

WOMEN & TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday, October 6, 2016

11:00 a.m. **Registration and Networking** Lower Lobby
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Luncheon and Keynote Address** Pine
Arria Hines
*President & CEO
Allegheny Science & Technology
"2016 WV Small Business Person of the Year"*

1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. **Educational Breakout Sessions** Birch/Hawthorne

● **Engaging Students in STEM**

Dr. Amelia Courts, *President, The Education Alliance*
Dr. Kathy D'Antoni, *Chief Career & Technical Education Officer,
West Virginia Department of Education*
Dr. Sytil Murphy, *Assistant Professor of Physics, Shepherd University*
Moderator: Ali Mabel, *Director, Innovation Strategies,
Fourth Economy Consulting (listed under Pathways to Tech)*

Despite efforts to keep female students interested in STEM throughout their K-12 years, gender STEM problems continue. In a 2015 survey, just 3 percent of high school girls were interested in engineering, and only 2 percent were interested in technology. That compares to 31 percent and 15 percent of high school boys, respectively. And of all bachelor's degrees awarded in 2014, women accounted for only 13 percent of degrees in STEM, while men made up 28 percent.¹ What can we do to increase these numbers? And what is being done in West Virginia to do so? This panel will examine these questions, and discuss why this is so important to our state's economic transition.

● **Research on Gender & STEM** Elm/Willow

Dr. Jan Cuny, *Program Director for Computing Education,
the National Science Foundation*
Dr. Suzanne Konz, *College of Health Professions,
Marshall University*
Dr. Melissa Latimer, *Professor & Director of the ADVANCE
Center, West Virginia University*
Moderator: Dr. Jan Taylor, *Director, Division of Science and
Research at the WV Higher Education Policy Commission*

What's behind the numbers surrounding gender and STEM education and research? What are the social and environmental barriers that keep the number of women in STEM low? What strategies does the National Science Foundation use to broaden participation by women and minorities in STEM research, and why must we do so? Learn more on this important topic, and find out about research underway at West Virginia University and Marshall University. A distinguished panel of experts will discuss these issues and share their own experiences in higher education and research.

¹ State Science & Technology Institute, December 2015

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **● Are You Cyber Secure?** Pine
Susan Pauley, *Steptoe & Johnson PLLC*
Shawn Morgan, *Steptoe & Johnson PLLC*
Mark Combs, *Steptoe & Johnson PLLC*

Are you cyber secure? Personal and professional issues surrounding cybersecurity will be examined. On the personal side, the panel will discuss best practices surrounding passwords, data preservation and backup, protecting mobile devices and managing your social media presence. Organizational tips for training employees to be aware of phishing scams, whaling and ransom attacks will be shared. And in the event that your data is breached, they'll explain how to respond and who to call. A panel of three experts from Steptoe and Johnson PLLC will lead this panel and provide examples from a technology perspective, legal perspective, and practical approach, with ideas to implement immediately.

5:45 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. **Reception** Aspen Hospitality

6:15 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. **Dinner and Keynote Address** Pine
Dr. Jan Cuny, *Program Director for Computing Education*
National Science Foundation

8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Stargazing & Dessert** Pavilion
Dr. Kathryn Williamson, *Professor of Astronomy,*
West Virginia University
Megan Jones, *Graduate Student, West Virginia University*

Canaan Valley's dark skies make it a prime destination for stargazing into the celestial night sky. Dr. Williamson will guide us on a stargazing adventure.. In addition to contemplating the beauty of the night sky, we'll enjoy dessert, coffee and networking in Canaan's outdoor Pavilion.

