

PARTNER APPALACHIA CONFERENCE
SPEAKERS BY SESSION

Wednesday April 27, 2022

1:00-1:15 PM -Welcome from IEL



Helen Janc Malone, Vice President for Research and Innovation, IEL

Dr. Helen Janc Malone is the Vice President for Research and Innovation, Director of the Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFPTM), and Secretary of the Board. Her work focuses on scaling promising practices through research and data, incubating innovative leadership initiatives, supporting a national network of leaders for equitable education policy, and growing research-practice network. Her areas of expertise include education policy and leadership, out-of-school time learning, and systems-level change in both national and global contexts. Helen is the series editor of the Information Age Publishing book series “Current Issues on Out-of-School Time.”

Her recent publications include: *The Role of Context in Scaling Up Educational Change* (Educational Research for Policy and Practice, 17(3), 2018); *The Growing Out-of-School Time Field: Past, Present, and Future* (Information Age Publishing, 2018, co-edited book); *The Future Directions in Educational Change: Social Justice, Professional Capital, and Systems Change* (Routledge, 2018, co-edited book); *Opening Doors, Changing Futures* (IEL, 2018; co-edited

technical report); Collaborative Partnerships for Systems Change (Journal of Professional Capital and Community, 2(4), 2017). She has edited several books, co-founded two special interest groups (SIGs) within the American Educational Research Association (AERA), has served as the Chair of three SIGs, and is the founding editor of a long-running series, Lead the Change. She serves as a peer reviewer on several academic journals and has served on editorial boards across out-of-school time, youth development, and education leadership journals. She has given lectures domestically and abroad and has appeared in mass media. Helen holds Ed.D. in education policy, leadership, and instructional practice from Harvard University.
Twitter: @IELconnects @epfp_iel

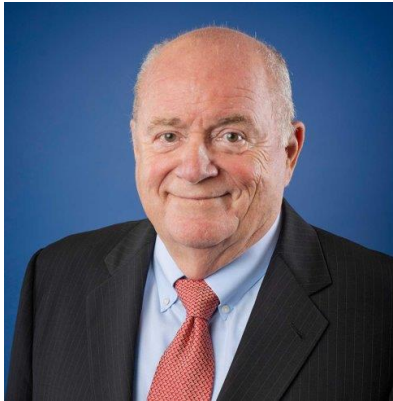


Eddie Koen, President, IEL

Eddie Koen began serving as the President of IEL in February 2022. A Chicago native with roots in Alabama, he has a passion for education, equity, and criminal justice reform. Before his arrival at IEL, Koen served as the President and Chief Executive Officer for the Urban League of Greater Southwest Ohio (ULGSO), one of the largest Urban League affiliates in the country serving Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, and Dayton, Ohio. He also previously served as the Chief Impact Officer for Mile High United Way, where he directed \$18 million in investment strategies and programming shifting the work towards neighborhoods' needs. His other roles have notably included Chief-of-staff for Denver Public Schools (DPS), the largest school district in Colorado with a one-billion-dollar budget, where he was charged with overall coordination of policy, lobbying, and strategy. In Denver, Eddie also served as vice-chair of the Board of Trustees for the Denver Foundation (TDF), an \$820M community foundation, chaired their work around racial equity, and served as a finance committee member.

Twitter: @IELconnects

1:15-1:35 PM Keynote: The Future of Postsecondary Education and Training



**Dr. Tony Carnevale, Research Professor and Director,
Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce**

Dr. Carnevale serves as Research Professor and Director of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce (CEW), and is co-author of *The Merit Myth: How Our Colleges Favor the Rich and Divide America*. He has served as Vice President of the Educational Testing Service (ETS), senior staff in both the US Senate and House, and has received appointments in multiple presidential administrations. In 1993 he was appointed by President Bill Clinton to chair the National Commission on Employment Policy. He was subsequently appointed by President George W. Bush to serve on the White House Commission on Technology and Adult Education. Dr. Carnevale co-authored the principal affidavit in *Rodriguez v. San Antonio*, a US Supreme Court action to remedy unequal education benefits. This landmark case resulted in significant fiscal reforms to equalize K-12 education spending in a majority of states. Dr. Carnevale received his BA from Colby College and his PhD in public finance economics from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University.

