



OPPORTUNITY AHEAD

Workforce Leading the Economic Recovery

DAY ONE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4th, 2021



Commissioner Steve Grove | Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

As commissioner of the state's principal workforce and economic development agency, Commissioner Grove is focused on empowering the growth of the Minnesota economy, for everyone. Under his leadership, the department works on growing the state's workforce, closing the opportunity gap, and providing businesses and startups the support they need to grow and thrive in Minnesota's economy. Commissioner Grove was previously an executive at Google for 12 years, most recently serving as the founding director of Google's News Lab, a global division of the company that partners with media companies and startups to drive innovation in the news industry. He has built teams in over a dozen countries and launched partnerships around the world, including a global technology training effort that trained over 500,000 people every year. Grove wrote for The Boston Globe and ABC News prior to joining Google. He has served as an advisor to the White House and State Department on counter-terrorism strategy.

He holds a master's in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School and a B.A. in philosophy, politics, and economics from Claremont McKenna College.



Cameron Macht, Regional Analysis & Outreach Manager, Acting Assistant LMI Director | Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Cameron Macht is the regional analysis and outreach manager and is currently the acting assistant LMI director at the Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED), supervising a team of 5 regional analysts that provide labor market information to support workforce and economic development efforts across the state, as well as 5 other analysts at DEED headquarters providing tools and research. He has over 18 years of experience working in DEED's LMI office, as well as prior career practice in marketing, market research, and economic development.

He has a bachelor's degree in organizational management and marketing from the University of Minnesota-Duluth.



Ryan Nunn, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President of Community Development and Engagement | Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

Dr. Nunn leads applied research in Community Development and Engagement (CDE). Together with a team of CDE researchers, he looks for opportunities to improve outcomes for low- and moderate-income communities with the help of better evidence and analysis. Before coming to the Bank, Dr. Nunn was a fellow in economic studies at the Brookings Institution and policy director for the Hamilton Project. In those roles, he conducted economic research on a variety of topics, ranging from unemployment insurance and occupational

licensing to demographic and geographic disparities. Prior to that, he was an economist at the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Dr. Nunn received his undergraduate degree in economics from Case Western Reserve University and his Ph.D. in public policy and economics from the University of Michigan.



Mark Jacobs, Director | Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board

Mark Jacobs is the Director for the Dakota-Scott Workforce Development Board and Workforce Development Director for Dakota County, Minnesota. The two-county area, located just south of Minneapolis and St. Paul, is a mix of urban, suburban, and rural areas and has more than 500,000 residents and 13,000 employers. The Dakota-Scott WDB leads, collaborates, and provides linkages that facilitate equity-informed workforce planning and supports economic development providing individuals, families, employers, and the community opportunities to transform lives through meaningful

employment. Prior to working with the board and employment programs, Mr. Jacobs owned and operated a small business in Burnsville for 14 years. He has not won a Nobel, Pulitzer, Oscar or even Employee of the Month, but was present when the Twins won the 1991 World Series.



Jashan Eison, President/CEO | H&B Elevators

Jashan Eison is the President/CEO of H&B Elevators. He provides visionary leadership for the organization and is actively involved in the day-to-day activities of the company. Before joining H&B Elevators in 2007, he worked in project engineering/management roles at M.A. Mortenson in Milwaukee, Whiting-Turner in Irvine, California, and RJ Ryan Construction in Mendota Heights, Minnesota.

Mr. Eison grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and earned a B.S. from the University of Wisconsin – Stout in Construction Management. He also holds an M.B.A. from Marylhurst University.



Geoff Smith, President | IBI Data

Geoff Smith is the President of IBI Data and has been in the role since 2016. IBI Data specializes in the foodservice sector and provides a wide array of services including e-commerce, food-safe warehousing, sample fulfillment, lead qualification, rebate processing, loyalty programs, telemarketing, direct marketing, customized database solutions, web-based applications, and many others.

Previously, Mr. Smith served as Executive Vice President at IBI Data where he ran the company's operations and client initiatives. During this tenure, IBI Data was recognized multiple times as one of the 100 Best

Places to Work in Minnesota by Minnesota Business Magazine.

Mr. Smith is an active member of the community. He serves as President of Austin Community Growth Ventures (ACGV), Vice-Chair of the Riverland Foundation, an active Rotarian, has performed on-stage in several musicals, and is a certified Zumba instructor.



Liz Huldin, VP of People & Organization | Cirrus Aircraft

Liz Huldin is the VP of People & Organization at Cirrus Aircraft. She is a business leader with a focus on building the team and organization capabilities fueling Cirrus' growth. She brings experience in transformational change and talent innovations from across leadership roles in global aviation, aerospace, and global technology companies, including Boeing, Motorola, and Eaton.

Ms. Huldin has a B.A. in Political Science & Public Policy with an emphasis on global organizations from the University of Michigan, a J.D. from Wayne State University Law School, and an Executive MBA

from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. She actively supports diverse startups and family held businesses as well as supporting community initiatives workforce development efforts in the Northland.



