



SSTI's 2016 Annual Conference Speaker Bios

Daniel Armanios

Daniel Armanios is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University. Dr. Armanios' research lies at the intersection between entrepreneurship, institutions, and public policy. More specifically, he focuses on the local public institutions and infrastructure necessary to support high-tech innovation and sustainable development. His work has been published in a wide range of leading journals in chemistry, economics, hydrology, sustainable development, strategic management, and technology policy such as *Biomacromolecules*, *Hydrological Processes*, *International Journal of Technology, Policy and Management*, *Public Choice*, *Sustainable Development*, and *Strategic Management Journal*. His work has also contributed to reports for top national and international governmental organizations such as NASA, NOAA, and the UNOHCHR. As a NSF Graduate Research Fellow and as a Benchmark Stanford Graduate Research Fellow, Dr. Armanios received his Ph.D. in Management Science & Engineering (2015) from Stanford University. As a Rhodes Scholar, he received two M.Sc. degrees in Management Research (2008) and in Water Science, Policy and Management (2009) from the University of Oxford. He received two B.S. degrees in Political Science and in Mechanical Engineering (2007) from the University of Pittsburgh where he was a Goldwater Scholar, Truman Scholar, and American Helicopter Society Vertical Flight Scholar.

Ross Baird

Ross Baird developed the Village Capital concept in 2009, and has led the development of programs worldwide. Before launching Village Capital, he worked with First Light Ventures, a seed fund focused on impact investments. Prior to First Light, Mr. Baird worked on the development of four education-related startup ventures: the Indian School Finance Company in Hyderabad, India, the National College Advising Corps in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and two ventures using technology to promote civic participation. He has a M.Phil. from the University of Oxford, where he was a Marshall Scholar, and a B.A. from the University of Virginia, where he was a Truman Scholar and a Jefferson Scholar.

Richard Bendis

Rich Bendis is an entrepreneur, corporate executive, venture capitalist, investment banker, innovation and technology-based economic development leader, international speaker and consultant in the technology and healthcare industries. He currently serves as the founding President and CEO of BioHealth Innovation, a central Maryland public-private partnership focused on accelerating the growth of commercially relevant science. He is also the founding President and CEO of Innovation America (IA), a national public-private partnership focused on accelerating the growth of innovation economy in America. As one of the most recognized experts in the field of innovation economy, Mr. Bendis has served on numerous distinguished boards and task forces including the White House U.S. Innovation Partnership Advisory Task



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Force, the Small Business Innovation Research Committee, and the National Association of State Venture Funds board; State Science and Technology Institute, and the Ernst and Young Entrepreneurial Institute as a national/regional Judge. Mr. Bendis has provided global consulting services to many countries, states, cities and regions, along with international organizations including the United Nations, NATO, UK Trade and Industry, European Commission, French Embassy, the German Marshall Fund, The Canadian Consulate, METI, AKEA, the International Science Parks and Innovation Expert Group and other global entities. He is an international speaker on Building Innovation and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems (voted 2012 and 2014 Top 5 Innovation Speaker by Speakers Platform) and the Editor and Publisher of *innovationDAILY* and *WEEKLY*, an e-newsletter/blog reporting on global trends on innovation with over one million unique visitors in over 185 Countries (voted 4th Best Innovation Blogger in The World by Blogging Innovation).

Dan Berglund

Dan Berglund is the President and CEO of SSTI, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to improving initiatives that support prosperity through science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship.. SSTI is the most comprehensive resource available for those involved in technology-based economic development. Leading SSTI since its inception in 1996, Mr. Berglund has helped SSTI develop a nationwide network of practitioners and policymakers dedicated to improving the economy through science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship. SSTI works with this network to conduct research on best practices and trends in tech-based economic development, encourage cooperation among and between state and federal programs, and assist states and communities as they develop and implement prosperity strategies. Prior to joining SSTI, Mr. Berglund worked as a consultant and for the Ohio Department of Development in a variety of positions, including Acting Deputy Director of the Division of Technological Innovation.

Lee Cheatham

Lee Cheatham has focused his career on leadership in research management and operations, especially in the translation of that research into high-impact commercial products. Dr. Cheatham recently joined Brookhaven National Laboratory to launch its Office of Strategic Partnerships. The mission of this new Office is to engage the laboratory with industry, federal agencies and state/regional organizations in collaborative research efforts, including commercializing laboratory technologies. Previously, Dr. Cheatham served as Chief Operating Officer and General Manager of Commercialization for The Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University. For twelve years prior to Biodesign, he led the Washington Technology Center, an organization chartered by the state to accelerate growth and expand economic impact of small- and medium-sized businesses. WTC funded these companies' collaborations with



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university researchers and provided programs to ease their access to growth capital. Dr. Cheatham's private sector experience includes positions as Vice President of Worldwide Product Engineering for a market-leading library software company and founder of a startup real estate information services company. An electrical engineer by training, he has served in scientific, development and research program management roles in energy systems modeling, large-scale environmental and military information systems and medical device development programs. Dr. Cheatham received a Ph.D from Carnegie- Mellon University, M.S. from Washington State University and B.S. from Oregon State University.

Henry Cialone

Henry Cialone is President and CEO of EWI, a leading developer of innovative technology solutions that enhance manufacturing competitiveness. Prior to joining EWI in 2005, Dr. Cialone had a long and distinguished career at Battelle Memorial Institute, where he was an executive in the energy and materials arena and served on the governing board of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. He is a member of the Ohio State University College of Engineering Advisory Council and the Miami University Research Advisory Council; Trustee of the Manufacturing Institute in Washington, D.C., and MRIGlobal in Kansas City; and, Director of ALMMII (American Lightweight Materials Manufacturing Innovation Institute) in Detroit, Flowgroup plc in England, and Biosortia Pharmaceuticals in Ohio. Dr. Cialone received his B.S. degree in Materials Engineering from Brown University, and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Materials Science, also from Brown, where his area of specialization was hydrogen enhanced fracture.

