

2017 WIOA National Convening Speaker List

Washington, D.C. | May 23-25, 2017

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Day 1 – May 23, 2017

Jen Giovannitti



Jennifer Giovannitti is a Regional Community Development Manager with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond where she works to identify and address challenges confronting low- and moderate-income communities. Jen has specialized in engaging communities in Central Appalachia and focused much of her attention on issues related to small business lending, community financing, and workforce development. Jen has a Master's Degree from the School of Community and Regional Planning at the University of British Columbia and has worked in community and economic development for over twenty years. Through her career she has worked in the private sector at two engineering firms, in the nonprofit sector, and in a quasi-governmental role as the executive director of an economic development authority. In addition to planning in the United States, Jen conducted research on the household economy in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Day 2 – May 24, 2017

Samia Amin



Samia Amin, a senior researcher at Mathematica Policy Research, is an experienced evaluation design specialist. She has over 10 years of experience helping government agencies and foundations examine what works in what contexts and for whom. She has a particular focus on workforce development, self-employment assistance, job training, and international development programs. At Mathematica, she leads an innovative project funded by the Department of Labor (DOL) that uses behavioral insights to test low-cost program improvements designed to allow various labor agencies better meet their missions. She also directs a DOL-funded self-employment assistance pilot program helping unemployed workers start businesses in their fields of expertise. She is passionate about the applications of research for ongoing program innovation and improvement. Before joining Mathematica in 2008, Amin held positions at the World Bank, Harvard's Center for International Development, and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. She has an M.P.P. in political economy and development from Harvard University.

Andrew Picard



Andrew Picard brings over 10 years of experience working in public service and customer-outreach programs. After tackling a BA in Political Science at UC Santa Barbara, Andrew begrudgingly left the beach and began his career in Parks and Recreation for the City of Hanford. He has since worked in management consulting and program design with the California Public Utilities Commission, Department of Energy, and most recently finished work with Covered California on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

In 2014, Andrew joined the San Diego Workforce Partnership the local workforce development board for the City of County of San Diego, as the Director of Programs. He oversees a diverse portfolio of workforce programs including all WIOA programs and additionally manages other grants from federal, state, county and privately funded workforce programs.

In his free time, Andrew enjoys pouring over the latest in CFRs and TEGs with a strong cup of cold brew coffee. On the weekends, you could find him hiking, traveling or spoiling his nieces.

Day 3 – May 25, 2017

Brett Vassey

Brett Vassey is the sixth President & CEO of the VMA, representing Virginia's 5,800 manufacturing facilities employing over 230,000 Virginians. Vassey is also a founder and President & CEO of the Virginia Industry Foundation, which is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit research and education foundation, and the Virginia Craft Brewers Guild.

The VMA supports a government affairs division, a political action committee (VMAPAC) and a workforce solutions organization consisting of the nationally recognized Manufacturing Skills Institute and the three time national award winning Dream It Do It Virginia Network – an industry skills and career education resource for advanced technology occupations serving over 16,000 people annually. The VMA manages 11 member committees and councils; a statewide professional development events program; a business services program, and web-based news resources. The VMA and its affiliates also host a number of industry promotion activities, including National MFG Day, Virginia Craft Beer Month, the Virginia Craft Brewers Fest and the Virginia Craft Beer Cup. The VMA is the state association group for the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), and is the state affiliate for the American Chemistry Council (ACC) and the Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA).

Vassey serves on numerous Federal, State and business Boards and Councils including the NAM State Association Group, US Global Leadership Coalition's Virginia Advisory Committee, the Vice Chairman of the Consumer Energy Alliance Board of Directors, the Virginia Manufacturing Development Commission, the Executive Committee and Performance & Accountability Committee Chair of the Virginia Board of Workforce Development; the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee; the

Governor's Climate Change & Resiliency Commission; and the GO Virginia advisory committee. In previous years, Vassey has served on the Southern Governors' Association's Southern Regional Manufacturing Consortium, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Virginia District Export Council, the Coalition for a Democratic Workplace Steering Committee; VirginiaFIRST Foundation Board, the Virginia Rural Jobs Commission, Governor Bob McDonnell's Jobs and Economic Development Commission, the Governor McDonnell Transition Team, the Virginia Attorney General's Regulatory Reform Task Force, the Virginia Commission on Youth's Career and Technical Education Subcommittee, VA Governor's Workforce Development Strategic Plan Steering Committee, the Virginia Public Access Project Board; the Greater Richmond Chamber's Workforce One Leadership Council, the Chesterfield County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, and as Chairman of Business Retention and Expansion International's (BREI) Marketing and Membership Committee. Vassey is a member of the NAM, the Conference of State Manufacturers Associations and the American Society of Association Executives. Vassey has been published numerous times in regional, state and national publications, including Politico.