Twitter: @GeorgetownCEW

Additional Resources:

<https://cew.georgetown.edu/resources/reports/>

<https://cew.georgetown.edu/good-jobs-project/>

<https://cew.georgetown.edu/resources/data-tools/>

1:35 – 2:20 PM Panel Discussion: The Illustrative Power of Partnerships



Dr. Kevin Boys, President, Southern State Community College (OH)

Dr. Kevin S. Boys is the 5th president of Southern State Community College (Ohio), serving in his 13th year in this position and retiring in June 2022. His tenure may be remembered for providing steady leadership during the "boom" following the great recession through the "bust" in enrollment exacerbated by the COVID pandemic. Prior to his presidency at Southern State, Dr. Boys had a distinguished 31-year career in K-12 education serving as teacher, principal, and superintendent in two suburban Cincinnati school districts. Dr. Boys currently serves as the chair of the Community Colleges of Appalachia, an association of 95 member colleges and on the board of the Rural Community College Alliance where he recently facilitated its new strategic plan. Dr. Boys earned his doctor of education degree from Miami University, his master's degree in educational administration from Xavier University and bachelor's degree in education from the University of Cincinnati.

Twitter: @SSCCPRESIDENT

Additional Resources:

www.ccofapp.org

www.sccc.edu



Dr. Monica S. Carpenter, Associate Vice President, Mayland Community College

First and foremost Dr. Carpenter is a proud community college alumni from Mayland Community College in NC where she currently serves as the Associate Vice President of Workforce Development and Continuing Education. She has over 20 years of experience in the community college system in various roles. She holds a Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership. As of last night she is an EPFP Alumni and she has served as a consultant for IEL on this conference.



Dr. John Gossett, President, AB Tech Community College (NC)

Dr. John D. Gossett assumed the Presidency of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College on July 1, 2020. He came to Asheville after serving the citizens of McDowell County as McDowell Technical Community College's President for three and a half years. Dr. Gossett's 34-year career in community college education began in the classroom as a Business Administration instructor. He also served in academic, student services, research and planning, accreditation and workforce roles at Mayland Community College. In 2012 Dr. Gossett joined McDowell Technical Community College as their Vice President of Learning before becoming President in 2016. Dr. Gossett holds a B.S. in Marketing from the University of Tennessee, an M.B.A. from Appalachian State University, and an Ed.D. in Adult and Community College Education from North Carolina State University.

Twitter: @abtech prez



Susan Snelick, President, Northern Pennsylvania Regional College (PA)

Susan recently celebrated her one-year anniversary as President of Northern Pennsylvania Regional College. She brought with her extensive workforce development expertise, having most recently served as the Executive Director of Workforce Solutions for North Central PA and holding various other workforce development leadership positions in the region spanning nearly three decades. The NPRC is a publicly supported, not-for-profit regional college. NPRC's mission is to provide affordable and accessible post-secondary education to the residents of northern Pennsylvania. Susan currently serves on the board for the Center for Rural Pennsylvania. She has held several other volunteer positions including the Regional Liaison for the National Association of Workforce Boards, member of the Governor's Middle-Class Task Force from 2017-2018, member of the Appalachian Higher Education Network, and chaired the PA Workforce Development Association while also serving on the boards and advisory boards of several educational institutions.

Additional Resources:

<https://regionalcollegepa.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/northernparegionalcollege/>

Thursday, April 28, 2022

1:00-1:20 PM Keynote: Supporting All College Learners



**Dr. Sharon Morrissey, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Services and Research
Virginia Community College System**

