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Class of 2020

Biographies



Marisa N. Benson is the Grants Manager at the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Marisa manages Dodge's grantmaking systems and works to ensure systems meet the needs of grantees, applicants, and staff. She began her career in grantmaking as a cultural program specialist for the U.S. Department of State. Prior to Dodge, she developed systems to enhance program operations for the International Internship Program at Princeton University. Marisa has a master's degree in arts administration from Drexel University and a bachelor's in diplomacy and international relations from Seton Hall University. In her free time, she produces festivals and creative placemaking projects in New Jersey communities and performs rap and spoken word. In 2018, Marisa was selected as a representative in the Atelier Programme for Young Festival Managers of the European Festival Association in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Samantha Bobila is Director of Fund Development at YWCA Princeton, a non-profit with a mission to eliminate racism and empower women through human and social service programs. In her role, she oversees all fundraising, marketing, and communications efforts. She serves on the Board of the Trenton Circus Squad and chairs their Fund Development Committee. She is also a member of the Mercer County Government and Policy Committee and advocates for policies that support and strengthen the non-profit community. She is deeply committed to progressive democracy and grassroots advocacy efforts so Bobila volunteers with Action Together New Jersey. Bobila also volunteers for local, state, and federal campaigns. She has a Master's in Women's and Gender Studies from Rutgers University and a Bachelor's in History from Saint Joseph's University.



Stephen Bonventre is a Sr. Manager of Commercial Enablement and Business Transformation at Quest Diagnostics. In this role, Steve partners with key leaders & stakeholders from across Quest's client, patient, and customer-facing functional ecosystem and focuses on enhancing the client and patient experience, reducing client attrition, and accelerating revenue growth. Prior to this role, Steve traveled 100% for 5 years as an original member of the National Continuous Improvement (CI) team designing and coaching large scale operational transformations. Prior to that, Steve spent almost 8 years in various roles within Corporate and International Finance. Steve received his bachelor's in Economics and Accounting from the College of the Holy Cross and is a current board member of the Trinitas Health Foundation in Elizabeth, NJ. He resides in Randolph, NJ with his wife, Laura, and their two young children.

Jackie Burke is the Assistant Executive Director of the Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools where she represents the interests of all 21 county vocational-technical school districts. Jackie has over 12 years of public policy experience in New Jersey, including positions with the Senate Majority Office and the Women's Policy Institute. Jackie's career has focused primarily on education policy but also includes employment as a prosecutor in Philadelphia and as development associate at the Alice Paul Institute. Jackie lives in Moorestown with her husband and two sons.



Deirdre Byrne is the Director of Strategy for the Central Region at Hackensack Meridian Health. Deirdre is an experienced strategic planner with demonstrated strengths working for large, multi-county, academically based healthcare systems. Her professional career has spanned health systems, non-profit, policy and finance organizations. Prior to HMH, Deirdre was at Montefiore Health System where she oversaw a multi-year regional transformation plan, post-acute strategy, physician engagement, ambulatory development, strategic partnerships and acquisitions, bundled payments and regulatory planning. Deirdre received her MPA in Health Policy and Management from New York University's Wagner School and her BA from Fordham University. She and her husband, Robert, live in Ridgewood, NJ with their two sons, Michael and Declan.

Sam Caucci has managed and coached sales and leadership teams for publicly held, private sector and franchised companies across the globe. Sam founded 1Huddle a workforce training platform using game technology to help organizations better prepare their people for work. With clients across the globe, 1Huddle has impacted people across organizations in a wide array of sectors, with clients including Loews Hotels, ESPN, Audible (an Amazon Company), Madison Square Garden and FASTSIGNS. Applying an innovative approach to preparing people for the workforce, Sam oversaw the creation of the training game platform, the first game-based platform that transforms the way organizations onboard, train & develop their team members.



Margaret Cowell is a social services program director experienced in advocating for low income and inner city community members, and in implementing programs to address food insecurity, employment and transportation barriers. She has worked with Arm In Arm (formerly known as The Crisis Ministry) for 13 years as director of its Workforce Development, Driver's License Restoration, Hunger Prevention and All Kids Thrive programs. Prior to her current role, she worked as a corporate training department manager and program developer of instructor-led and web-based courses. She is a graduate of Seton Hall University and holds a certificate in Executive Nonprofit Leadership from Fordham University and a certificate in Case Management from the Rutgers School of Social Work.