Prior to the VMA, Vassey held positions in public policy, economic development and college administration in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Kansas and Missouri. Vassey has a Master of Public Administration from Virginia Tech's Center for Public Administration and Policy. He graduated in the top 10% of his class and is a member of the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration - Pi Alpha Alpha. He was a 2005 Governor's Fellow for Virginia Governor George Allen. Vassey has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Kansas. Mr. Vassey was selected for the 2015 University of Kansas Who's Who of Distinguished Alumni and 2006-2007 edition of the *National Register's Who's Who in Executives and Professionals*. Vassey is also a guest lecturer at the UVa Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership. Vassey is married and his wife is an executive with a legal publisher. They have one child and live in Chesterfield County, Virginia.

Thomas Penny



Thomas Penny, a DC area native who has spent 24 years managing hotels in the DC region, is the General Manager of the Courtyard Marriott Convention Center. Under his leadership, the Courtyard by Marriott Convention Center has consistently ranked in the top Courtyards in the world in RevPAR (revenue per available room).

Prior to joining the Courtyard, Thomas was the Assistant General Manager of the 532-room hotel in Southwest, DC. While serving in this capacity, Thomas played an instrumental role in the hotel ranking in the top ten within the brand in RevPAR, achieving multiple brand Quality Excellence awards. Upon being promoted to the position of F&B Director at this hotel at the age of 25 years old, Thomas was at the time the youngest and only African-American member of InterContinental Hotel's Group Food and Beverage Council with responsibility for establishing and evaluating food and beverage standards for one of IHG's core brands worldwide.

Thomas' drive for the hotel industry and concern for the community was fanned to higher flame after his only brother was killed in a car accident, while out celebrating his 18th birthday. Thomas believes in

the timeless quote, “Adversity doesn’t build character, it reveals it.” After his start in the hotel industry as a dishwasher at the age of 17 years old and moving quickly through the ranks, Thomas believes that you learn the next job shortly after mastering the one you have. Thomas is presently 1 of the 5 African-American hotel General Managers out of 148 hotels in Washington, DC.

In January of 2014, Thomas became the second African-American to ever serve as Chair of the Board of the Hotel Association of Washington, DC. He is the Co-Chair of DC NAF Hospitality Executive Advisory Board—a body of hospitality executives charged with exposing high school students to the hospitality business from operations to ownership.

He serves on the DC Public Education Fund Board where the Board is working to raise funds to support the innovative and transformational work of DC Public Schools. With his passion for ensuring underserved District residents are able to work, earn a living wage and provide for their families, Thomas is a member of the Mayor’s Workforce Investment Council (WIC). In addition, he serves on the Board of SOME (So Others May Eat), DC Central Kitchen, Covenant House DC, Raise DC and co-chairs Prince George’s Community College’s Hospitality Executive Advisory Board.

Thomas has been the recipient of numerous awards. Some include the National Society of Minorities in Hospitality (NSMH) Howard University Chapter’s (2008) Legacy of Achievement Award, (2009) The Network Journal’s Top 40 Under Forty Award, (2010) Washington Business Journal’s Minority Business Leader Award, (2010) 100 Black Men of Greater Washington’s Legacy Award for Mentoring, (2011) Visitors Service Center’s Charles A. Horsky Civic Leadership Award, (2014) Courtyard Marriott National Academy Foundation Partnership Award (2015) Court Services Office of Supervision (CSOSA) Making a Difference Award, (2016) DC Morehouse Alumni Chapter’s E.B. Williams Excellence in Business Award, the (2016) American Hotel and Lodging Association Education Institute’s “Lamp of Knowledge Award” for Outstanding Workforce Partner and the (2016) Bridges Marriott Foundation Leadership Award.

Thomas is the proud father of two beautiful children. Thomas is a voracious reader of history and leadership books and is presently working on finishing his own book titled, “Hope, Help and Hospitality.” This book chronicles his life story and experiences within the hospitality industry.