Rebeca Corbin

Rebecca Corbin is President & CEO of the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE), a leading nonprofit membership organization dedicated to increasing entrepreneurship offerings and thinking at over 300 community colleges across the country. Prior to NACCE, Dr. Corbin served as Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the BCC Foundation at Burlington County College (BCC). Prior to BCC, she oversaw institutional advancement for the Foundation for New Jersey Public Broadcasting. In October of 2014, she was named one of the Top 40 Women in Business by SNJ Business People magazine. In 2011, she was named Fundraising Star of the Year by *Fundraising Success* magazine. Working as an entrepreneur in 2004, she cofounded the Nonprofit Development Center of Southern New Jersey at Rowan University. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Kent State University, a Master of Public Administration degree from The University of Akron, and experience in the classroom as an adjunct instructor, teaching political science and public administration courses. She earned an Ed.D. in organizational leadership and innovation from Wilmington University in Delaware where she received the Audrey K. Doberstein Award for Leadership.



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Deborah Cummings

Deborah Cummings' 20 years of experience in state and regional technology-based economic development, both as a consultant and government official, has made her a well-respected thought leader in the field. As one of the founders of TEconomy Partners, Ms. Cummings' research and analytical skills are drawn upon for a range of projects, and her strategic thinking, project management skills, and attention to details have contributed to TEconomy's reputation for ground-breaking work of the highest quality. She leads projects in strategic planning, cluster-based economic development, program assessments, best practice methodology, science and technology policy, and impact analysis. During her career, which includes nearly 15 years as a senior program manager at the Battelle Technology Partnership Practice, Ms. Cummings has managed state and regional technology strategies and program designs, which have been implemented into robust economic development initiatives. Her work includes analyzing a region's business community and research assets to determine which factors contribute to the area's competitive advantage; analyzing their economic position in relation to peers; and, developing strategies and actions upon which the region can position itself for future development. Ms. Cummings has an M.B.A. from The Ohio State University, and a B.B.A. and B.A. from Ohio University's Honors Tutorial College.

Jim Currie

Jim Currie has 30-plus years creating and managing space - real and figurative - for innovation and the nurturing of possibilities, primarily alongside of, or from within a university, and across a broad array of stakeholders, internal and external, public and private. Additionally, he has considerable experience with research parks and innovation centers, incubators, incubation - planning, development and operation. All of this is accompanied by a useful and occasionally necessary sense of humor.

Eva Doss

Eva Doss has 20 years of experience in business consulting, strategic planning, business development and equity investment fund establishment and management in the United States and Europe. During her career, Ms. Doss established new business ventures and investment opportunities, and developed strategic business partnerships for companies internationally. She has also worked with Booz Allen, RTI International, and the U.S. Agency for International Development in Washington, D.C. As the first Executive Director, Ms. Doss helped in the establishment of the Southside Business Technology Center, a business consulting entity in 2005, which in 2012 grew into The Launch Place, the lead entrepreneurial development organization offering business consulting, training, office space and subsidies, and seed investments through its two equity funds to entrepreneurs in Danville, Virginia and in the Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Ms. Doss speaks several languages, holds a post-graduate Executive



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Certificate in Management and Leadership from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management, has a M.B.A. and B.S. in Business Administration.

Jonathan Dworin

Jonathan Dworin is a Policy Analyst for SSTI, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to improving initiatives that support prosperity through science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship. At SSTI he manages the U.S. Cluster Initiative Convening programs, writes for the SSTI Weekly Digest, and conducts research on publicly supported initiatives that encourage economic growth through innovation and entrepreneurship. Originally from the Detroit area, he brings several years of academic research experience and has co-authored numerous reports on environmental, land, and economic development policy. During graduate school, Mr. Dworin worked with the Itasca Project and McKinsey & Co. consultants on critical parts of the Minneapolis-St. Paul regional economic development plan. He also worked as a graduate research assistant with the State and Local Policy Program, studying industry clusters and economic competitiveness. Mr. Dworin received a Bachelor's degree in Social Relations & Policy from James Madison College at Michigan State University and a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

Wayne Embree

Wayne Embry is Executive Vice President of Investments & Ventures Acceleration for Rev1 and in that capacity ensures that Rev1's Venture Development and Investment teams have everything they need to help entrepreneurs build great companies. After three decades of being an entrepreneur, investor, board member, and mentor, he has no intention of stopping now. He takes his favorite quote, "When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro," seriously. Mr. Embry has a B.S. in Natural Sciences from Western Oregon and an M.S. in Urban Planning from the University of Oregon.

Kimberly D. Gayle

Kimberly Gayle is the new Executive Director for i.c.stars|*Columbus. i.c.stars is a workforce development organization and social enterprise that started in 1999 in Chicago, Illinois, that finds and trains talent, and puts talent to work. The organization develops change-driven young adults to excel in technology and digital careers and effects change as community leaders. Prior to joining i.c.stars|*Columbus, Ms. Gayle was the Director of Business Education and Incubation Services for the Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI) where she lead the Training and Development Services Department, a division which provides training, business coaching, networking, and client-support functions for clients focused on growing and expanding a business. She served as the lead project manager for micro-enterprise training initiatives for wealth building grants and other collaborative grant programs. As a



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certified GrowthWheel® Business Advisor, she provided one-on-one technical assistance to clients assisting them with growth-development plans and financial assistance for loan preparation. She also designed and developed ECDI's signature entrepreneurship program, the Small Enterprise Education Development (S.E.E.D) training series. In addition, Ms. Gayle was the Co-Founder of Executive Intervention, LLC, a training and development company that designed and facilitated customized training programs in the areas of change management, performance management, and organization development. She has over 20 years of professional experience in a variety of sectors including, private, public, and nonprofit. For the past four years, as an Adjunct Professor, Ms. Gayle has taught a variety of business management courses for Columbus State Community College and Franklin University. She currently serves as the education committee member for the National Coalition of 100 Black Women of Central Ohio and has served on the Drug Free Action Alliance and the Greater Linden Development Corporation Board of Trustees. Ms. Gayle holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Bowling Green State University in Finance and a Master in Public Administration from the University of Akron.