Matthew DeNafo is the Vice President of Centralized Maintenance and Asset Management at the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA). In his current role at the Authority, Mr. DeNafo is responsible for managing asset selection and procurement, repairs, maintenance, and external shared services. He provides strategic and tactical leadership, in addition to assisting with project development and management, while overseeing a staff of over forty employees. Mr. DeNafo holds a degree in Civil & Environmental Engineering, a Master's in Environmental Engineering and Business Administration.



Richard DeRose is the Supervisor of Government Affairs and Public Policy for South Jersey Industries (SJI). Richard handles local and state affairs throughout South Jersey Gas and Elizabethtown Gas service areas. Prior to joining SJI, Richard was the Deputy Chief of Staff at the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. Richard is a veteran of the Iraq War and a graduate of Rutgers University. In his free time, Richard enjoys coaching baseball and basketball for children and adults with disabilities."

Jackie Espinoza is the Regional External Affairs Consultant at Jersey Central Power & Light serving most of Sussex County and portions of Warren and Morris County's. In this position, she is the point of contact for the township officials, Police Chiefs and the Office of Emergency Management. She has over 20 years with Jersey Central Power & Light, first hired in 1984 as a secretary and worked her way up through the organization. At JCP&L she is the Harvest 4 Hunger coordinator – charged with raising money and donations for the local food pantries. She is a graduate of the College of St. Elizabeth and resides in Jefferson Twp with her husband, Mike and their three children, Brianna, Cassidy and Matthew. They take full advantage of living on Lake Hopatcong with boating, wake-surfing, paddle boarding and ice-skating in the winter.





Bryan Evans currently serves as Vice President at Greater Trenton and as Founder and Editor-in-Chief of TrentonDaily, a Trenton-focused online news publication. Prior to Greater Trenton, Evans served in a variety of roles including Director of Publications at Select Greater Philadelphia; Director of Policy Communications for The Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce; and Director of Public Affairs for the Downtown Alliance (NYC). Evans earned his BA in Communications and Psychology at Hunter College and completed his MBA in Computer Information Systems at Baruch College.

Lynne Evans is Manager of Billing for Pepco Holdings(PHI), and Exelon Company. Lynne joined PHI in 2000 and is currently oversees the day to day operations in Billing for Atlantic City Electric and Delmarva Power.



Sonya Ferreira is Director of the Office of Regional and Care Transformation Presidents at Hackensack Meridian *Health*, one of the largest, most comprehensive health networks in New Jersey that aims to transform health care and be recognized as a leader of positive change. She is an accomplished healthcare professional with 10 years of nursing clinical experience and over 6 years of experience in education, organizational development, and health care management. Sonya holds an MSN from the Portuguese Catholic University, a BSN from the Superior Health School of Viseu, Portugal and recently completed a Certification in Organizational Development from the Institute of Organizational Development and a Certified Healthcare Manager program from Rutgers University.

Scott Fischer is the Co-Founder and Managing Member of Ciel Power LLC. Fischer co-founded Ciel in 2010, and in 2019 the company was named 2019 ENERGY STAR® Contractor of the Year by the U.S. Department of Energy. The company is listed on the New Jersey Sustainable Business Registry and is a member of the New Jersey Sustainable Business Council. Fischer and his team work with environmental groups, elected officials, and leaders in environmental science and sustainability to develop and promote public/private sustainability partnerships. The company strives to harness the power of business to a greater end, using profit and growth to deliver a positive benefit to employees, communities, and the environment. A member of the CivicStory Board of Trustees, Fischer serves as its Board President. Fischer is also an active member of the Summit/New Providence Rotary.



Theresa Fronckowiak is the Senior Director for Budget and Finance at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Camden campus. In this role, Theresa oversees all financial areas, including budget development, financial reporting, student accounting and post award grant accounting. As a key campus advisor, Theresa steers strategic, mission driven goals for the campus, ensuring financial support and technical compliance. Theresa serves as the campus liaison on a number of University wide budgetary and financial steering committees and focus groups. Theresa was recognized for her dedication to Rutgers with the *Chancellor's Award for Staff Excellence in Service* in 2019. Theresa is licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in NJ and PA, as well as a Public School Accountant in . .