Dr. Sharon Morrissey is the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Workforce Programs in the Virginia Community College System, where she is responsible for state-level coordination of workforce education and college transfer programs, instructional and student support services, research and reporting, federal program administration, and related policy development for Virginia's 23 community colleges. Dr. Morrissey leads initiatives to increase student success outcomes across the VCCS, including transfer program realignment to support mapped pathways; direct enrollment with co-requisite learning supports; stackable workforce credentials; credit for prior learning; dual enrollment redesign; and systemwide enterprise technology solutions to support student success. Dr. Morrissey co-chaired the VCCS strategic planning task force, which developed Opportunity 2027, a six-year plan to achieve equity in access, learning, and success for students from every race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic group. Prior to joining the VCCS, Dr. Morrissey served as the Executive Vice President for Programs and Chief Academic Officer for the North Carolina Community College System. Dr. Morrissey also served as President of Richmond Community College, Vice President for Instruction at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, and Vice President for Academic and Student Services at Fayetteville Technical Community College. She began her community college career as an English instructor at Central Carolina Community College. Dr. Morrissey serves on the boards of the Community College Research Center, the National Student Clearinghouse, and the Online Virginia Network. She is an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Education Leadership, Policy & Human Development at North Carolina State University.

Additional Resources:

[New Economy Workforce Credential Grant Annual Report](#)

1:20-2:05 PM Panel Discussion: Building Inclusive Campuses; Student Voices



Sophia Fink, Student

I am a twenty-five-year-old single mother bettering my life for my kids. I completed my high school equivalency in the spring of 2021 and then enrolled in Bridge Valley Community & Technical College in the fall. My major is human services and rehabilitation studies. I am halfway through my Associate's degree and plan to enroll in a Bachelor's degree program as soon as I graduate. Eventually, I plan to get my master's in either social work or counselling. I want to help kids who have been affected by addiction to overcome struggles and be successful. I love to help people and see them succeed no matter what they have faced.



**Elizabeth Jarrett, Adult Professional Development Coordinator
Mountain State Educational Services Cooperative**

Elizabeth Jarrett, WV Adult Education Professional Development Coordinator, has spent the past 16 years in an adult education classroom assisting her students with cultivating growth

mindsets, planning educational and career paths, preparing for entrance and occupational exams, gaining academic and employment skills, and success in post-secondary training. Many of her students are first-generation college students who first needed to obtain their high school equivalency diploma. Elizabeth earned a bachelor of arts degree in biology and chemistry and a master of arts degree in teaching. Her degrees as well as her experiences teaching English as a second language in Japan and working with resiliency programs for at-risk youth in southern West Virginia prepared her well for teaching in adult education.



Estela Jones, Student

I am a mother of three children who range in age from four to twelve years old. Since coming to the United States from Cape Verde when I was twenty-one, I have completed ESL classes, earned my high school equivalency diploma, and graduated with an Associate's degree in Human Services Rehabilitation Studies and a bachelor's degree in social work while working full-time in the field of addiction recovery. I am currently enrolled in a master's degree program in clinical social work. I would ultimately like to be a therapist who helps individuals and families overcome addiction and live their best lives.



**Phetoudone Pat Nivanh, GEAR UP IHE Coordinator
Western Piedmont Community College**

Phetoudone is originally from Laos and is one of nine children. Before moving to the States in 1986, she lived two years in a Thai refugee camp. Today she calls beautiful Western North Carolina home. She resides in Morganton with her husband. She is a first-generation college student. She currently serves Western Piedmont Community College as the IHE Coordinator for the federally funded grant called GEAR UP, which promotes college access in Burke County. Prior to that she worked 10 years as a public servant in the NC judicial system. For fun she enjoys running road races, rock climbing, canoeing, hiking, and traveling the world. Phetoudone holds a B.A. in Chemistry and a Certificate in Leadership in the Public Sector both from North Carolina State University. She is a member of the Board of Directors for Foothills Conservancy of NC and is a current 2021-2022 EPFP fellow.



Stacy Probst, Student

Hello. My name is Stacy Propst. I am a student at AB Tech and I will be graduating from the psychology pathway in a few weeks. I am a single mother of two children. My youngest, who is eleven, has Down syndrome and autism. He is also non-verbal. When I began to understand that my son's behaviors were reactions to things within his environment that could be changed to better suit his needs, I decided to return to school with hopes of learning more and using this knowledge to assist other caregivers to

better understand and communicate with their loved ones. I have ADHD and have a difficult time focusing on certain subjects, so I reached out to student services for assistance. Because of my hard work and the services I received due to my learning disability, I have become a good student and was invited to join the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.