Friday, October 7, 2016

8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. **Breakfast & Lightning Pitch Showdown** Pine

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Educational Breakout Sessions**
● Pathways to Tech—Even With a Liberal Arts Degree! *Birch/Hawthorne*
Cheryl Ball, *Associate Professor, Digital Publishing Studies,*
West Virginia University English Department
Nichole Grossman, *Director of Graduate Admissions & Recruitment,*
West Virginia University College of Business & Economics
Bernie Deem, *Principal, AlignHR*
Facilitator: Jocelyn Sheppard, *Principal Consultant,*
Red House Consulting

Feel like you're missing out by not being in a tech career? Wondering how you could transition to a new STEM career with a liberal arts degree? This panel will examine why a liberal arts degree has become tech's hottest ticket. The knowledge economy prizes "liberal arts thinking"—including creativity, logic and clear writing skills. Top salaries may still go to engineers, but today's war for talent in the tech world is now focused on nontechnical positions, like sales and marketing, consulting, and training. Learn more from a diverse panel of experts who will share insights into how tech companies seek people who can help others incorporate tech into their everyday lives and routines.

● Owing Entrepreneurship—Risk & Reward Elm/Willow

Marnie Rustemeyer, *Founder & CEO, Billow Global*

Michele Smith, *Director of Contracts, KeyLogic*

Mindy Walls, *Assistant Vice President of Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Office of the Provost, West Virginia University*

Moderator: Kristina Oliver, *State Director, West Virginia Small Business Development Center*

Have you ever thought of owning your own business? Or had an idea that a business could be built around? Entrepreneurs launch companies when they see a gap in the market that they can fill, whether it's a product or a service. Women entrepreneurs are often well attuned to market needs and their multi-tasking skills translate well to running a business. In this breakout session, learn about what it takes to be an entrepreneur and what resources can help an entrepreneur not only start a business, but also succeed.

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Educational Breakout Sessions**

● Non-traditional Choices, Exceptional Opportunities Birch/Hawthorne

Philomena Krosmico, *The Hershey Company*

Major Anne Perella, *West Virginia National Guard*

Cynthia Rodina, *Aviation Instructor, Pierpont Community & Technical College*

Sarah Tucker, *Chancellor, West Virginia Council for Community & Technical Education*

Moderator: Jill Watkins, *Principal, Watkins Design Works*

What types of non-traditional careers should we encourage more women to consider, and why is that a good idea? Many types of jobs have been predominantly held by men for many years, with limited numbers of women entering certain fields—whether it's in engineering, manufacturing supply chains or aviation mechanics. While traditional stereotypes have begun to break down in recent years, there is still ample opportunity for women to explore non-traditional jobs. Those who do may find that the benefits include higher wages and more upwardly-mobile advancement. The rest of us all benefit by having more women bringing their insights and experiences into the non-traditional workplace.

● To Tweet or Not to Tweet—That and Other Social Media Questions Elm/Willow

Sara McDowell, *Executive Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters South Central WV and President, The Media Squirrel*

In this session we will explore the evolving world of social media and the increasingly influential role it has in communications today. We'll learn what exactly is social media, the differences between the various platforms currently available and what the future holds for developing applications. We'll break it all down so attendees will embrace and not fear social media as an essential tool for communicating.

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Luncheon & Keynote Address** Pine

Dr. Stefanie Tompkins

Office Director, Defense Sciences Office

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

2:00 p.m. **Conference Adjourns**

WOMEN & TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE Presenters and Biographies



CHERYL BALL

Cheryl E. Ball is Associate Professor of Digital Publishing Studies and Director of the Digital Publishing Institute at West Virginia University. In 2010, Ball received tenure at Illinois State University with the first open-access, all-digital portfolio. Since 2006, Ball has been editor of the online peer-reviewed open-access journal *Kairos: Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy*, which exclusively publishes digital media scholarship and is read in 180 countries. Her recent research in editorial workflows and digital publishing infrastructures can be found in multiple journals and edited collections, as well as on her personal repository, <http://cebball.com>. During the 2013-14 academic year, she served as a Fulbright Scholar at the Oslo School of Architecture and Design, studying research mediation practices and teaching academic literacies to Ph.D. students. She is currently the co-principal investigator (along with Andrew Morrison) on a \$1-million Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant to build an open-access multimedia academic publishing platform, Vega, and serves as the executive director of the Council of Editors of Learned Journals. Ball has an M.F.A. in poetry from Virginia Commonwealth University, where she completed the school's first electronic, interactive thesis, and a Ph.D. in rhetoric and technical communication from Michigan Technological University.