Lynn Gellermann

Lynn Gellermann is the Executive Director of TechGROWTH Ohio, a public/private partnership managed by Ohio University, which provides seed capital and venture development services to startup technology companies and entrepreneurs in southeast Ohio. Under his direction, as part of the Ohio Third Frontier-supported entrepreneurial ecosystem, TechGROWTH Ohio has been responsible for nearly \$320 million in regional economic activity. Mr. Gellermann also serves as the Executive Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship at Ohio University, a partnership between the College of Business and the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs. The Center provides academic programs, experiential student-learning activities and technology commercialization support for faculty and student innovators. The Center was awarded the "Outstanding Emerging Entrepreneurship Program" in 2015 by the United States Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE). In these capacities, Mr. Gellermann provides significant leadership to Ohio University and the state of Ohio for important statewide initiatives, including the I-Corps@Ohio program and the Ohio Innovation Fund. He brings decades of venture capital, banking and economic development experience to these endeavors. Mr. Gellermann earned his Bachelor's from Hastings College and his M.B.A. from the University of Colorado.

Colleen Gilger

Colleen Gilger has nearly 20 years of experience in leading a broad range of community development initiatives. She currently serves as the Director of Economic Development for the City of Dublin, Ohio, where she leads job retention, attraction and creation strategies, and oversees the city's team of economic development administrators. Her group is responsible for relationship management with more than 3,000



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existing businesses. Ms. Gilger has negotiated more than 100 incentive packages with businesses, resulting in the attraction, retention and expansion of more than 19,000 jobs in Dublin. She works closely with internal and external development partners to coordinate and facilitate development projects throughout the City. Ms. Gilger is currently leading the 100-gigabit deployment of Dublin, the city's state-of-the-art broadband fiber-optic network, into Dublin's multi-tenant office parks. Additionally, she helped establish, and now oversees, the Dublin Entrepreneurial Center (The DEC), which houses over 120 startup companies and an 8,000-square-foot data center, and has won international entrepreneurship and innovation awards. She has served the City of Dublin for two decades, in various roles including community relations administrator, public affairs officer, and economic development manager. Ms. Gilger holds the International Economic Development Council's professional designation of Certified Economic Developer (CEcD), and earned a Bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University.

Denis Gray

Denis Gray is an Alumni Distinguished Graduate Professor of Psychology at North Carolina State University, where his research focuses on science and technology policy issues, particularly the outcomes and implications of cooperative research. For the past two decades, Dr. Gray has led a unique, multi-faceted "improvement-focused" evaluation of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) longest-running cooperative research center program, the Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers (I/UCRC). He has published extensively on academic science and cooperative research. His books include: *Cooperative Research Centers and Technical Innovation: Government Policies, Industry Strategies and Organizational Dynamics*. Springer Publishing (co-editor); *Innovation U.: New university roles in a knowledge economy* (co-author); *Managing the industry/university cooperative research center* (senior editor) and *Technological innovation: Strategies for a new partnership* (senior editor). A native of New York City (and former taxi cab driver), Dr. Gray received his B.S. in Psychology from Manhattan College, and Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in Ecological/Community Psychology from Michigan State University.

John Hardin

John Hardin is the Executive Director for the North Carolina Board of Science, Technology & Innovation. The board advises and makes recommendations to state policy makers on the role of science and technology in the economic growth and development of the state. Created in 1963, the board has been responsible for a number of internationally recognized initiatives to catalyze the transformation of the North Carolina economy by leveraging research and development, science, innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology-based economic development. With respect to the board's mission, Dr. Hardin's duties include developing and justifying legislation; implementing policy; research, analysis, and review of substantive policy issues and proposals; preparing public policy and budget analyses; preparing and



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presenting high-level state policy briefings, assessments, and reports; conducting strategic planning and making recommendations; directing and overseeing strategic initiatives with impact at the state level; and overseeing the administration of grant programs to support technology commercialization by North Carolina small businesses. From 1998 to 2003, he served as Assistant Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs at the University of North Carolina (UNC) General Administration. The division advises and assists the university president in the planning, administrative review, development, promotion, and evaluation of research and sponsored programs within the 17 UNC institutions. Dr. Hardin holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Political Science from UNC-Chapel Hill and a B.A. in Economics from Baylor University.

Nathaniel V. Henshaw

Nathaniel Henshaw founded CEI Ventures (CVI) in 1994, capitalized its first community development venture fund at \$5.5 million in 1996, formed its second fund in 2001 (\$20 million) and third fund in 2011 (\$10.135 million). In 1993, he co-founded the Community Development Venture Capital Alliance (CDVCA) and serves as its corporate Secretary. CVI has invested over \$24 million in 48 companies employing over 2,900 people. Prior to forming Coastal Ventures, Mr. Henshaw was a Loan and Investment Officer at Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI), now a \$100 million community development corporation headquartered in Wiscasset, Maine. During eight and a half years at CEI, Mr. Henshaw loaned and invested social investment capital in over 125 projects totaling over \$6 million, including environmental clean-up, child care, electronic instrument, publishing, marine products, medical equipment and computer service industries. From 1984 to 1986, he was an Analyst and Assistant to the President of Chemical Venture Capital Corporation (now J.P. Morgan Partners). He also served as an Associate at Intersouth Partners, L.P. (Research Triangle Park, NC) and Kitty Hawk Capital, Ltd. (Charlotte, NC). Mr. Henshaw serves on the boards of: Ektron, Inc. (managed web services); Pen Bay Solutions, LLC. (GIS software); Coast of Maine Organic Products, Inc. (compost); Gelato Fiasco (local food) Navigator Publishing (magazines); Taction (call center); Red Zone Wireless (Internet Services); and Smart Pak, LLC (equine pharmacy). Mr. Henshaw holds M.B.A. and B.A. degrees from Duke University and a Certificate from the NASBIC Venture Capital Institute.

Edward "Ned" Hill

Ned Hill teaches economic development policy, public policy and public finance at Ohio State University. Before coming to Ohio State, Hill was dean of the Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University for eight years and was Professor and Distinguished Professor of Economic Development. Dr. Hill serves as nonresident Senior Fellow of The Brookings Institution, where he is affiliated with the Metropolitan Policy Program. He was chair of the Advisory Board of the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) from 2007 until 2010. He has edited



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Economic Development Quarterly and is a member of the editorial board of the Journal of the American Planning Association. Dr. Hill holds a Doctoral degree in Economics, Urban and Regional Planning, a Master's degree in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Urban Studies from the University of Pennsylvania.