Dr. Yolanda Watson Spiva, President, Complete College America

Dr. Watson Spiva's over 25-year career in postsecondary education spans a range of executive leadership, general management, federal government, public affairs, operations, and academic officer positions. Dr. Spiva serves as the President of Complete College America (CCA). Headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana, CCA is a bold national advocate for dramatically increasing college completion rates and closing equity gaps by working with states, systems, institutions, and partners to scale highly effective structural reforms and promote policies that improve student success. Dr. Spiva is the former President & CEO of College Success Foundation (CSF), a national non-profit college readiness, access, success, and scholarship organization headquartered in Bellevue, Washington. Dr. Watson Spiva has also held various positions with the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, DC, and Atlanta, GA. She has been awarded the prestigious Turknnett Leadership Character Award for outstanding leadership in the nonprofit sector. Dr. Watson Spiva earned her undergraduate degree in economics from Spelman College, her master's degree in public policy from the University of Chicago, and her Ph.D. in higher education from Georgia State University.

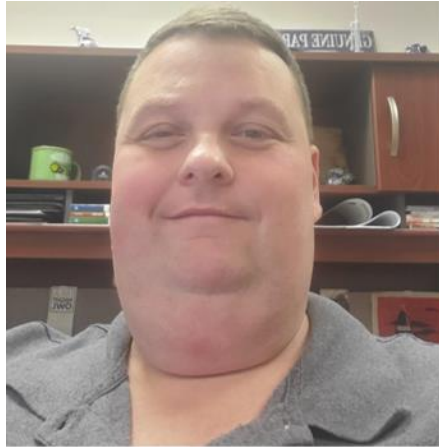
Twitter: @CCAPrezYolanda

Additional Resources:

<https://completecollege.org/>

Friday, April 29, 2022

1:00-1:55 PM Panel Discussion: Sustaining Partnerships



Lee Davis, Workforce Coordinator, Center for Workforce and Innovation of Appalachia

Mr. Lee Davis has served as Appalachian Regional Commission Power Lineman Grant Coordinator at Mountain Empire Community College since 2017. His areas of responsibility included marketing, budget management, student recruitment, and grant reporting. Mr. Davis most recently transferred to the position of Workforce Coordinator for Mountain Empire Community College. His areas of responsibility include scheduling Workforce classes, Workforce Center building director, and Workforce grant management. Mr. Davis has 21 years of experience working with adult learners. Prior to MECC, he served as the PluggedInVA Project Manager for Southwest Regional Adult Education. His areas of responsibility included marketing, student recruitment, and monitoring classes. During this time we worked closely with MECC staff. Mr. Davis holds a B.S. in Political Science: University of Virginia-Wise with a minor in History. He is currently working on his M.S. in Management and Leadership: Western Governors University.

Additional Resources:

www.mecc.edu

www.nccer.org



Alan Gullett, Division Director, Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center

Alan J. Gullett, MRC, CRC, is the Division Director of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center located in Thelma, Kentucky. Alan has worked for the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for twenty five years as an Instructor, Counselor, Blind Services Manager and Division Director. He has a Bachelors Degree from Morehead State University in Elementary Education and a Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Kentucky. Alan has been the Kentucky Rehabilitation Association Treasurer for the past 14 years and Vice-President of the University of Kentucky Big Sandy Alumni Club for the past 8 years. Alan has lived his entire life in Eastern Kentucky and is committed to making the area a better place to live and work.



**Al Moore, Dean of Workforce Solutions and Economic Development
Bevill State Community College**

Al Moore serves as Dean of Workforce Solutions and Economic Development at Bevill State Community College. Prior to Bevill, Moore had a successful career with Alabama Power, where he was responsible for coordinating both technical and non-technical training and development. Moore has 28 years of experience in industry and education. He is a recognized

leader in establishing public/private partnerships. He is actively engaged through his work with Regional Workforce Councils, various chambers of commerce and economic developers. Moore currently serves as a board member of the American Cancer Society and Central Alabama Partnership for Training and Employment. He holds a B.S. in Education, from the University of Alabama at Birmingham; M.S. in Postsecondary Education from Troy University; and a joint Leadership Certificate with a focus in Public Policy in Education, from the Education Policy Center at The University of Alabama and the John C. Stennis Institute of Government at Mississippi State University.

