miller is a Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Kansas State University and holds a degree in sociology.

Kimberly Moore is the Director of Workforce, Professional and Community Education (WPCE) at Wichita State University (WSU). Moore has more than 30 years' professional experience in developing and coordinating workforce and professional development programming. From July 1996 to October 2014, she served as the Associate Director of the Division of Continuing Education. In October 2014, she was appointed Interim Director. Moore served in that capacity until March, 2015 when she was appointed Director of WSU's new Office for Workforce, Professional and Community Education. The role of the WPCE is to connect business and industry; military and government; community and technical colleges; associations and professional organizations with career-relevant training solutions, as well as academic programs and certifications that meet their needs. The WPCE is also responsible for Conferences, Community Education, Commencement and the operation of the WSU Metropolitan Complex. Moore received her bachelor's and J.D. from Washburn University.

Susan Norton is the Director of Adult Learning at Wichita State University. In this position, Norton is charged with the recruitment and retention of the post-traditional population returning to Wichita State to finish baccalaureate degrees. Previously, Norton held positions as Dean of Adult and Continuing Education at Newman University, Director of Firmwide Learning for Kennedy and Coe, LLC (a mid-western regional firm of accountants and financial planners), and Dean of Corporate Education at Cowley County Community College. Since 2008 she has held

various positions at Wichita State University including Director of Satellite Campuses and Workforce Development and her current position as the Director of the Office of Adult Learning.

Norton received the 2019 Presidential Award from the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE). She was named a 2016 Women in Business by the Wichita Business Journal. In addition, she was named a Kansas Public Health Institute scholar in 2007, and served as a mentor in the program in 2009 and 2011. She currently serves on the Haysville Historic Committee and the USD 261 School Board.

Norton received her bachelor's degree in Business from Kansas Newman College (now Newman University) and her Master's degree from Newman in Adult and Continuing Education. As a true adult learner, Norton continued her educational pursuits, receiving her Ph.D. in Adult and Continuing Education at Kansas State University, Manhattan. In 2011 she became a graduate of the Harvard Graduate School of Education Institute for Management and Leadership in Education. Norton also acquired certification as a Certified Professional in Learning and Performance from the American Society of Training and Development.

Scot Rigby is the Assistant City Manager and Director of Development for the City of Wichita. In this role, Rigby oversees the city's economic development, redevelopment, and real estate programs and projects. He manages the city's urban development division and works with various city departments. Rigby came to Wichita after working for the city of Mesa, Ariz. He had been the senior project manager there since 2012. In that role, Rigby supervised a team of project managers who were responsible for citywide business attraction and retention. Rigby was involved with various high-profile projects during his tenure in Mesa, such as the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, an Apple manufacturing plant, a Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center and new spring training and stadium complexes for baseball's Chicago Cubs and Oakland Athletics. Rigby has a bachelor's degree in political science from Brigham Young University and a master's degree in public administration from Arizona State University.

Christopher Stanyer is the Vice President of Career Services at Goodwill Industries of Kansas. His role includes leadership of the NexStep Alliance adult education program and the Learn IT Digital Skills Classroom, an initiative of Goodwill and Google, Inc. Stanyer is also responsible for strategic planning, state and national grants, state and national advocacy, and community partnerships. He authored and successfully lobbied innovative state adult education legislation and serves his hometown of Towanda, Kansas as a City Council member. Stanyer has been honored twice with the Wichita Business Journal Innovations Award, most recently in 2019, and has a strong passion for the Goodwill mission. Stanyer earned a bachelor's degree in Communication at Emporia State University.

Lee Wellington is the Founding Executive Director of the Urban Manufacturing Alliance (UMA), a national nonprofit that builds robust, inclusive manufacturing sectors in more than 250 cities across the United States. Through a mix of collaborative research and ecosystem building and under Wellington's leadership, UMA has become nationally recognized for knowledge

transfer across public agencies and community-based organizations. She has led the UMA team in building national learning communities on a range of issues including access to capital, community-embedded workforce programming, and mission driven industrial real estate development. In 2018, Wellington guided UMA's flagship research project, the State of Urban Manufacturing, a six-city study on small-scale manufacturing involving multiple Federal Reserve Banks, research universities, and hundreds of local manufacturing practitioners. Wellington is a frequent presenter on urban manufacturing at conferences nationally and internationally, including Berlin's Urban Tech Summit, The White House's National Week of Making, the International Business Innovation Association's Conference on Business Incubation, and the National League of Cities' City Summit.

Prior to UMA, Wellington worked in the public sector at the NYC Mayor's Office of Industrial and Manufacturing Businesses and the New York City Council, at nonprofit planning organizations including the Pratt Center for Community Development and the Waterfront Alliance, and at legal services organizations including the Urban Justice Center's Street Vendor Project and South Brooklyn Legal Services. Wellington holds a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School, an M.S. in City and Regional Planning from Pratt Institute, and a B.S. in Economics from the Stern School of Business at New York University.

Amy Williams is the Senior Manager for Global Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) at AeroSystems. She is responsible for the strategic direction for CSR and DE&I enterprise-wide. Williams has a long history throughout her career in CSR and DE&I. She joined the Spirit team from the retail industry, working with Belk, Inc. and Sears Holdings Corporation (SHC). During her time in retail, she actively partnered with the C-Suite, HR teams, Employee Business Resource Groups and national nonprofit partners, providing leadership to strengthen company brands and inclusive work environments. Prior to her time in retail, Williams was with Cargill, Inc. where she spent over 10 years partnering with multiple business unit leadership teams to align and cascade global CSR and DE&I strategic objectives with meaningful local community goals. Williams is a Wichita native and currently sits on the boards of Music Theatre Wichita, Via Christi Foundation and the WSU Tech Foundation. She one semester away from completing her M.B.A. from Newman University and has a Bachelor of Business Administration in Human Resource Management from Wichita State University.