Tom Gilmour is the Executive Director of the Trenton Downtown Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to making our Capital City a competitive location for business owners. Prior to that, Tom served as the City of Asbury Park's Director of Economic Development for 13 years. He is a former Councilman of the Borough of Fair Haven, Vice Chair of the Princeton/Mercer Convention & Visitors Bureau and a current Trustee of the Asbury Park Music Foundation. Tom is a graduate of Bucknell University.



Laurie Goganser is a cause-driven leader with 26 years of experience in the YMCA movement. She serves as President & CEO of YMCA of Greater Monmouth County, the second largest Y in New Jersey with over 36,000 members. Laurie directed the merger of The Community YMCA and YMCA of Western Monmouth County in 2019 to create the countywide YMCA. She leads a team of 1,200 employees, oversees a \$25 million operating budget, and partners with a 44-member Board of Directors to strengthen communities in central New Jersey.

Alex Gonzalez represents New Jersey Resources Corporation, a publicly-traded diversified energy company, located in New Jersey, and its regulated and unregulated businesses in connection with its day-to-day operations, including 33 and 34 Act securities matters, stock exchange compliance, debt and equity offerings, debt financings, mergers and acquisitions, contracts, regulatory matters, risk and compliance matters, investor relations, internal and external communications and general legal and business counseling. Alex also supports the corporate secretary function with respect to corporate management and governance matters. He graduated from Christian Brothers Academy High School in 2000, Rutgers College as a political science major and communication minor in 2004 and Rutgers School of Law at Camden, with honors, in 2007. Alex is admitted to practice law in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, and is fluent in Spanish.



As Development Director for Sustainable Jersey, **Giuseppe (Joe) Grillo** manages corporate and foundational gifts, government grants, and donor cultivation. Joe began his career as a principal of a national importing company. After transitioning to politics, Joe served as executive director, fundraising professional, and campaign manager for numerous political campaigns and organizations in his home county of Monmouth. Joe earned his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Rider University and his M.S. in Global Affairs from Rutgers-Newark. A lifelong Jersey Shore resident, Joe continues to be civically involved in his hometown of Asbury Park, particularly as a member of the Asbury Park Board of Education.

Heather Hall started her career in the utility industry when she joined Delmarva Power in 1998. She has held various management positions within the Exelon family of companies. Heather is the Regulatory Affairs Manager for Atlantic City Electric Company. She is responsible for managing regulatory proceedings, ensuring compliance with rules and regulations, and fostering constructive relationships with stakeholders. Heather earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with a minor in Economics from University of Delaware, and a Master of Business Administration from Drexel University.





Dr. Oscar Holmes IV is an Associate Professor of Management and the Director of Access and Outreach for Business Education at Rutgers School of Business-Camden. He is an award-winning scholar and his research has been published in several top-tier management journals and books. Additionally, he is the founding CEO of *WHConsulting Firm, LLC* and is the creator and host of *Beyond The Mill*, a Diversity Dialogues Talk Show at Rutgers-Camden and *Diversity Matters*, a podcast that explores diversity and inclusion-related issues that premieres fall 2019.

David Howe heads Global Leadership Development for Merck & Co., Inc. Over his previous 27 years with Merck, David has led global Talent Management, HR for US Pharmaceuticals, Americas Manufacturing and Global Supply Chain, and COE roles in talent management and organization development. Prior to Merck, David spent two years as a bench scientist in microbial genetics. David is Board Chair of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Mercer County and lives in Yardley, PA with his wife, Allison (LNJ 2018), and two sons.



Larry Jones is the Director of Program & Impact for After-School All-Stars NJ. As DPI Larry manages all the After-School All-Stars programs in Northern NJ. Larry is the former founder and Executive Director of a non-profit organization he created while in undergraduate school. He spearheaded the city's first anti-violence youth march in the city of Newark with more than 200 youth participating. He later partnered with the Newark Housing Authority to create the first of its kind anti-violence/anti-gang basketball league amongst ten different Newark housing developments servicing more than 3,000 youth over ten years period. He is also a fellow of Leadership Newark class of 2013.

Emma Kimenhour is a Philanthropic Gift Director for Volunteers of America Delaware Valley who partners with businesses, individual donors and partner organizations to raise awareness and to increase institutional giving for VOADV. After spending nearly 5 years working in Pennsylvania politics as a Legislative Aid and Field Organizer for campaigns, Emma knows how to cultivate interests and successfully fundraise-and it's not about driving a hard bargain. It's how well you communicate and connect to what really motivates individuals to help those in need. Emma holds a BA in Political Science from Temple University.



