



Michigan Energy Workforce Development Consortium

Tri-Annual Summit

Tuesday November 10, 2015 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Lansing Center, Ballrooms 7 and 8

333 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48933

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Stephanie Comai, Director

Talent Investment Agency

Stephanie was appointed by Governor Snyder as Director of the Michigan Talent Investment Agency (TIA), effective March 16, 2015. TIA is a new state agency created within the Department of Talent and Economic Development (TED). TIA's mission is to enhance and foster more effective talent development efforts in Michigan, including improving career and technical education, skilled trades training, employment assistance. As a part of her duties, she is charged with oversight of the Unemployment Insurance Agency and the Workforce Development Agency. Prior to joining TED, she was a Deputy Director with the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). She served as the Director of Revenue and Partnership Enhancement for the Michigan Department of Human Services. She was a member of the Board of Trustees at Central

Michigan University from 2003-2010. She also chaired the State Management Issues Committee for Governor-elect Snyder's Transition Office during 2010. Working for Governor John Engler, Comai directed the E-Michigan Office, which developed the Michigan.gov web portal. She held several additional positions in state government in the Engler Administration focusing on, implementation of policy initiatives, executive staff recruitment, and fiscal efficiencies. She has a Master of Public Administration degree from George Washington University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan.



Mark Stiers, President and Chief Operating Officer

DTE Gas, MEWDC Executive Sponsor

Mark Stiers, is president and chief operating officer of DTE Gas, DTE Energy's natural gas utility, which provides service to 1.2 million homes and businesses in Michigan. DTE Energy (NYSE: DTE) is a Detroit-based diversified energy company involved in the development and management of energy-related businesses and services nationwide. DTE Energy also operates an electric utility serving 2.1 million customers in Southeastern Michigan. The DTE Energy portfolio includes non-utility energy businesses focused on power and industrial projects, natural gas pipelines, gathering and storage, and energy marketing and trading. Stiers is responsible for all utility gas operations, gas sales and distribution as well as utility midstream transportation and

storage services. Prior to joining DTE Energy, Stiers was chief operating officer at Quest Energy, LLC, the largest alternative electricity supplier in Michigan, where he led operations and the delivery of electric products and services to commercial and industrial customers. At the same time, Stiers was vice president of retail electric at WPS Energy Services, the parent company of Quest Energy. In this position, Stiers was responsible for retail electricity activities in Ontario, Michigan, New York, Illinois, Ohio and the Northeast. Prior to his tenure with WPS Energy, Stiers served as senior vice president of Engage Energy, directing the development and delivery of structured energy products in the Midwest, Mid-Atlantic and Eastern Canadian markets.



**Michele Kirkland, Vice President of Energy Operations
Consumers Energy, MEWDC Executive Sponsor**

Michele Kirkland is the vice president of energy operations for Consumers Energy, the principal subsidiary of CMS Energy. She has overall responsibility for the construction, operation and maintenance of the company's electric system that provides safe, reliable energy service to 1.8 million electric customers. Kirkland also oversees network services, electric construction, forestry operations, and energy support services. She was named to this position in 2011. Prior to her current position, Kirkland served as executive manager of operations services and managed customer energy specialists, schedulers, dispatchers, work planners for distribution and customer operations, and Metering Technology Center

employees. She also spent a decade in field operations management at various levels, including working as a field manager for two different regions in Michigan. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan State University.



**Valerie Brader, Executive Director
Michigan Agency for Energy**

Valerie Brader is the Executive Director of the Michigan Agency for Energy. Her service with the administration began in 2011 and prior to this role, she served as Deputy Legal Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Snyder, including work on the City of Detroit bankruptcy case. Before her service in state government she was a member (partner) at Bodman PLC, practicing primarily environmental and corporate law (with a specialization in assisting new or expanding businesses, from incorporation to securing permits and tax credits). A Rhodes Scholar and published author in both the legal and scientific presses,