Jacob Kaduk, Career Planner | Career Solutions

Jacob Kaduk has been a Career Planner with Career Solutions in St. Cloud since 2018. In this role, Mr. Kaduk supports the CareerONE program which provides paid learning opportunities for youth in the St. Cloud area. This year, the summer program has 140 youth participants. Previously, he held a position as Membership Director with the YMCA. From 2012-2015, he worked at St. Cloud State University in Guest Services and then as a Building/Event Manager.

Mr. Kaduk holds a B.S. in Sport and Recreation Management from St. Cloud State University.



Patty Fleege, Director of Adult Education | Duluth Public Schools

Patty Fleege is the local Adult Basic Education manager for ISD 709, the Duluth Adult Education Consortium and the City of Duluth Workforce Development. Ms. Fleege also chairs the Duluth Workforce Development Boards' Youth Committee. Ms. Fleege is a career long educator in both K-12 and Adult Education who is passionate about maximizing community partnerships to create opportunity for qualifying youth and adults to complete their education, training and certification goals towards life sustainable wages and careers.

Ms. Fleege holds a Master's in Education from the University of Minnesota, Duluth.



Chris Andresen, Lobbyist | United States Workforce Association

Chris Andresen serves as a Senior Vice President with the Dutko GR. He works extensively with clients to identify policy opportunities and threats to create detailed funding, legislative and executive strategies. His broad experience includes working with companies, universities, non-profits, and trade associations in the following sectors: workforce development, consumer products, manufacturing, retail, renewable energy, criminal justice, mental health, technology, and higher education.

DAY TWO: THURSDAY, AUGUST 5th, 2021



Laura Beeth, Chair | Governor's Workforce Development Board & Vice President, Talent Acquisition | Fairview Health Services

Laura Beeth is a values-driven visionary leader with 25+ years of experience in talent acquisition, workforce development, healthcare management, and civic executive board leadership. She is currently serving Minnesota as Chair of the Governor's Workforce Development Board and is the Vice President of Talent Acquisition at Fairview Health Services. In this role, she leads a large team of talent acquisition professionals who hire over 10,000 people every year, manage contingent staffing for the organization, provides over 200 paid internships, and several registered apprenticeship and other career

pathway programs. Ms. Beeth was elected as Chair of the National Governor's Association of State Workforce Board Chairs. She also serves as Chair of the Minnesota State HealthForce Healthcare Education-Industry Partnership Council.

Ms. Beeth holds a bachelor's degree in Health Care Management and graduate studies in Human Development from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.



Ron Painter, President & CEO | National Association of Workforce Boards

Ron Painter assumed his role at NAWB in July of 2009. In his capacity as CEO of NAWB, Painter has traveled the country meeting with State and Local workforce leaders in an effort to identify cutting-edge practices and programs and understand how best to spread innovative trends in human capital development throughout the nation-wide job training system. Mr. Painter was the founding CEO of the Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board in Pittsburgh. Before joining the Three Rivers Workforce Board, he worked in Washington, DC, first on loan to the U.S. Department of Labor for the Enterprise Project, and then for the National Alliance of Business.

Mr. Painter holds an undergraduate degree in Political Science from Grove City College in Pennsylvania and a Master's in Public Administration and advanced graduate coursework from the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public & International Affairs, where he served as Adjunct Faculty.



Melissa Johnson, Managing Director, State Strategies | National Skills Coalition

Melissa Johnson is the Managing Director of State Strategies at National Skills Coalition, where she leads the organization's efforts to advance workforce policy solutions at the state level. Ms. Johnson oversees the development of NSC's state policy agenda and works with the organization's network of state coalitions and partners to provide strategic guidance for policy development, advocacy, advancement, and implementation.

Prior to joining National Skills Coalition in 2017, Ms. Johnson was a Senior Policy Analyst at Georgia Budget and Policy Institute where she led the organization's research on several issues, including gender economic equality, affordable childcare, and workforce development. Earlier in her career, she worked in policy analysis and legal roles for the Administrative Office of the Courts of Georgia and in the private sector as a management consultant.

She holds a J.D. from Emory University School of Law, as well as an MBA and bachelor's degree from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. Ms. Johnson is based in Atlanta and Washington, DC.



Brianna McCain, State Policy Analyst | National Skills Coalition

As a State Policy Analyst, Brianna McCain advances NSC's policy platform within states through policy research, development, and advocacy. She monitors and analyses policy developments in states, conducts qualitative and quantitative research in support of policy development and advocacy, assists state officials and stakeholders in adopting and implementing skills policies, and advocates for NSC's policy platform. She joined NSC in 2020 and is based in Washington, D.C.

Before NSC, Ms. McCain was a Policy Associate at Advance CTE where she led the organization's Equity in CTE initiative and developed resources, provided technical assistance, and analyzed policies to advance high-quality career and technical education (CTE) in states. Prior to Advance CTE, she worked at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri where she provided supportive services to low-income individuals.

