



Plenary Speaker Biographies

Jeff Donofrio, Detroit's Director of Workforce Development and Executive Director, the Mayor's Workforce Development Board

Jeff is the Director of Workforce Development for Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan. Jeff works with the region's employers, foundations, educational institutions, and community organizations to develop programs that bridge industry skills gaps and provide opportunities for Detroiters to build family-sustaining careers. As Executive Director of the Mayor's Workforce Development Board, Jeff leads the development of workforce policy in Detroit and sets the priorities for federal, state and local funding.

Before joining Mayor Duggan's staff, Jeff served as an executive at Ford Motor Company. Jeff also served as District Director for Congressman Sandy Levin and Congressman John D. Dingell and Transportation Policy Advisor to Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Jeff earned his MBA from Georgetown University and BA in public policy and secondary education from Michigan State University.

Jessica Fraser, Director, Indiana Institute for Working Families

Jessica has been with the Institute, a program of the Indiana Community Action Association, since 2008 and has served in the role of Director since 2012. She serves as co-chair of the Indiana Skills2Compete Coalition and sits on the National Skills Coalition's National Advisory Panel on Higher Education, and received NSC's national 2015 Skills Champion award.

She also sits on the Indiana Career Council's Implementation Taskforce, and was nominated to a two-year term on the State Workforce Innovation Council by Governor Mike Pence through 2017. Before joining the Institute she was a researcher for the Service Employees International Union, Local 3.

Jessica earned her BA in political science from St. Mary's College, and her MA in political science from Ball State University.

Jason Lee, CEO, Focus:HOPE

Jason oversees Focus: HOPE's operation, direction, strategy, innovation, communications and more. Previously, he was Executive Director at DAPCEP (Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program) working towards increasing the STEM educational program capacity for the Detroit Metropolitan area, specifically for young people from historically underrepresented backgrounds. During his tenure, DAPCEP developed innovative programming, reduced operating costs, rebranded, relocated and supported student programming.

He has his Masters of Science in mechanical engineering from University of Michigan and his Bachelors of Science from University of Maryland Baltimore County.

Chauncy Lennon, Managing Director and Head of Workforce Initiatives, Global Philanthropy, JPMorgan Chase

Chauncy leads JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s initiatives to promote economic opportunity through investments in workforce practice, innovation, and policy. He also serves on the US Department of Commerce's National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the New York City Workforce Development Board.

He joined JPMorgan Chase from the Ford Foundation, where his grant-making focused on promoting economic advancement for low-income workers by improving access to workforce development and work support programs.

He earned his Ph.D. in anthropology from Columbia University, master's degree from the University of Chicago and bachelor's degree from Williams College.

Debra Jones, Director of Workforce and Adult Education for the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office

As Director of Workforce and Adult Education for the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, Debra oversees the implementation of career technical education and the most recent investment by the governor of \$200M for the Strong Workforce Program. She also provides leadership in the design and coordination of the \$500,000,000 adult education regional block grant program.

Prior to working at the Chancellor's office, Debra served as state director for adult education for the California Department of Education and was responsible for the statewide strategic planning process to develop an innovative system to address the educational and workforce needs of California's adult learners.

Debra received her doctorate in organizational leadership from University of La Verne.

Sarah Labadie, Senior Policy Associate, Women Employed

Sarah Labadie leads the organization's efforts to develop and promote policies that help adult and low-income students access and succeed in college. She is also an expert in online advocacy and grassroots organizing. Sarah joined the staff of Women Employed in 2008.

Sarah is also an education policy expert, having researched and advocated for policies that help adult students access and complete postsecondary credentials and degrees, including leading efforts to increase the availability of need-based financial aid for low-income students. Labadie has worked with colleges, elected officials, and state agencies to implement these policies.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in communication from Cornell University.

Emily Price, Chief Program Officer, Center for Employment Training, So Others Might Eat, D.C.

As Chief Program Officer of CTE at SOME, Emily oversees the program's sector skills training in high demand industries, integrated basic education, job readiness instruction, and job placement services.

Prior to joining SOME, Emily held positions at Bread for the City, Congressional Hunger Center, and the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved.

Emily holds a bachelor's and master's degree in Social Work from the University of Kansas.

Jerry Rubin, President and Chief Executive Officer, Jewish Vocational Services, Boston

Jerry is responsible for the overall direction and management of the organization, and leads its Leadership Team. His responsibilities include setting and leading the strategic direction of the organization, senior staff leadership development, leading organizational innovations, leading development efforts and financial growth, outreach to external constituencies and strategic partnerships, innovations in branding and marketing, and Board relations. He is a member of the Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board.

Jerry holds a bachelor's degree in government from Clark University and a master's in city planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Wanda Stokes, Director, Michigan Talent Investment Agency

Wanda was named Director of the Michigan Talent Investment Agency by Gov. Rick Snyder in July 2016. She serves as an adviser in the governor's Cabinet.

Wanda previously was a Deputy Director in the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) with responsibility for Litigation Risk Management. Her duties included providing oversight to the Bureau of Employment Relations, the Michigan Administrative Hearing System, the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and administration of the Freedom of Information Act.

Wanda earned a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and a law degree from the University of Detroit Mercy.

Corey Wiggins, Director, Hope Policy Institute

Corey is the Director of the Hope Policy Institute, the policy division of HOPE (Hope Enterprise Corporation and Hope Credit Union). As director, he manages the strategic direction, sustainability, research training and advocacy agenda for the Institute.

For over 10 years, Corey's career has focused on the translation of policy and research into practice. His professional career has included serving as a fellow in the United States Senate and as a policy analyst in the Mississippi State Legislature.

Corey completed his undergraduate studies at Alcorn State University. He also holds a Master of Science of public health with an emphasis in health policy and a Ph.D. from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.