Brader previously worked as the career law clerk for the Hon. John Feikens of the Eastern District of Michigan, as an environmental consultant to the EPA and Department of Defense, and for Gov. Phil Batt (R-Idaho) on environmental and natural resource issues. Brader, who was the youngest person in the country to be selected to assist a federal court under the "Special Master" rule, was selected by Crain's Detroit Business as one of the "40 under 40" in Metro Detroit, by Michigan Lawyer's Weekly as a "rising star," and by the Joyce Ivy Foundation as its Leader of the Year. Brader received her AB magna cum laude in government from Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges, has two masters degrees from the University of Oxford (an MSc in Environmental Change and Management and an MSt in Historical Studies), and a J.D. magna cum laude from Georgetown Law Center.



**Ann Randazzo, Executive Director
Center of Energy Workforce Development**

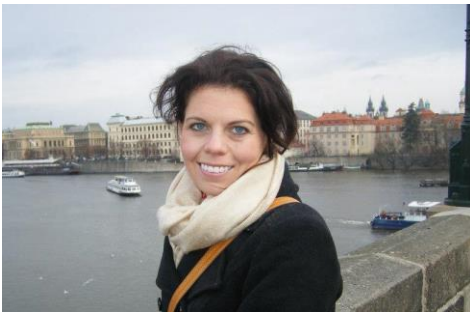
Ann Randazzo is the Executive Director of the Center for Energy Workforce Development. She assumed this position when the organization was incorporated in March, 2006. The Center is a consortium of national energy associations, electric and natural gas energy companies and is solely focused on addressing the workforce needs of the energy industry. Ann is a former employee of the Georgia Power Company, a Southern Company and spent 22 years in a variety of positions in IT, Finance, Customer Operations and the Southern Company College. Ann is the President of Randazzo Consulting, LLC. Prior to becoming Director of CEWD, she spent 12 years providing strategic planning consulting to electric utilities,

concentrating on Human Resources, Training and Development, and Organization Effectiveness. Ann lives in Arlington, VA with her husband and two teenage children.



Cynthia Scherphorn, Resource and Career Development Consultant Oakland Schools

Cynthia Scherphorn is a Michigan native and has been a member of the educational field for twenty-six years. Her career includes supporting students' educational and career journey in elementary, middle school and high school at the district level and is currently a consultant in the Career Focused Education department at Oakland Schools. Cynthia is responsible for workforce development at the secondary level and assists in providing regional support for twenty-eight districts and four technical campuses. Making connections and building relationships is important as she engages with business and industry partnerships seeking opportunities to connect high school students and educators to the world of work beyond the walls of the classroom. Her goals have always centered on students and their success while building access with equity. Cynthia delights in spending time with her family, enjoys reading and relishes her weekly walks during the seasonal changes Michigan has to offer taking in the beauty of creation.



JaCinda Sumara, Instructional Consultant Oakland Schools

JaCinda Sumara is the Instructional Technology and Curriculum Consultant of Oakland Schools' Department of Career Focused Education. She is a passionate educator with over 10 years of experience in the field. She is committed to expanding the use of technology in the classroom to provide opportunities for all learners. JaCinda is responsible for technology planning and implementation at the Oakland Schools Technical Campuses. Additionally, she is cultivating a system to empower teachers to flourish in the connected world via use of available digital technologies, to improve teaching and learning. JaCinda obtained a B.A. from Albion College with a concentration in Public Policy and Service. She received an M.A. from University of Detroit Mercy in Curriculum and Instruction. She obtained an EdS. from Wayne State University in Education Administration, emphasis Instructional Technology. JaCinda, and her Fiancé, Joe Masten, reside in Huntington Woods, Michigan with their Dachshund, Josie. They are moving into the second year of home renovation project that has taught them the much about the "arts" of communication and patience. JaCinda, an avid runner, completed the Capital City River Run Marathon in Lansing, MI on September 18, 2015 with a time that qualified her to run the 2017 Boston Marathon.