Ms. McCain earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in Social Work with specializations in Policy and Management from Washington University in Saint Louis.



India Heckstall, Policy Analyst | National Skills Coalition

India Heckstall is a Policy Analyst on the State Strategies team where she supports the development and advancement of workforce, postsecondary, and human services policies, particularly in California. She conducts quantitative and qualitative research in support of policy analysis and development and assists state and local leaders in understanding, adopting, and implementing policies. She joined National Skills Coalition in 2020 and is based in Washington, D.C.

Prior to joining NSC, Ms. Heckstall served as Policy & Government Relations, Program Associate at Higher Learning Advocates where she assisted in crafting the federal policy agenda, conducted research, and monitored relevant federal legislation on postsecondary education, workforce, and supportive services, and served as project manager for the organization. Ms. Heckstall has previously interned with the policy research team at the Institute for Higher Education Policy and served as an intern to North Carolina Congressman G.K. Butterfield. Beyond her work, India has previously served as co-chair of the Education Taskforce for Women in Government Relations.

Ms. Heckstall earned a master's degree in Public Policy from American University and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Campbell University.



Paige Shevlin, Director of Policy and National Initiatives | Markle Foundation

Paige Shevlin is the Director of Policy and National Initiatives at the Markle Foundation. Prior to her role at Markle, she was the Economic Development Policy Advisor to the King County Executive in Seattle, Washington. Ms. Shevlin was responsible for working with regional organizations to create economic and workforce development strategies for the county and to coordinate and align the efforts of multiple organizations and cities within the county. A principal focus of her work was reallocating workforce funding to reduce racial disparities in workforce services and outcomes.

Before that, Ms. Shevlin held multiple roles in the Obama Administration. She was the Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy at the White House National Economic Council where she was responsible for leading the development of labor market policies including the Vice-President's job-driven training efforts and regulations implementing federal workforce legislation. She previously served as a Special Assistant to the Secretary of Labor in the Office of the Chief Economist at the Department of Labor. Earlier, she was Associate Policy Director and a Production Editor at The Hamilton Project. Ms. Shevlin has also worked as an Assistant Analyst at the Congressional Budget Office.

She holds a Master's in Public Affairs in Economics and Public Policy from Princeton University and a B.A. in Economics from Wellesley College.



William (Bill) Turner, Executive Director, Skillful Indiana | Markle Foundation

As Executive Director of Skillful Indiana and National Alliance Delivery Markle Foundation, Mr. Turner leads efforts to engage employers, educators, policymakers and workforce development organizations within Indiana to create a labor market in which skills are valued, and people can more easily access the information and education they need to secure good jobs. Mr. Turner employs his collaborative skills and knowledge of the workforce development ecosystem across Indiana to forge new cooperative partnerships, identify opportunities for impact, and deliver on Skillful's mission to accelerate the adoption of skills-based employment practices.

Prior to Skillful Indiana, Mr. Turner was Director of Education and Development at Allison Transmission, Inc., a leading Indianapolis-based manufacturing company, where he had a 20-year track record of delivering both leadership and technical skills development and training.

Mr. Turner has served as chair of the EmployIndy Workforce Development Board and as a member of the Indiana Automotive Council and secretary of the Indiana Workforce Development Board Alliance. He is currently a board member on the Metropolitan School District of Washington Township School

Board and Indy Reads. He is a graduate of Purdue University and holds an honorary degree from Ivy Tech Community College.



Debra Alfarone, Network Correspondent | CBS News

Debra Alfarone is a Network Correspondent for CBS News, covering all things Washington D.C. Ms. Alfarone earned an Edward R. Murrow and Emmy award for her anchoring at WUSA9, the local CBS affiliate in D.C. Before that, Ms. Alfarone worked as a reporter for PIX 11 News in New York and NBC Connecticut in Hartford. She is originally a New Yorker and graduated from Stony Brook University. She also launched her own successful coaching business in 2018, helping people be powerful on camera.



Joni Rae, CEO | The Mindset Group

Joni Rae is the Founder and CEO of The Mindset Group, International Corporate Trainer, and Leadership & Transformational Coach. With over 10 years of experience managing enterprise-wide changes at Deloitte Consulting and Booz Allen Hamilton, Ms. Rae’s expertise is helping leaders, teams, and organizations navigate change and fulfill on their missions. She travels the world coaching commercial, government, and non-profit executives on how to change workforce behavior in their organizations and operate at peak performance. Ms. Rae is also an advocate and passionate about mentoring women in leadership skills and living lives they love through personal growth.

She has a Master’s in Organizational Management and Communications, and has been featured on CBS, Cheddar News, as well as podcasts and radio shows around the world. She believes transformed individuals, teams, and organizations operating at their highest potential is critical to teaching the next generation, through example, how to create positive impact.