Leigh Hopkins

Leigh Hopkins is a Senior Project Manager with the Center for Economic Development Research (CEDR) at Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute (EI²). Ms. Hopkins transfers her expertise in economic development data research and analysis into practical solutions to complex community problems, and helps create competitive climates for communities and businesses to grow and thrive. She currently manages the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) initiative for the 15-county Northwest Georgia region, and the development and implementation of the region's first Advanced Manufacturing Strategy. She also co-manages a project to gauge the feasibility of developing an "innovation neighborhood" in Atlanta's economically challenged Westside to spur collisions between industry and academia that will create the environment for technological innovation and new partnerships. Interested in the sustainability of the growing Georgia manufacturing sector, Ms. Hopkins has assessed the feasibility of creating a Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED)-standard industrial parks across the Southeast. Other interests include using ArcGIS to visually convey the impact of firm attrition, job growth, zoning regulations, and economic incentives on communities. She also organizes and leads the Georgia Tech Basic Economic Development Course (BEDC), approaching its 50th year, accredited through the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). Ms. Hopkins is an active member of the American Planning Association (APA)/Georgia Planning Association (GPA) and has held an American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) certification since 2010. She participates in regular professional development courses through membership with IEDC and GPA, and is also an active member of the Georgia Economic Development Association (GEDA). Ms. Hopkins holds a Bachelor's degree in Forest Resources from the University of Georgia, and a Master's degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology in City and Regional Planning.

Eugene "Cliff" Hudson

Cliff Hudson is the CEO for Emerging Technology Ventures, Inc. (ETV) and manages the Autonomous and Unmanned Systems Cluster. He brings to the company more than 32 years of experience from the Department of Defense (DoD) in acquisition and technology transition management. Mr. Hudson retired from the U.S. Navy Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Pacific. His duties included management of the autonomous and unmanned system technology transition activities of the Robotics Mentor Protégé Program. Mr. Hudson also served on an interagency executive development assignment with the Small



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Business Administration (SBA) from 2009-2010. He focused on the development of Regional Innovation Cluster (RIC) strategies for the SBA to facilitate technology-led economic development utilizing emerging technologies from the small business sector. Previously, Mr. Hudson was assigned to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics) from 2002-2005. He served as the Joint Robotics Program Coordinator with management responsibilities over the DoD Physical Security Equipment Program and the Unexploded Ordnance Center of Excellence. Mr. Hudson earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Mississippi and a Master of Science degree in Business Administration from East Texas State University.

Kaye Husbands Fealing

Kaye Husbands Fealing is an economist who comes to the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts from the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. During the course of her career, she has built a distinguished record of achievements in scholarship and education, as well as in national and international leadership and service. Dr. Husbands Fealing's areas of expertise include international trade policy; science, technology, and innovation policy in specific contexts; knowledge generation and the development of networks. She has held named professorships at two institutions and served as president of the National Economic Association. She developed the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Science of Science and Innovation Policy program and co-chaired the Science of Science Policy Interagency Task Group.

Amy Jensen

Amy Jensen is the Director of Finance & Operations for The Water Council. Headquartered in the Global Water Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, The Water Council links together global water technology companies, innovative water entrepreneurs, government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGO), acclaimed academic research programs and some of the nation's brightest and most energetic water professionals. The only organization of its kind in the United States, The Water Council is a globally connected epicenter for freshwater research, innovation, education and business development. The Water Council was the recipient of SSTI's 2015 *Excellence in TBED* award for "Improving Competitiveness of Existing Industries." Bringing over 20 years of nonprofit management experience to her role, Ms. Jensen is responsible for overseeing the financial and operational activities of The Water Council, including budget development, financial analysis/reporting, human resources and facilities management. She was recognized as a "CFO of the Year" by the *Business Journal of Greater Milwaukee* in 2008. Ms. Jensen is a CPA and earned her M.B.A from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Marnie Lavigne



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Marnie LaVigne has spent more than 25 years in both the private and public sectors creating new products and startup businesses, driving innovation and economic growth in high-tech industries, including life sciences, informatics, and advanced manufacturing. In 2014, Dr. LaVigne became the President and CEO of Launch NY, a 27-county venture development organization that she co-founded and whose mission is to identify, support and invest in high-growth, high-impact companies and catalyze the entrepreneurial culture of Upstate New York. Previously, she led economic development efforts at UB as Associate VP for Economic Development and business lead for the NYS Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics & Life Sciences. Dr. LaVigne's for-profit experience includes launching health informatics businesses which, resulted in growing two startups to more than 100 employees and two initial public offerings (IPOs). She also served in lead product development positions in larger corporations in managed care (Aetna), pharmaceuticals (Bristol-Myers Squibb), medical devices (Welch Allyn), and medical informatics (Medscape/MedicalLogic, now GE and WebMD). She serves on numerous nonprofit, for profit, and editorial boards. Dr. LaVigne has a Bachelor's degree in Neuroscience and a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, both from the University of Rochester.

John Lettieri

John Lettieri is Co-founder of the Economic Innovation Group (EIG) and serves as its Senior Director for Policy and Strategy. He leads EIG's policy development, economic research, and legislative affairs efforts. He has worked in both the public and private sectors with a diverse set of policymakers, entrepreneurs, investors, and global business leaders. Prior to EIG, Mr. Lettieri was the Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs for a leading business association, the Organization for International Investment (OFII), where he worked closely with a wide range of member companies, industry associations, and stakeholder groups. He led the OFII's state and federal policy work on such issues as tax reform, trade, investment promotion, and manufacturing. Before joining OFII, Mr. Lettieri was Director of Public and Government Affairs for a leading aerospace and defense manufacturer. He previously served as a foreign policy aide to former U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel during his time as a senior member of the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He serves on the Board of Regents at The Fund for American Studies and the Board of Advisors for Lincoln Labs. Mr. Lettieri is a graduate of Wake Forest University where he studied political science and global commerce.