CONCURRENT SESSION SPEAKERS

Day 1 – Concurrent Sessions 3:15pm-4:45pm

The Business Model: Business, Community, & Workforce Development *Business Engagement*

- Luann Dunsford, Michigan Works! Association
- Jennifer Llewellyn, Oakland County Michigan Works!
- Christine Quinn, U.S. Dept. of Labor

I Have to Compete my One-Stop Operator, Now How Does This Work? *Financial & Grants Management*

- Chanel Castaneda, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Deborah Galloway, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Julie Wirt, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

No Wrong Door to Help Youth & Adults with Disabilities Achieve Their Goals *Integrated Services*

- Kirk Lew, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Chris Pope, U.S. Dept. of Education

One-Stop 101: Where You Should Be Now as a One-Stop System *One-Stop Operations*

- David Hunn, My Skillsource - President & CEO
- Jacqui Shoholm, U.S. Dept. of Labor

Understanding the Statistical Model & Its Use in Negotiations *Performance Accountability*

- Cesar Acevedo, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Christina Eckenroth, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Karen Staha, U.S. Dept. of Labor

The Governance Puzzle: Piecing Together Our Roles & Responsibilities

Strategic Governance

- Catherine Awwad, CT Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, Inc.
- Jeff Gabriel, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Minnie Holleran, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Mayor Neil M. O'Leary, City of Waterbury
- Michael Power, NH Office of Workforce Opportunity
- Jim Rzepkowski, MD Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulations

Equal Opportunity Law 101

Special Session: Civil Rights

- Roger Ocampo, U.S. Dept. of Labor, Civil Rights Center

Day 2 – Concurrent Sessions: 10:30am-12:00pm

Legislation to Action: A Data-Driven Approach to In-Demand Occupations

Business Engagement

- Gerardo Lara, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Jacob Maas, West Michigan Works!
- Jason Palmer, Michigan Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives

WIOA Infrastructure: Comparing the Local vs State Funding Mechanisms

Financial & Grants Management

- Deborah Galloway, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Phil Koenig, Director, Bureau of Workforce Training
- Craig McManus, U.S. Dept. of Education

Integrating Services to Connect Youth to Their Future

Integrated Services

- Mark Fawcett, YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School
- Kirk Lew, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Meg Shope Koppel, Philadelphia Works

Program Design & Service Delivery

One-Stop Operations

- Courtney Arbour, Texas Workforce Commission
- Melinda Mack, New York Association of Training & Employment Professionals
- Jessica Otieno, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Christopher Pope, U.S. Dept. of Education

Beyond 101: A Walk-Through of WIOA Performance & Accountability Reporting Requirements & Related Policy Issues

Performance Accountability

- Kate Banimenia, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Jim Doyle, U.S. Dept. of Education
- Christina Eckenroth, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Melinda Giancola, U.S. Dept. of Education
- Evan Rosenberg, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Karen Staha, U.S. Dept. of Labor

Driving Success: High Performance Workforce Boards in Action

Strategic Governance

- Jeff Gabriel, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Mark Herzog, Kaleo Pharma
- Leo Miller, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Gary Stockbridge, DelMarVA Power; Delaware Workforce Development Board Chair
- Kevin Thompson, U.S. Dept. of Labor

What You Need to Know about Section 188: Individuals with Disabilities

Special Session: Civil Rights

- Christopher Button, Office of Disability Employment Policy
- Lee Perselay, Civil Rights Center
- Jamie Robinson, ODEP's LEAD Center
- Danielle Smith, MO State EO Officer

Day 2 – Concurrent Sessions: 1:30pm-2:55pm

Labor Market Information as an Asset for Economic Development & Business Engagement

Business Engagement

- Arthur Brooks, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Cynthia Forland, Washington Employment Security Department
- Carrie Mayne, Utah Department of Workforce Services
- Jason Palmer, Michigan Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives

Transparency in the Workforce System: Establishing Firewalls & Internal Controls

Financial & Grants Management

- Chanel Castaneda, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Thomas DiLisio, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Grace Kilbane, Cleveland Cuyahoga County Workforce Development Board
- Julie Wirt, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Creating Synergy Across Programs to Put Americans Back to Work

Integrated Services

- Michael Baker, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- Larry Burns, U.S. Dept. of Labor

Building Partnerships Related to MOUs & One-Stop Certification

One-Stop Operations

- Brandon Butler, Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation
- Lisa Jones, Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
- Tim Theberge, U.S. Dept. of Labor

Evidence-Building Capacity in State Workforce Agencies: Research and Evaluation Activities

Performance Accountability

- Keith A. Bailey, Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry
- Kate Banimenia, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Burt S. Barnow, George Washington University
- Adele Gagliardi, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Gloria Salas-Kos, U.S. Dept. of Labor