Kara Kopach serves as the Director of Real Estate Development for the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority (FMERA). As Director, she oversees Development staff, leasing and sales of FMERA owned assets, Post Closing obligations, Reuse Plan Amendments, Mandatory Conceptual Reviews and the process to approve real estate development projects. Kara obtained a B.A. in History from the University of Scranton and she earned her J.D. from Seton Hall University School of Law. She lives in Monmouth County and is married with two children.

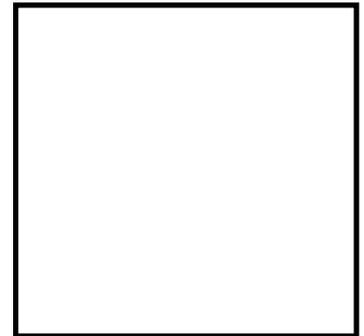
Hannah Korn-Heilner is the Outreach Coordinator at Advocates for Children of New Jersey for The Future Begins with Babies campaign. She obtained her Master of Social Work with a concentration in Management and Policy from Rutgers University. Prior to graduate school, she worked at the New Jersey Community Development Corporation in Paterson, serving as the Assistant Director of a 21st Century Community Learning Center afterschool program at John F. Kennedy High School. She also completed a year of AmeriCorps service with the same organization.



As Executive Director of the [New Jersey Sustainable Business Council](#), **Richard Lawton** works with a network of business organizations and companies committed to advancing market solutions and policies to support a vibrant, just and sustainable economy. Richard has held executive level positions with three Fortune 500 companies, and was named by FOLIO magazine as one of the top 40 innovators in the magazine industry. He serves on the boards of [Investor Advocates for Social Justice](#), and [Zen Mountain Monastery](#), and holds an MBA in Sustainability from Antioch University New England.



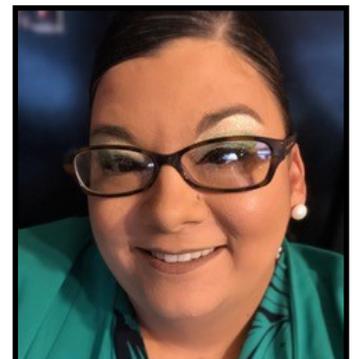
Rev. Sara Lilja, LEAMNJ



Johnny Loperena is an Technology Project Manager at Prudential with over 25 years of Technology leadership in various roles. He has extensive experience in Project Management, Data Analysis and Process Management. His current role involves using data analytic to improve efficiencies. As a Project manager, he has worked on regional, national and enterprise wide technology projects. As a talent ambassador, he has also been involved in identifying, coaching and retaining talent. Johnny offers also spend some time as a mentor for Newark High School student at Prudential.



Tina-Marie Lopez, M.P.A. works as the Acting Deputy Director of Union County's Division of Social Services where she manages the daily operations of over five hundred dedicated public servants across seventeen departmental units. Ms. Lopez has a Bachelors' of Arts in English from Kean University and a Masters of Public Administration from Villanova University. Ms. Lopez also obtained certifications in leadership and negotiations from the Mendoza Business School through the University of Notre Dame.





Dr. Rebecca Lubot leverages her experience in public and government affairs, association management, and crisis communications on behalf of CN Communications' clients, and is director of the Governor's STEM Scholars. Rebecca began her career in the Domestic Policy Office of the Vice President, worked on two congressional campaigns, served a State Senator and a U.S. Senator, and oversaw lobbyists throughout the U.S. She earned her Ph.D. from Rutgers University where she also taught, an M.Sc. from The London School of Economics, and a B.A. from Boston University.

Mike Malloy is a Senior Superintendent at New Jersey American Water, responsible for leading a team tasked with the management, development and operation of a water transmission and distribution network serving over 83,000 customers across five counties. He continues to serve in the Army Reserve as an engineer officer at the rank of Captain. In addition, he volunteers as a member of his municipality's Zoning Board of Adjustment. He earned a B.S. from Rutgers University and an M.S. from New Jersey Institute of Technology.



Michael Mancini serves as Chief of Staff/COO and Secretary to the Board of Trustees at Thomas Edison State University. As the primary advisor to TESU President, Dr. Merodie A. Hancock, he collaborates across the University, influencing the institution's strategic direction. Mancini also oversees Communications, Human Resources, IT, and Board operations. He earned his Ed.M. from University at Buffalo and a B.A. from Purchase College. In May of 2019, Mancini was appointed to the Board of Directors of the United Way of Greater Mercer County.