MARK COMBS

Mark Combs is the Chief Information Officer of Steptoe & Johnson. He has expertise in information security, technology, strategy, people and project management. Mr. Combs has provided leadership for all areas of information technology including networking, telecommunications, PC support, application support, project management, and data center operations and customer service. For the past year, Mr. Combs worked as Associate Vice President and Assistant Chief Information Officer for West Virginia United Health System. He has brought his experience in the information technology field to various other health care facilities. Mr. Combs is a Certified Professional in Health Information and Management Systems and a Certified HIPAA Security Specialist. He is a graduate of West Virginia University.



DR. AMELIA COURTS

Dr. Amelia Courts has extensive leadership experience in the education sector and a record of success in collaborating with business and community organizations to positively impact statewide initiatives. Since 2013 she has served as the President/CEO of The Education Alliance which operates programs and advances policies to improve achievement by public school students in West Virginia.

In her role as President, Dr. Courts is leading the Alliance to implement strategies that expand the organizational footprint and effectiveness. These include hosting the organization's first education summit, co-sponsored by the Governor, which convened business, community and education leaders from across the state.

Dr. Courts also initiated statewide EDTalks, an education-based speaker series that promotes innovative discussion and big ideas about connecting education, jobs and West Virginia's future. The Alliance also provided technical assistance to the Governor's STEM Council to engage the public, education organizations, business and industry to find innovative methods of preparing our students to fill the impending workforce needs of the state. In addition, she worked to help support an expansion of the AmeriCorps program which nearly doubled the number of AmeriCorps members impacting students across the state.

Prior to coming to the Alliance, she served for three years as Assistant State Superintendent at the West Virginia Department of Education. In that work, she developed and implemented major policy directives, worked collaboratively with the governor's office and legislature, and coordinated programs to improve the educational outcomes of the state's two hundred and eighty thousand students.

Dr. Courts serves on the Board of Directors of the WV Children's Home Society, is a member of the Remake Learning Council, and serves as an appointed member of the Education Commission of the States. She is both internationally and locally experienced, having taught English as a Second Language (ESL) for approximately six years throughout Asia (Japan, China and briefly Korea) and at Marshall University. She completed her doctoral degree at West Virginia University with a degree in Education Administration in 2002.



DR. JAN CUNY

Jan Cuny is a program officer at the National Science Foundation (NSF) where she leads the Computer and Information Science and Engineering Directorate's efforts on broadening participation and education in computing. Her work led to the establishment of the eight national BPC-A Alliances that together address underrepresentation in computing from elementary school through the research and professional levels. More recently, she spearheaded NSF's efforts to get inclusive, rigorous, academic computing courses into America's schools. That work led to the development and scaling of several new and exciting high school CS courses (including the new AP CS Principles course) and it laid the foundation for the 2016 launch of President Obama's CS for All Initiative.

For her efforts with underserved populations, Jan has received a number of awards including the 2006 ACM President's Award, the 2007 CRA A. Nico Habermann Award, the 2009 Anita Borg Institute's Woman of Vision Award for Social Impact, the 2015 NSF Distinguished Service Award, and the 2016 SIGCSE Distinguished Educator Award.



DR. KATHY D'ANTONI

Dr. Kathy D'Antoni was appointed the Assistant State Superintendent of Schools with the West Virginia Department of Education, Division of Technical and Adult Education Services on June 1, 2010. She is the former Vice Chancellor of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education. She obtained her doctorate degree from West Virginia University in Higher Education Administration. Dr. D'Antoni began her career in education as a teacher. In 1975, she left the education field to participate in a family owned business in Myrtle Beach, SC. She returned to education in 1992 and worked with the Tech Prep initiative at Marshall University and later as the State Director for Tech Prep. She served as interim president of WV State Community and Technical College in 2008. Dr. D'Antoni has worked extensively with curriculum alignment and curriculum development projects. She is the past president of the National Association for Tech Prep Leaders and sits on the advisory board for the League of Innovation's SAIL initiative and Marshall University's teacher education program. Currently, she is chair of the Seamless Education Committee for West Virginia's Vision Shared initiative. Dr. D'Antoni has authored a number of articles on effective transition practices from public schools to higher education and collaborated on two books with national authors: Career Pathways and Adult Career Pathways. The Office of Institutional Education Programs is now a part of the Division of Technical and Adult Education Services.