Regionalism: The Framework of the Future

Strategic Governance

- Eileen Cipriani, PA Labor & Industry
- Aaron Fichtner, NJLWD
- Carol Kilko, Department of Commerce & Economic Development
- Tim Martin, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Jeff Ryan, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Allison Spinelli, Center for Workforce & Economic Development, Workforce Development Board

Day 2 – Concurrent Sessions: 3:15pm-4:45pm

Make WIOA Value-Added for Business: Strategies to Improve & Sustain Business Engagement

Business Engagement

- Cliff Atkinson, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Michael Baker, Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
- Andrew Ridgeway, U.S. Dept. of Labor

WIOA Infrastructure: Comparing the Local vs State Funding Mechanisms

Financial & Grants Management

- Deborah Galloway, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Phil Koenig, Director, Bureau of Workforce Training
- Craig McManus, U.S. Dept. of Education

Integrating Services to Connect Youth to Their Future

Integrated Services

- Mark Fawcett, YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School
- Kirk Lew, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Meg Shope Koppel, Philadelphia Works

Program Design & Service Delivery

One-Stop Operations

- Courtney Arbour, Texas Workforce Commission
- Melinda Mack, New York Association of Training & Employment Professionals
- Jessica Otieno, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Christopher Pope, U.S. Dept. of Education

Beyond 101: A Walk-Through of WIOA Performance & Accountability Reporting Requirements & Related Policy Issues

Performance Accountability

- Kate Banimenia, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Jim Doyle, U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration
- Christina Eckenroth, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Melinda Giancola, U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration
- Evan Rosenberg, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Karen Staha, U.S. Dept. of Labor

Driving Success: High Performance Workforce Boards in Action

Strategic Governance

- Jeff Gabriel, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Mark Herzog, Kaleo Pharma
- Leo Miller, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Gary Stockbridge, DelMarVA Power; Delaware Workforce Development Board Chair
- Kevin Thompson, U.S. Dept. of Labor

What You Need to Know about Section 188: Individuals with Disabilities

Special Session: Civil Rights

- Christopher Button, Office of Disability Employment Policy
- Lee Perselay, Civil Rights Center
- Jamie Robinson, ODEP's LEAD Center
- Danielle Smith, MO State EO Officer

Day 3 – Concurrent Sessions: 9:00am-10:25am

Make WIOA Value-Added for Business: Strategies to Improve & Sustain Business Engagement

Business Engagement

- Cliff Atkinson, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Michael Baker, Illinois Department of Commerce Economic Opportunity
- Andrew Ridgeway, U.S. Dept. of Labor

Key Elements for Oversight & Management of Local Areas & Sub-Recipients

Financial & Grants Management

- Gregory Adams, Maryland Dept. of Labor
- Mary Ellen Branham, Maryland Dept. of Labor
- Thomas DiLisio, U.S. Dept. of Labor

- Marsha Harris, Maryland Dept. of Labor

Community Colleges: Multi-Faceted WIOA Partners

Integrated Services

- Elizabeth Creamer, Office of Governor Terence R. McAuliffe
- Sharon Klots, Baltimore County Dept. of Economic & Workforce Devel.
- Cheryl Martin, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Louise Slezak, Community College of Baltimore County
- George Taratsas, Virginia Community College System

American Job Center Operations: Behind the Scenes

One-Stop Operations

- Jacqui Shoholm, U.S. Dept. of Labor

Effectiveness in Serving Employers Measure: A Discussion

Performance Accountability

- Keith Bailey, PA Department of Labor & Industry | Center for Workforce Information & Analysis
- Adam Leonard, Division of Operational Insight, Texas Workforce Commission
- Melinda Giancola, U.S. Dept of Education
- Karen Staha, U.S. Dept. of Labor

Strategic Partner Engagement, Planning, & Implementation: Realizing Your Plan & Partnerships

Strategic Governance

- Jim Doyle, U.S. Dept of Education
- Heather Fleck, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Diane Hurley, Massachusetts Department of Career Services
- Amy Kershaw, Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance
- Thomas Perreira, Bristol Workforce Investment Board
- Joan Phillip, Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission
- Tim Martin, U.S. Dept. of Labor
- Joseph Viana, Bristol Career Centers

Obligations to Provide Language Access Services

Special Session: Civil Rights

- Roger Ocampo, U.S. Dept. of Labor, Civil Rights Center