Pamela Lewis

Pamela Lewis is the Director of the New Economy Initiative (NEI), one of the nation's largest philanthropic partnerships, funded by 12 national and regional foundations and managed by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. It is in its eighth year of innovative funding and the development of public/private partnerships that have helped create more than 17,000 jobs and 1,600 companies



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throughout the region. As a highly talented economic development expert, Ms. Lewis brings vision and process to guide the NEI team in strategic grantmaking and program development. She served as Deputy Team Leader of NEI before being named Director. She joined the initiative in 2011 as Senior Program Officer, after serving as a member of the Kauffman Foundation's Detroit team, overseeing national entrepreneurial programs. She was recently named as one of the top 25 women in technology in Michigan and one of the 100 most influential women in Michigan by Crain's Detroit. Ms. Lewis began her career at DTE Energy, spending 15 years in roles ranging from analyst to manager of process management and continuous improvement initiatives. At NextEnergy, she managed entrepreneurial programs focused on accelerating clean energy startups. Ms. Lewis holds an Engineering degree from Michigan State University and a Masters of Business Administration from Spring Arbor University.

Richard Lunak

Rich Lunak has distinguished himself as a successful entrepreneur, corporate executive and investor. Mr. Lunak is currently President & CEO of Innovation Works and Managing Director of Riverfront Ventures. Innovation Works is one of the nation's most active early stage technology investors and also manages the nationally ranked AlphaLab accelerator programs. Riverfront Ventures is an early stage venture fund that he founded in 2013. Early in his career, Mr. Lunak was a successful technology entrepreneur/inventor who helped build one of Pittsburgh's most successful and enduring technology startups. He helped lead Automated Healthcare, a healthcare robotics company, from a startup to a successful acquisition by McKesson Corporation. At McKesson, Mr. Lunak was the architect of several disruptive growth strategies that helped McKesson launch businesses that became market leaders in their respective segments. As Group President, McKesson Automation, he led five autonomous business units and was responsible for all aspects of the businesses, including acquisitions, sales, marketing, R&D, manufacturing and service. Mr. Lunak serves on the board of the Pittsburgh Venture Capital Association and is a past chair of the Three Rivers Venture Fair. He holds several U.S. patents and is a member of numerous boards. He is also a winner of the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award, Carnegie Science Center Entrepreneur Award and inaugural Pittsburgh Venture Capital Association Impact Award. A technologist as well as an entrepreneur, Mr. Lunak received a Bachelor's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Carnegie Mellon and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Pittsburgh.

Ellen Marrison

Ellen Marrison is the Content Strategist at SSTI, researching and writing for the *SSTI Digest* and other publications, as well as managing communication and promotional materials for the organization. She began her career in journalism, writing for several daily newspapers in Ohio before working for a public relations and marketing firm in Toledo. There, she coordinated communications strategies for both



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corporate and nonprofit clients, and later established a consulting business before joining SSTI. Ms. Marrison received her Bachelor's degree in Journalism from Bowling Green State University and a Master of City and Regional Planning degree from The Ohio State University.

Jeff Mason

Jeff Mason is Executive Director of Michigan's University Research Corridor (URC), which is an alliance between Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, and Wayne State University. The URC is one of the nation's top academic research clusters and a leading engine for innovation in Michigan and the Great Lakes region. The URC is focused on increasing economic prosperity and connecting Michigan to the world. The URC works to make Michigan attractive to businesses and talented individuals by educating the next generation of highly skilled workers, conducting innovative research and fostering business and academic partnerships. Prior to joining the URC as Executive Director in July 2009, Mr. Mason held a number of positions at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation including Senior Vice President and Chief Business Development Officer as well as Vice President for Technology Development. Mr. Mason received a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Michigan State University.

Mike McCann

Mike McCann is Vice President of Programs & Partner Engagement at Rev1, where he's helping clients make history of their own. Mc. McCann leads two strategic programs that deliver expertise and talent to Rev1 clients. The Expert Network connects startups with quality professional services firms. Rev1's growing set of talent initiatives and services help startups find the resources they need. An avid golfer, he admires caddies everywhere as great examples of entrepreneurship. Mr. McCann holds a M.B.A. from The Ohio State University and a B.A. in History.

Betsy McCaw

Betsy McCaw serves as Chief Operating Officer of the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership, where she oversees a wide range of projects that enhance CICP's effectiveness and advances the organization's overall mission. Ms. McCaw is also serving as President of the 16 Tech Community Corporation Inc., the entity overseeing the development of the 16 Tech innovation district in downtown Indianapolis. She has an impressive background that includes corporate growth and turnaround management, nonprofit management, venture capital and private equity investment. She most recently served as an independent consultant focused on strategy, organizational development and program scale-up management in education reform. Ms. McCaw has a Bachelor's degree in Finance from the University of Notre Dame and an M.B.A. from Duke University.



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Kenny McDonald

Kenny McDonald joined the Columbus 2020 team in July 2010. As President and Chief Economic Officer, Mr. McDonald serves as the primary leader of all economic development and business attraction efforts for the 11- county Columbus Region. He has an extensive background in site selection, regional economic development, community marketing, business recruitment and international business development. Most recently, he served as Executive Vice President at the Charlotte Regional Partnership. He has also held positions at the Albuquerque Economic Development Corporation, Fluor Daniels Global Locations Strategies and Savannah Economic Development Authority. Mr. McDonald serves on the boards of the Columbus Chamber, International Economic Development Council (IEDC), MidAmerican Global Ventures, NAIOP Central Ohio, SciTech, and Transportation Research Center. He also serves as chairman of the IEDC's Planning and Business Development Committee. Mr. McDonald graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Dickinson State University and a Master of Public Administration from Georgia Southern University.