Andrea Marshall is the Director of Education for the Camden County Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse, Inc., a private, non-profit organization providing substance abuse prevention, education and resources. She is a Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS) and currently serves on FNC Philly Board of Directors, and formerly the Children's Continuum of Care board. Andrea is a graduate of Rowan University with a double major in Elementary Education and Sociology. She is currently enrolled in graduate school for her Masters in Human Resource Training and Development.



Cheryl Morrison is the Director of Diversity & Inclusion for New Jersey Resources where she is responsible for the development and integration of their D & I Strategy. In addition, Mrs. Morrison is responsible for Affirmative Action, EEO and Supplier Diversity. Prior to joining New Jersey Resources Mrs. Morrison spent 25 years at HSBC Bank in various roles including the US Head of Diversity & Inclusion, VP Talent Management and Head of Graduate Recruitment & Development. In 2010 Mrs. Morrison had the opportunity to relocate to Hong Kong for nine months to design and deploy a Diversity & Inclusion Strategy for the Asia Pacific Region. Mrs. Morrison earned a Master's Degree in Administrative Science and a Bachelors degree in Business Management from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Karla Pollack is a Principal at Association Business Solutions (ABS), an association management agency in Trenton. She advances the interests and elevates visibility of nonprofits through public relations, government affairs, and digital engagement. Prior to founding ABS, Karla was the director of membership at NJ Business & Industry Association and owned Varsity Liquors in Princeton. She serves on the Board of the Rescue Mission of Trenton and the Trenton Rotary Foundation. Karla earned a B.S. in Marketing from Susquehanna University.



Patience Purdy is in her 6th year at the NJEDA where she manages Marketing and Stakeholder Engagement. Prior to the NJEDA, she spent 10 years at the Trenton Thunder Baseball Club as Director of Community Relations. Born in Florida and raised in Tucson, AZ, Patience moved to New Jersey in 2004 (and is still trying to get used to Fall/Winter). She enjoys being outside, going to ballgames, hiking, Mexican food, and all things surrounding her 6 year old son Evan (well, most things).

Jigna Rao is Director for the Center for the Center of Continuing Studies, Mercer County Community College where she oversees personal enrichment, professional, and workforce programs. Jigna's career spans education, government, business, and nonprofit fields where she has used her leadership to influence growth, and affect change. Jigna's passions go beyond her professional endeavors. She is committed to human rights and serves on various nonprofit board and committees. Jigna is an alumni of Mercer County Community College and The College of New Jersey.



Karen Reif is vice president - renewables and energy solutions for PSE&G. She is responsible for clean energy strategy as well as solar energy, energy efficiency and electric vehicle programs for both PSE&G and PSEG Long Island. Previously, Ms. Reif was senior director of continuous improvement for the shared services organization at PSEG. She also held various leadership positions in the company's information technology department. She holds a BA in Economics and International Studies from Emory University and a MBA (MSIA) from Carnegie Mellon University.

Brian Reighn, CFA, is the manager of Investor Relations at Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG). Brian started at PSEG in 2001 as an engineer upon graduation from Rutgers University. Brian received his MBA from NYU in 2009 and continued his career in roles in accounting and corporate finance before coming into his current role in 2018. Prior to college from Rutgers University, Brian served 3 ½ years in the United States Air Force and 4 years in the NJ Air National Guard. Brian received his Industrial Engineering degree from Rutgers University in 2011.



Jennifer Roselle is Counsel in the Firm's Newark, NJ office. Ms. Roselle has experience in all areas of labor, employment and education law, including advising clients on employment discrimination; contract interpretation and negotiation; tenure and seniority; personnel policies; scope of negotiations; employee training, employment counseling and collective bargaining at all levels including mediation and fact finding, arbitration and litigating unfair practice charges. Ms. Roselle also assists employers navigate the challenges presented by new medical marijuana regulation in the workplace.