BERNIE DEEM

Bernie Deem brings a new perspective to HR with her fresh insights and unique ideas for solving old problems. These abilities, combined with her extensive expertise and knowledge, have led Bernie to be twice honored by the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM). She is one of only two individuals to have received the Charleston SHRM HR Award of Excellence and was named the HR Professional of the Year, an award bestowed by the WV State Council of SHRM. Governor Earl Ray Tomblin recently named Ms. Deem to the West Virginia Board of Personnel where is the only non-lawyer appointee.

Bernie is a frequently requested speaker and is best known for her engaging style and high energy. Some of her topics have been "The Seven Secret Reasons Employees Sue", "Personnel and Employees from Hell", "HR Secrets I Only Tell My Friends", and "Building High Impact Relationships". Her presentation on "We Don't Hate You, We Just Want You to Leave" is the result of research she has done on how to minimize the odds of a lawsuit based on using a technique she developed called The Graceful Exit. She is also a published author, having written articles on "Frequent Mistakes Made by Small Business Owners", "Five Simple Rules for Dealing With a Marginal Performer", and "Motivating Without Money".

Bernie also serves as an expert witness for both defendant and plaintiff cases, as well as a case evaluator. Her experience in investigations, analyzing data and depositions combined with her special ability to articulate her perspective have all lent to her expertise. She has used this experience to create a dynamic presentation on Unlawful Harassment, a training she has conducted over 50 times using her testimony to emphasize the havoc and expense that can come to a company as a result of improper policies and processes.

Also known for her collaborative work style, Bernie left the corporate world and founded DeemHR in 2000. She has specialized in building client relationships with retainer services that provided access to HR portals and customized HR processes as well as unlimited phone calls to DeemHR consultants.

In 2013 Bernie started a new company with two partners located in Wheeling and Bridgeport creating AlignHR, LLC, an HR advisory firm that emphasizes high quality service with a personal touch.



NICHOLE GROSSMAN

Nichole is the Director of Graduate Admissions and Recruitment at the College of Business and Economics at West Virginia University. In this role, she works closely with faculty and prospective students interested in pursuing an advanced degree in a business-related field. Prior to working at WVU, Nichole worked for 4.5 years at Cornell University within the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management. There she worked with students working in STEM fields who wished to enhance their skillsets with a business focused degree. She also worked closely with faculty, students, staff and alumni interested in the intersection of technology and business to establish strong programs meant to develop students who encompass the skills necessary to move companies forward in the technology driven workplace.



ARRIA HINES

Arria Hines is easily considered among that rare segment of adept, collaborative leaders in today’s rapidly evolving business climate – an individual who is truly capable of establishing and building trusted relationships with nearly everyone she encounters. Arria’s ability to spark connections between people, create partnerships and alliances, and generate forward momentum to ‘get things done’ is one of her most treasured assets.

An accountant by training, Arria earned her B.S. in Accounting at West Virginia Wesleyan College and her MBA from West Virginia University, establishing the footing for her to begin her entrepreneurial journey over 25 years ago. Arria’s enthusiasm and genuine, ever-present pleasant attitude radiates a sincere passion to help people and led to founding her first company in the basement of her home in 1989. Armed with her “get it done” attitude, she navigated a successful career as a program manager for the likes of SAIC and Ranger Golf Corporation, where she provided oversight for projects and operations exceeding \$120 million in annual revenue until co-founding Allegheny Science & Technology in 2009.

Now as CEO & President of one of America’s fastest growing privately held companies, Arria is an inspiring example for women CEOs in West Virginia and throughout the country. With a projected revenue of \$50M in 2016, Arria has led AST from a two-person company with one government contract to nearly 240 employees and more than 14 contracts with multiple federal agencies in just seven years. She was most recently named the Small Business Administration 2016 West Virginia Small Business Person of the Year.