Scott McIntyre

Scott McIntyre is a lifetime entrepreneur and Founder/Chairman of strategy & capital services firm Phabrig Development, a catalyst for over 20 years in diverse fields including education technology, alternative finance, health, entertainment, automotive, and sports. Mr. McIntyre was a founding member and currently sits on the Board of Directors as President of the Crowdfunding Professional Association, the leading 501(c)(6) trade group formed by the change agents responsible for crowdfunding's inclusion in the JOBS Act of 2012. He also founded alternative finance think tank The International Crowdfinance Leadership Council, joining together industry thought leaders from over 20 nations. He previously managed the state of Ohio technology incubation program from his offices at The University of Toledo, and was responsible for the creation of the Office of Student Entrepreneurship & Engagement, which he designed to tap student creativity and initiative and facilitate growth in student startups aimed at seeding regional economic sustainability. Mr. McIntyre is a frequent speaker, moderator and panelist at leading global conferences including the first series of "Internet Finance" symposiums sponsored by the Chinese government, with five appearances to over 30,000 attendees in China and India in 2005-2016.

John Molinaro

John Molinaro joined the Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth in July 2012 as its first President and CEO. He brings 30+ years' experience growing economies of rural and small-market urban areas. Mr. Molinaro previously spent six years as Co-Director of The Aspen Institute's Community Strategies Group, helping communities across the nation enhance their economies, pairing innovative and traditional economic development and philanthropic approaches. Before joining Aspen, Mr. Molinaro served at West



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Central Initiative, a community foundation/community development corporation in Minnesota. In 20 years there, he led highly successful efforts in business retention and expansion, workforce development, assistance to manufacturers, and regional planning. During his tenure, the region more than doubled manufacturing employment and reversed decades of population loss. Mr. Molinaro served as a policy fellow of the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, an appointee to Minnesota's state Workforce Development Council, a founding member of the Rural Policy Research Institute's state policy panel, and has advised the Small Business Administration, White House Rural Council, and Domestic Policy Council on rural issues. Mr. Molinaro is certified in economic development and housing development finance by the National Development Council, holds a Master's in Regional Planning, and pursued advanced studies in leadership, policy and theology.

Pat Morand

Pat Morand is the President of Open Prairie and Managing Director of the Southwest Michigan First Life Science Fund. His expertise is in complex regulated industries, with special strength in turnaround management, investor relations and accountability standards and performance. Prior to joining Open Prairie, he was a three-time chief executive officer in the biologics industry; Vice President of Commercial Operations for Genesis Therapeutics; Executive Vice President of Sequitor Medical Technologies; and, Executive in Residence of the Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse. Mr. Morand holds a BA from Athenaeum of Ohio.

Nicole Muise-Kielkucki

Nicole Muise-Kielkucki joined Idea Foundry in August 2012, excited to contribute to the organization's brand new Social Enterprise sector activities. She stepped into a full-time role leading those efforts, including InterSector, Idea Foundry's Social Enterprise Accelerator, in early 2013, bringing to the team extensive management experience, a philosophy of hard work and pragmatism, and a unique perspective rooted in sustainability and community development. Since coming to call Pittsburgh home in 2005, Ms. Muise-Kielkucki has worked and volunteered for several local environmental nonprofits in the city, including Tree Pittsburgh and Phipps Conservatory. She is passionate about contributing to the development of resilient and sustainable communities, which includes at the forefront building robust local economies and healthy regional food systems. She currently serves on the board of the Lawrenceville Farmers' Market Advisory Committee. Ms. Muise-Kielkucki holds a Masters of Food Studies from the School of Sustainability and the Environment at Chatham University, where she was awarded a scholarship from the Institute of Food Technologists, as well as the Katherine M. Grosscup Scholarship from the Garden Club of America. She did her undergraduate studies at the University of Pittsburgh, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Philosophy.



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Pablo Navarro

Pablo Navarro has spent his career working at consulting firms, venture-backed startups and large tech companies. He is currently Senior Director of Partnerships at Code2040, an organization that creates access, awareness and opportunities for top Black and Latinx engineering talent in the innovation economy. In his role as Senior Director of Partnerships, Mr. Navarro builds and manages relationships with Code2040's company partners. Most recently he was Vice President of Business Operations at Sourcery Technologies, a startup that helps restaurants manage their finances. At Sourcery, he built and ran the company's account management, sales and operations teams. He built tools and processes that allowed the company to increase revenue by 10x and triple its headcount. In addition to his job responsibilities, Mr. Navarro also stewarded work on company culture, was interim CEO for a time, and solidified Sourcery's Guiding Principles. Prior to Sourcery, Mr. Navarro worked at Amazon where he launched and ran several multimillion-dollar business units including Amazon's Flower business and its B2B food business. He also co-founded Amazon's Latinx affinity group, Latinos@Amazon. Before working at Amazon, he worked as a consultant for Ernst & Young. He was also the youngest board member to serve on the Chicago chapter of the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA). Mr. Navarro holds a B.A. in Mathematical Economics from Colorado College and a M.B.A. from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth.

Dave Norris

Dave Norris is the Chief Innovation Office at Louisiana Tech University. He leads the university's Innovation and Economic Development mission. He oversees the University's Enterprise Campus Research Park, the I6 Proof of Concept Center, and he directs the University's network of business and entrepreneurial development services, corporate partners, and investors. Dr. Norris works in all aspects of the University's technology commercialization, business development, and community partnership activities. He has served on several statewide boards including the Louisiana Business Incubator Association, the LONI Economic Development Advisory Board, and the Louisiana Occupational Forecasting Conference. He is currently the President of the Board of the Greater Ouachita Coalition for AIDS Resources and Education and serves on the board of the Living Well Healthcare Foundation. He was the Independent Economist for the state of Louisiana from 2002 to 2005 charged with evaluating all of the state's economic development programs and incentives. He was previously on the Economics faculty at Northeastern University in Boston (2000-2002) and served in the Office of the Chief Economist at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (1998-2000). Dr. Norris received his undergraduate degree from Louisiana Tech University and his Master's and Ph.D in Economics from the University of Texas at Austin.