PANELISTS

Katie Abraham, Legislative Analyst Associated Petroleum Industries of Michigan

Katie currently works at the Associated Petroleum Industries of Michigan (API-Michigan) as a legislative analyst. She focuses on growing energy priorities in the state, including hydraulic fracturing and fostering smart regulations and fiscal policies to create jobs for Michiganders and generate more opportunities for economic benefits. Prior to API, Katie most recently served in Michigan's House Republican Policy Office as natural resources, tourism, and environmental policy advisor and associate legal counsel. Previously, she served in the U.S. District Court's Eastern District and with the Department of Environmental Quality in Lansing, Michigan. Katie earned her Bachelor of Arts from Kalamazoo College and her Juris Doctorate and Masters in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School and is a member of the State Bar of Michigan.

Jim Ault, President

Michigan Electric and Gas Association

Jim Ault is President of the Michigan Electric and Gas Association (MEGA), a Lansing trade association of investor-owned electric and gas utilities that individually serve fewer than 250,000 Michigan customers. He started with MEGA in 1999. Members serving in the Upper Peninsula include SEMCO Energy Gas, Wisconsin Public Service, We Energies, Upper Peninsula Power Co, and Northern States dba Xcel Energy. Members serving in the lower peninsula are Aurora Gas, Citizens Gas, SEMCO, Michigan Gas Utilities, Indiana Michigan Power (AEP) and Alpena Power.

A native of Washington, DC living in Michigan for most of his life, Ault received his education at Detroit Austin Catholic High School, Michigan State University (B.A. Transportation and Physical Distribution) and University of Detroit School of Law (J.D.). His legal career started with the Court of Appeals in Lansing, where he served as a law clerk to Chief Judge Robert Danhof. Ault's involvement with energy issues came through private practice work for law firms Loomis Law, Honigman Miller and Ault & Maier and a period with the Attorney General's office representing the MPSC and its technical staff. His legal and regulatory experience involved Michigan oil and gas development, the abandoned Midland nuclear plant project, implementation of the federal PURPA laws, gas take or pay contracts, the MCV gas plant project, general MPSC regulation and more. With MEGA, he has worked on recent Michigan energy and regulatory reform matters including net metering and interconnection, performance standards, the 2000 retail electric choice law, the 2008 energy law modifications, rewrite of the Miss Dig underground facility protection statute and the current debates on energy policy.

Other activities include representing MEGA with the Michigan Energy Provider's Conference, Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm, Michigan Damage Prevention Board, Energy Workforce Development Consortium and the current Roadmap to New Energy Policy working group. Ault has been an adjunct professor teaching energy law at Cooley Law School and is presently Financial Secretary to Knights of Columbus Council 10006 in Okemos. He is married to Kathryn, an educator, and they have three adult children and one grandson.

Brindley Byrd, Executive Director

Michigan Energy Efficiency Contractors Association

After graduating from Michigan State University, Brindley founded and successfully managed a residential remodeling company for 12 years. He parlayed his own professional development into being a national speaker and presenter for the National Association of Home Builders. After serving as executive director of the Michigan Construction Career Council, part of Capital Area Michigan Works!, Brindley moved into Energy Optimization program design with CLEAResult and then onto advocating for the energy efficiency industry as the founding executive director of the Michigan Energy Efficiency Contractors Association (MEECA).

Erin McDonough, President & CEO

Michigan Oil & Gas Association

McDonough is currently President & CEO of the Michigan Oil And Gas Association. Prior to that she spent 10 years at the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the nation's oldest and largest statewide conservation organization, working in their conservation policy and education departments before serving as Executive Director from 2009-2014. Erin's early career included working on Great Lakes issues at the National Wildlife Federation and working as a volunteer coordinator at the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy.

She is currently a Board Member of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and a member of the Michigan Society of Association Executives. McDonough has her MS in Resource, Policy and Behavior from the University of Michigan and a dual BS in Geology and Environmental Science from Central Michigan University. She is a graduate of Michigan State University's Natural Resources Leadership Project (Great Lakes Leadership Academy).