Today, Arria resides in Lewis County, West Virginia with her husband and son. She is a dedicated contributor to the communities in which she resides and serves – giving back with every opportunity and specifically, supporting small businesses in West Virginia. Arria is a member of the Board of Directors for Teaming to Win, a West Virginia non-profit organization providing educational, networking, business and workforce development opportunities. She also serves on the West Virginia University MBA Advisory Council, 179 Development Council and the West Virginia Governors STEM Council.



SUZANNE M. KONZ

Suzanne M. Konz, PhD, ATC, CSCS is an Assistant Professor of Biomechanics with the School of Kinesiology at Marshall University. She serves as the Lab Director for the School of Kinesiology's Biomechanical Lab. Suzie received a PhD in Exercise Science from Brigham Young University, a Master's of Science in Kinesiology from Indiana University – Bloomington, and a Bachelor of Science from Iowa Wesleyan College. Suzie was a member of Wesleyan's cross country and track teams. She was an Academic All-American in Indoor and Outdoor Track. She earned All-American honors in Outdoor Track as well. Suzie worked as a certified athletic trainer and as a certified strength and conditioning specialist in clinical, high school, collegiate, and professional athletic settings. She worked with soccer, football, softball, and track at the D-I level. Suzie was an athletic trainer for the 2002 SLC Olympic games where she was assigned to bobsleigh, luge, and skeleton. As part of her duties with SLOC, she was assigned to the same events for the test events in the years prior to the Games. She is involved with USA Track & Field as a member of the Sport Science Biomechanics group; specializing in the throwing events and is specifically assigned to hammer throw. Suzie has worked the NFL Combine performing isokinetic testing on NFL prospects. Besides researching hammer throw technique, Suzie's other areas of research include the biomechanical effects of weight change in athletes from the ages of 12-21, re-injury rates of overweight and obese athletes, and improving lower extremity dysfunction.



PHILOMENA KROSMICO

Philomena Krosmico retired from the Hershey Company where she had a 34 year career in Supply Chain and Manufacturing. She recently relocated back to West Virginia to work on her masters in Industrial Engineering and Management Systems at West Virginia University and is enjoying teaching Probability and Statistics for Engineers. Her most recent position at Hershey was Director of Supply Chain, focused in supply planning, inventory control and packaging procurement for all North American and Mexico operations. Her team scheduled over 330 manufacturing operations (internally and externally sourced) and deployed to 5 major distribution centers. Her team was responsible for minimizing packaging and finished goods inventory levels, while meeting customer service targets to support over \$7 billion in sales.

Prior to Director of Supply Chain, she spent 23 years in manufacturing leadership roles. She was Sr. Director of Manufacturing, Plant Manager, Manufacturing Manager, Operations Manager and Shift Manager. She led both union and non-union facilities. She was a manufacturing lead in key labor contract negotiations. She was the plant manager during the \$300 million capital expenditure that doubled size of her plant and tripled the volume. When complete the plant was the largest chocolate making facility in the world. She led the change management and merging of two plant work forces into one highly modernized facility. She drove change in both technology and workforce development. She partnered with corporate Industrial Engineering to develop and implement a new continuous improvement model for all of manufacturing. She began her career as an Industrial Engineer, after graduation from WVU in 1981. She held numerous roles including, plant engineer, capital program administration, new product development and installation and computer simulation team.



DR. MELISSA LATIMER

Dr. Latimer is a Professor in the Sociology & Anthropology Department at West Virginia University, and Director of WVU's ADVANCE Center. She served as department chair for five years (2006-2011).

Much of her published work involves understanding individual experiences with social insurance and social assistance programs. Her main research objective has been to examine the connection between and the consequences of labor market inequality and welfare inequality. Her work involves understanding individual experiences with social insurance (i.e., unemployment insurance) and social assistance programs (i.e., Aid to Families with Dependent Children-AFDC/Temporary Assistance to Needy Families-TANF) and how these experiences vary by gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, age, and place (i.e., South versus non-Southern location, rural versus urban, Appalachian versus non-Appalachian location, etc.). This research agenda has been particularly significant given the historical gender and racial inequities within the welfare system, the severe economic disadvantage of rural areas and rural states (especially in the Appalachian region), and the massive changes in U.S. society set in motion by the 1996 welfare reform law (TANF).