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Marco Perez

Marco Perez is the Vice President of Operations for LAUNCH in Chattanooga, TN. LAUNCH empowers entrepreneurs from underserved communities through training and coaching. Mr. Perez has nearly 17 years of experience in nonprofit and corporate management in both national and international markets. He joined LAUNCH due to his belief that the sustainable economic growth of a city needs to be inclusive of the entire population especially microbusiness startups amongst minority and female owners. His role, in addition to overseeing the operations and finances at LAUNCH, is to mentor and train business owners in areas of financial management and growth strategies. One of LAUNCH's stated objectives is to bring minorities and female microbusiness entrepreneurs into the greater conversation of the innovation district of Chattanooga. Mr. Perez sits on the Board of the Minority Business Taskforce for the City of Chattanooga, as well as the Spirit of Innovation Awards for the Chamber of Commerce. He also sits on the boards of multiple high-impact organizations in Chattanooga, such as Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise and La Paz Chattanooga. A native Costa Rica, Mr. Perez moved to Chattanooga in 2011 from Austin. Mr. Perez has a M.B.A. from Thunderbird School of Global Management, and a M.A. in Ministry Leadership from Crown College.

Kelly Ramirez

Kelly Ramirez is the CEO of Social Enterprise Greenhouse (SEG), and has taught/teaches Social Enterprise at the University of Michigan Business School, RISD, Salve Regina, Providence College and at Brown University's Leadership Institute. Previously, Ms. Ramirez directed the Social Enterprise Initiative at the William Davidson Institute (WDI) and consulted with organizations including Aid to Artisans, the Ford Foundation, the European Commission, USAID and Roche. She served in the Foreign Service and as a Peace Corps volunteer. She was named a Woman to Watch by the PBN, is a 2014 BALLE Fellow, and serves on the Rhode Island Governor's Council of Economic Advisors. Ms. Ramirez received Masters of Arts degrees in Public Policy and Urban Planning and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Michigan.

Paul Riser

Paul Riser, Jr. serves as Managing Director of Technology-based Entrepreneurship at TechTown Detroit. In this capacity, he guides the design, execution and ongoing management of the nonprofit's technology programming: acceleration, proof of concept, university and health care system commercialization, and incubation. Mr. Riser is an entrepreneur, chief technologist, information officer and systems engineer with more than 17 years of professional experience working with startup firms to global enterprises in the areas of IT systems administration, systems architecture, technology integration, technical pre-sales support and medical device development. Prior to joining TechTown, Mr. Riser served as Chief Technology



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and Information Officer for Innovative Health Technologies, a Detroit biotech startup developing health care solutions in the form of regenerative, biomimetic medical devices. He is also the President and CEO of the Riser Group, a Northville-based IT and business development consulting firm. Additionally, Mr. Riser is a founding member of the Legacy Associates Foundation, board member and equity partner of *B.L.A.C. Magazine*, and board member of the New Detroit Coalition, the Detroit Creative Corridor Center (DC3), Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow (LIFT), and InForum of Michigan.

Jason Rittenberg

Jason Rittenberg is the Membership and Development Director for SSTI. His work includes coordinating SSTI's member network and cultivating partnership and project opportunities. Mr. Rittenberg previously led and supported research and analysis projects for the Council of Development Finance Agencies, the State of Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and the Cline Center for Democracy. He is a co-author of *News on the Internet: Information and Citizenship in the 21st Century*. Mr. Rittenberg holds a B.S. from Ohio University and an M.A. from the University of Illinois.

Skip Rung

Skip Rung is President and Executive Director of ONAMI, whose mission is to accelerate research and commercialize technology via startup and spinout companies in order to extend the success of Oregon's world-leading "Silicon Forest" technology cluster. Building on early work assisting Oregon research universities grow materials science research revenues and expand their related shared user facilities, ONAMI's commercialization "gap" fund has made \$8.8 million in grant disbursements (as of June 2016), enabling over 40 science-based companies employing 240 Oregonians to raise over \$300 million (~85% of which is private capital) in leveraged funding. In October 2012, ONAMI received the State Science and Technology Institute Excellence in TBED (Technology-Based Economic Development) award for Commercializing Research. Mr. Rung was appointed to the National Science Foundation SBIR/STTR Advisory Committee in October 2012, and currently chairs AdCom's Assessment Working Group. He is also an active angel investor through the Oregon Angel Fund and Willamette Angels (WAC 2015 LLC Managing Member). Previously, Mr. Rung was Director of Advanced Research and Development at Hewlett-Packard's Corvallis, OR, facility, responsible for multiple generations of HP's world-leading inkjet printing technology. He began his industrial career in 1977 at Hewlett-Packard Laboratories in Palo Alto, CA, after receiving his B.S.E.E. and M.S.E.E. co-terminally in 1976 from Stanford University, where he was elected to both Phi Beta Kappa and Tau Beta Pi in his junior year.



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Chris Shaffer

Chris Shaffer came to Shawnee State University from the Governor's Office of Appalachia. He worked as a program manager and state alternate for the governor of the state of Ohio to the Appalachian Regional Commission, regional economic development agency that represents a partnership of federal, state, and local government. He was also the operations manager in the Governor's Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives. He is also a combat veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he served as the platoon leader of a field artillery platoon. Mr. Shaffer works for the provost on strategic initiatives such as operational review, economic development, grants, and governmental reporting. He was appointed by Governor John Kasich to the state commission of service and volunteerism, ServeOhio. Mr. Shaffer received his undergraduate degree at the United States Military Academy at West Point and received his M.B.A. at Ohio Dominican University in Columbus.