Tracy Schoenberg is the manager of communications and social media for the Commerce & Industry Association of New Jersey (CIANJ). She is also the Council President for the Borough of Oradell and has served on the governing body since 2016. Tracy graduated from Rutgers College with a degree in journalism and political science. She also earned a master's degree from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. She was a journalist for many years, working for the Today Show, NBC News Specials, Newschannel 4, Patch and freelanced for many local publications. She also taught journalism at Ramapo College and the College of Mt. St. Vincent/Manhattan College. She won an Emmy for her work with Newschannel 4. Tracy and her husband Matt have three children — Eve, a sophomore at Loyola University -- Baltimore, David, a senior at River Dell High School and Marisa, freshman at RDHS.

Jonathan Shenk is the president of Greenleaf Painters LLC, a commercial and residential painting company based in Lawrenceville, NJ, which he launched in 2006. An eco-friendly company, Greenleaf Painters is a member of the Princeton Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce Independent Business Alliance. Jonathan is also an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church, USA, and aside from running his company, he serves on the board of Equality (formerly the New Jersey Association of Corrections), a nonprofit serving formerly-incarcerated individuals and those recovering from domestic violence. He is also on the steering committee of the Greater Trenton Chapter of the Campaign to End the New Jim Crow. He holds an M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary, NYC, and a B.A. in Communications from Goshen College, IN.



Lauren Theis is the Director of Education at the Raritan Headwaters Association in Gladstone, NJ. Beginning her environmental career at Cook College (now the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences) at Rutgers University, she graduated with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Biological Sciences in 2007. In 2008 she joined Raritan Headwaters, where she's been involved with the organization's Science, Volunteerism, and Stewardship departments. Lauren is currently the Director of Education at Raritan Headwaters, running education programs for over 3,500 students, families and adults a year, as well as coordinating the award-winning River-Friendly Certification program for Schools and Residents. She is a published children's book illustrator, a volunteer with the Hunterdon Land Trust and other local organizations, and a yoga instructor.

Lauren Thomas is the Director, Transmission Growth Projects & Project Origination for PSE&G. Lauren started in this role in March 2018 and is responsible for transmission business development for the Utility, front end planning for projects, project estimating and risk management, and interconnect projects and contracts. Lauren joined PSEG in 2018 and has held positions in Power Finance, Corporate Strategy and Enterprise Risk Management. She came to DP&C as a Project Manager in 2011 and was promoted to Project Director in 2015. Lauren holds a BS in Chemical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a MBA in Operations and Strategy from University of Michigan. Lauren is a certified Project Management Professional and sits on the Board of Advisors for the Construction Industry Institute.





Aisha Thomas-Petit serves as Chief Diversity, Inclusion, & Corporate Social Responsibility Officer for ADP. She leads ADP’s global diversity and inclusion strategic roadmap for attracting, developing, and retaining top talent. Aisha is also the Chair of the Sustainability/CSR Steering Committee and VP and Secretary of the ADP Foundation. Aisha holds a bachelor degree in Marketing from Syracuse University and an MBA from Rutgers University. She lives in New Jersey with her husband and two daughters.

Brent Thompson helps to advance the Foundation’s efforts to build a healthier, more equitable America through strategic communications. He works with RWJF’s Healthy Children and Families group as well as the Foundation’s New Jersey grantmaking program. Thompson earned an MPA from the University of Pennsylvania and a BA from Drew University. He is married with two daughters. In his free time, he can often be found exploring the rivers, forests, and lakes of New Jersey’s extraordinary Pinelands region with his family.



Michael Wallace is vice president of government affairs for the New Jersey Business & Industry Association, where he serves as a liaison between member companies, legislative offices, and executive departments. Wallace is the lead advocate on employment and labor policy, education, workforce development and job training initiatives, workers compensation, and federal affairs. Wallace graduated from the University of Delaware with a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary studies.

Sereyna Wallace currently serves as the Career Placement Director in the state of New Jersey for a national non-profit organization entitled “NPower”, which provides technical skills training, professional development and job placement services to military veterans, spouses and young adults. She has a diverse professional background in employment support services, higher education and career services. Her academic credentials include a Bachelor of Science in Business Communications from Eastern CT State University, a Master of Science in Global Business Management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and she is currently working to complete a Doctorate in Education for Leadership & Learning at Aspen University.



Michele Williers is the Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of BBBS of Essex, Hudson & Union Counties (BBBS). For nearly 29 years she has devoted her professional career towards the management and administration of community development and youth serving agencies. Michele has been employed within the BBBS network for the past 21.5 years, 10 in Tampa Bay, FL and 11.5 in NJ. She received her B.S. from the University of Tampa in 1994 majoring in Criminology and Political Science.