Her recent research examines gender inequality and academia and organizational change within institutions of higher education. The WVU ADVANCE project is designed to improve our understanding of barriers to large-scale organizational change. The goal is to develop an institutional culture committed to diversity and equality in employee recruitment, development, retention, and promotion to leadership. The knowledge generated from this work can be translated into more effective, systemic approaches to change and can be applied in a variety of large-scale organizations in the academic, public, or private sector. The second area of research connected with the ADVANCE grant is her interest in understanding the disciplinary similarities/differences in academic training and as well as the implications of that training on the attitudes and behaviors of faculty members. Over the course of her career at WVU she has published 27 manuscripts, including one book, and acquired \$3,997,627 in external funding. She currently is a co-investigator on a \$3.2 million National Science Foundation ADVANCE IT grant, and primary investigator on a \$240,500 NSF Career-Life Balance grant.



Sara McDowell

Executive Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central West Virginia

Sara McDowell has more than 20 years of experience in marketing and communications, government relations and nonprofit leadership. She began her professional career working for the Missouri State Treasurer, which included lobbying on behalf of the treasurer on issues related to banking, investments and other areas of interest. Later she joined the staff of the Missouri Senate as a communications liaison, where she assisted members of the Senate with message development, speech writing and media relations. She worked closely with the president pro-tem on issues of economic and workforce development, and monitored hundreds of other legislative measures each year. As an independent lobbyist and development professional, she has worked with various industries with interests in banking; telecommunications; higher education; children's issues; and animal welfare.

Sara resides in South Charleston with her husband Charles, a rotary and fixed wing pilot and the director of the WV State Aviation Division. They spend considerable time at the family farm in near Reedy, WV and cabin in Pocahontas County



SHAWN MORGAN

Shawn Morgan is Of Counsel with Steptoe & Johnson PLLC. She has extensive federal court trial experience and is skilled in handling government investigations and grand jury witness appearances. A 13-year veteran of the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Northern District of West Virginia, she prosecuted federal criminal cases, including those involving white collar crimes, and investigated cybersecurity breaches. Prior to serving as a federal prosecutor, she spent four years as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Irene M. Keeley and three years in private practice. Shawn is a graduate of West Virginia University and the WVU College of Law.



Dr. Sytil Murphy

Dr. Sytil Murphy earned her Ph.D. in physics in 2008 from Montana State University. Her Ph.D. research was in optics. Her current research field is in physics education research. She has been participating in STEM-related outreach events since she started graduate school in 1999, including involvement with the Montana Science Olympiad, Expanding Your Horizons (for middle-school age girls), Peaks and Potentials (summer camp for high-ability, high-potential students) and the FIRST robotics competitions held on the Montana State campus. She and Dr. Jordan Mader have secured funding for and co-organized the activities associated with the Seeding Your Future Initiative at Shepherd University since 2014. The Seeding Your Future Initiative has two parts: the one-day Seeding Your Future Conference aimed at increasing STEM interest in middle-school age girls and the monthly Seeding Your Future Workshop Series for high-school age students which gives them advanced level STEM experiences.



SUSAN PAULEY

Susan Pauley is Of Counsel with Steptoe & Johnson PLLC. She currently practices in the area of mineral title examinations. Prior to 2011, Ms. Pauley represented corporate clients in commercial matters and general litigation. She also continues her information and privacy law practice. Ms. Pauley is the leader of the firm's Privacy Practice Team. She is a graduate of William and Mary University and George Washington University.