Tom Sheridan

Tom Sheridan is described as a "powerbroker for those without a voice," and was once again named a "Top Lobbyist" by *The Hill* newspaper for 2016. A social worker by training and an advocate by trade, Mr. Sheridan brings a unique perspective to his work as one of Washington's most senior political and public policy strategists. In 1991, he founded The Sheridan Group where he and his team work to craft effective strategies for socially responsible public policy initiatives to "help the good do better." Over the years, The Sheridan Group has become the go-to firm in the nation's capital for grassroots advocacy, issue campaign management and coalition-building for nonprofit organizations, social entrepreneurs and socially conscious corporations. Tom began his career at the National Association of Social Workers and the Child Welfare League before joining the AIDS Action Council in the late 1980s, where he became the chief architect and strategist behind the enactment of the Ryan White CARE Act, landmark legislation for the HIV/AIDS community, as well as the lead lobbyist for the historic Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Matthew T. Stevens

Matt Stevens is the manager of strategic initiatives in SBA's Office of Entrepreneurial Development. He leads a team tasked with researching, conceptualizing, and piloting programs and initiatives to keep the agency at the forefront of delivering cutting-edge resources to America's small business owners. His portfolio includes oversight and management of the SBA's Regional Innovation Cluster Program, the ScaleUp America Initiative, and the Lean for Main Street Training Challenge. Mr. Stevens began his federal career as a Presidential Management Fellow. He completed a detail at the U.S. State Department in the Secretary's Office of Global Partnerships, focusing on public-private partnerships related to entrepreneurship as a diplomacy tool in Latin America. Prior to his position at SBA, Mr. Stevens managed a small business assistance program at the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce funded



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through HUD's Community Development Block Grant program. He began his career in entrepreneurial development while serving in the Peace Corps in Ecuador as a small business advisor. Mr. Stevens holds a Bachelor of Arts from Southwestern University in economics and Spanish and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business.

Jared Stober

Jared Stober spent the last 13 years building Flax USA, which manufactured consumer retail ready flax products. Flax USA pioneered the flaxseed category and products were sold in over 16,000 retail locations. In 2015, Flax USA was sold to a private investor. During the transitional period, Mr. Stober took a role with the North Dakota Department of Commerce to help entrepreneurs across the state grow their businesses. Mr. Stober runs Innovate ND, a state program designed to accelerate scalable and innovative businesses located in North Dakota. Innovate ND provides financial resources, mentoring, educational boot camps and networking which has helped over 600 entrepreneurial ventures. North Dakota is becoming a hot bed for entrepreneur activity and, recently, Fargo, ND, was recognized as the 7th best city to start a business, according to Entrepreneur Magazine. In 2015, Mr. Stober started another venture and launched Two Track Malting, which produces craft malt for the craft brewing industry by using grain grown on his family's sixth-generation family farm.

Krista Tuomi

Krista Tuomi is a professor in the International Economic Policy program at the School of International Service, American University, Washington, D.C. Ms. Tuomi has worked for many years as a policy analyst in the areas of innovation and investment. Recently her focus has been on best practice in the startup investment climate, particularly on policy related to angel investing, crowdfunding and seed financing. Ms. Tuomi has published in numerous academic publications and has an ongoing blog with the Kauffman Foundation on Entrepreneurship Policy and a blog with the Angel Capital Association on Financing Innovation.

Cheryl Turnbull

Cheryl Turnbull is the Senior Director of Finance and Venture Capital within the Technology Commercialization Office at The Ohio State University. In this role, Ms. Turnbull is responsible for the creation and support of startup companies formed to commercialize technologies invented at Ohio State, with a current portfolio of 59 companies. Additionally, she has oversight for the university's \$100 million investments in certain economic development funds including: Drive Capital, Ohio Innovation Fund, Rev1 Fund, Catalyst Fund V, Technology Concept Fund, NIT Innovations, Carmen Innovations, and the Accelerator Awards. Prior to joining Ohio State, Ms. Turnbull worked in the areas of private equity,



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mezzanine, and venture capital, with such entities as Talisman Capital Partners, Phronesis Partners, and Banc One Capital. She was also the founding partner of the corporate finance advisory firm, Capital Transactions. She has served on the boards of directors of numerous public and private entities. Ms. Turnbull graduated with honors from the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management and received her B.S. cum laude from Miami University.

Tom Walker

Tom Walker is President and CEO of Rev1and has been helping entrepreneurs build great companies for most of his career. He's formed multiple venture capital funds, founded angel groups, and is an angel investor. He's been known to fly-fish, golf and play delta blues guitar. He is a fan of baseball, Yogi Berra, Will Rogers, Mark Twain and space exploration. Additionally, he's the author of *The Entrepreneur's Path: A Handbook for High-Growth Companies*. Mr Walker holds a B.S. in Aerospace/Mechanical Engineering and a M.B.A.

Caroline Whitacre

Caroline Whitacre serves as the Senior Vice President for Research at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. She is a Professor of Microbial Infection & Immunity and her research area is the immunology of multiple sclerosis. She served as Associate Vice President for Health Sciences Research and Vice Dean for Research in the College of Medicine from 2002-2008. Prior to that, she served for 12 years as the chair of the Department of Molecular Virology, Immunology and Medical Genetics in the College of Medicine. In her current role as VP for Research, Dr. Whitacre is responsible for the overall strategic planning and infrastructure support for the university's \$983 million annual research program. In recognition of her University activities, she was awarded the OSU Faculty Award for Distinguished University Service in 2001 and the Distinguished Scholar Award in 2008. In 2004, she was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2015, she was inducted into the National Academy of Inventors. Dr. Whitacre serves on the boards of Rev1 Ventures, Center for Science and Industry (COSI), The Transportation Research Center, The Wellington School, BioOhio, among others. She chairs the Board of SciTech, the Ohio State University Research Park. Dr. Whitacre received her B.A. and Ph.D. degrees at The Ohio State University.

Tab Wilkins

Tab Wilkins has extensive experience leading local, regional and state organizations as well as working with federal agencies supporting technology-based economic development. After serving as a graduate fellow in the New York State legislature, he began work at the New York State Science and Technology Foundation. There, he helped develop New York's industrial extension service and later helped to develop



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and manage New York's Manufacturing Extension Partnership program. Mr. Wilkins subsequently helped found and then direct CONNSTEP, the Connecticut MEP while also leading a national study on MEP benchmarking and metrics. Later, he was Director of Operations for the Washington Technology Center in Seattle. He is currently a Regional Manager for Strategic Transition with the National Institute of Standards and Technology working primarily with Manufacturing Extension Partnership Centers in the Pacific and Northwest Regions. He has helped develop a number of new MEP initiatives such as their Emerging Leaders Program, re-design of their funding process and conducting research in comparative program development. He is active as a climber and a backcountry skier. Mr. Wilkins graduated from St. Olaf College with a B.A. in Economics and Norwegian and an M.B.A. in Manufacturing and Finance from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.