Additional Resources:

www.bscc.edu



Dr. Tiffany Ramsey, Area Director, Tennessee Vocational Rehabilitation Program

Tiffany began her journey with the State of Tennessee, Department of Human Services (DHS), Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program in August of 2010. Over the years, Tiffany has served in various positions within DHS's VR program. She has experience working with Transition School to Work programs, Community Tennessee Rehabilitation Centers, and providing a range of individualized VR services to Tennesseans with disabilities. Currently, Tiffany serves as the East Tennessee Area Director for VR. In this role, she provides leadership and oversight for the 34 counties in East Tennessee. Tiffany received both her Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and Master of Science in Counseling Degrees from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Tiffany's Master of Science Degree in Counseling is with a concentration in Rehabilitation Counseling, and she is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor since 2010. Additionally, Tiffany is a PhD Candidate in the Learning and Leadership Program at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga.



Dahlia Shaewitz, Vice President of Transition, Disability, and Employment, IEL

Dahlia develops strategies and approaches to empower youth and adults with disabilities to create their futures and lead their communities to achieve greater inclusion. At IEL, she oversees a portfolio of work that addresses the systems change and collaboration needed to connect people with disabilities to education and employment opportunities. For more than 25 years she has led technical assistance and research projects with teams of experts in the areas of disability, adult literacy, and workforce development. She is an expert in knowledge translation—helping both researchers and end users to understand and effectively communicate about information that can have a positive impact on our lives. She has worked with vocational rehabilitation agencies to evaluate strategies to improve employment outcomes for youth and adults with disabilities; universities to develop in-person and online training for researchers, practitioners, and people with disabilities; private corporations to build greater awareness of the value of hiring people with disabilities; and other stakeholders to create a climate of full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of work including design, development, and implementation of products and processes. Dahlia earned a master’s in Diplomacy from Norwich University, a master’s in Writing from Johns Hopkins University, and her iPEC certification as an executive coach. She is fluent in ASL and hails from a Deaf family.

3:05 – 3:15 PM: Sustaining Partnerships for the Future



**Kirstin Yeado, Program Officer, Support Rural Postsecondary and Workforce Training
Ascendium Education Group**

Kirstin is a program officer at Ascendium Education Group. She is responsible for strategic grantmaking to advance Ascendium’s Support Rural Postsecondary Education and Workforce Training focus area, which seeks to expand education and workforce training opportunities for rural learners. She joined the organization in 2017. Previously, she was a community impact manager at Higher Expectations for Racine County, a collective impact partnership. She has also held positions with the Center for the Study of Social Policy and Mercy Home for Boys and Girls. Outside of Ascendium, Kirstin is co-chair of 100+ Women Who Care -Milwaukee. Raised in Illinois, she earned a Master of Arts degree in Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago. She also earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Spanish from Marquette University.

3:15 – 3:45 PM: Closing Keynote: Building Sustainable Partnership for the Whole Learner Toward a More Prosperous Region



Candace Williams, Executive Director, Rural Community Alliance

Candace Williams is from the small Delta town of Elaine, Arkansas. Before working for Rural Community Alliance, she was employed by USDA Delta Obesity Prevention Research Unit where her work encompassed evaluating the role of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans in preventing obesity in the Lower Mississippi Delta region of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. She holds a degree in Family and Consumer Science from the University of Central Arkansas and is a 2017 graduate of the Community Development Institute (CDI)-Central. She served as Rural Community Alliance's first youth board member, starting in 2007 until the time she became a staff member in 2013. As Executive Director of Rural Community Alliance, she works to empower rural community members to improve and create change in their schools and communities. Rural Community Alliance works in state, regional, and national coalitions to promote equitable education and rural prosperity. Williams currently serves as board Treasurer of the Arkansas Community Development Society. She also serves on the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis-Community Development Advisory Council, University of Central Arkansas-Community Development Institute Advisory Board and the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) board. She's mom to Caleb, a 9-year-old Googling guru.