ANNE PERELLA

Anne Perella resides in Morgantown, WV with her husband and 2 children. She has been in the Army for 23 years, 19 of which have been in the West Virginia Army National Guard. She is a Major and currently serves as the Executive Officer for an Aviation Battalion. Anne graduated from WVU in 2002 and was awarded a Bachelor's in Multidisciplinary Studies as well as a Master's in Elementary Education. In addition to volunteering at her children's school, Anne works full time for the WVARNG as an aviation planner for the upcoming 2017 National Scout Jamboree. She is a certified pilot in multiple helicopters including the UH-1 Huey, OH-58 A/C Kiowa, UH-60 Blackhawk and most recently the UH-72 Lakota



CYNTHIA RODINA

Cynthia Rodina is an instructor in aircraft maintenance at Pierpont Community & Technical College. A 1988 graduate of the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics, she started her career with Delta Airlines in Atlanta, working for ten years in the hangars on various aircraft systems. She then moved with Delta to Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport and worked line maintenance. After retiring from Delta, she began teaching aircraft maintenance at Pierpont in 2012. She is the proud mother of a 13-year-old son, Lou.



MARNIE RUSTEMEYER

Founder and CEO of Billow Global, Marnie Rustemeyer, conceived, designed and created the Billow following her diagnosis of the BRCA mutation gene, a mastectomy and subsequent reconstructive surgeries. She created the Billow pillow as a sleep aide after more than a year of research and development. Additionally, Marnie conducted exhaustive testing of products to aid in the recovery process and was unable to find an effective yet comfortable solution.

After real-world testing and by popular demand, Marnie left her successful 15-year career on Wall Street to bring the Billow to market and help the millions of women who suffer from sleep deprivation due to some form of breast pain resulting from mastectomy, reconstruction, augmentation or other sensitivities – finally get some rest. Now she – along with many others – wouldn't dream of sleeping without her Billow!



MICHELE SMITH, CPCM

Director of Contracts, KeyLogic

Michele Smith has over 14 years of experience performing and managing aspects of finance, accounting, contracts, and proposal management. As Director of Contracts, Ms. Smith is responsible for maintaining an effective risk review process, providing corporate-wide policy, direction, training and oversight of contracts and serves as a principal interface with key government regulators regarding all contract matters. She is a member of KeyLogic's senior leadership team and participates in the operational management and strategic planning of the company.

Ms. Smith has served in a number of positions with increasing responsibility. She joined the company as an Accounting Analyst in 2002. She was promoted to Accounting Manager in 2004, became KeyLogic's Director of Finance in August 2006, extended her responsibilities to Director of Contracts & Finance in September 2007, and further expanded her responsibilities in overseeing proposal management in 2016.

Smith is a Certified Professional Contract Manager (CPCM) through the National Contract Management Association. She received her bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Accounting from West Virginia University - Parkersburg.



SARAH ARMSTRONG TUCKER

Chancellor, WV Council for Community and Technical College Education

Dr. Sarah Armstrong Tucker is the Chancellor of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education. Previously, Dr. Tucker served as Vice Chancellor of the Community and Technical College System of WV, and the Director of Planning and Research for the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and Community and Technical College System of West Virginia. Her work focuses on college access, particularly for first-generation rural students, and redesigning developmental education. She completed her doctorate at the School of Education, University of Michigan in 2010. Prior to pursuing her doctorate, she was a behavioral specialist and general education teacher in an adolescent girls group home. Dr. Tucker earned a B.A. in Psychology from Harvard University and a M.A. in Quantitative Research Methodology from the University of Michigan.

In addition to her duties with the WV Council for Community and Technical College Education, Dr. Tucker serves on numerous state-wide committees and councils dealing with workforce development, economic development, and other issues relating to community and technical college education.



STEFANIE TOMPKINS, PH.D.

Director, Defense Science Office, DARPA

Dr. Tompkins has been the Director of DARPA's Defense Sciences Office since April 2014, where she leads and manages DARPA's most exploratory office in identifying and accelerating breakthrough technologies to prevent and create strategic surprise. She has held several roles at DARPA, including Program Manager, Deputy Director of DARPA's Strategic Technology Office, and the DARPA Chief of Staff.

Before joining DARPA, Dr. Tompkins spent 10 years at Science Applications International Corporation. While there, Dr. Tompkins led and managed a successful profit-and-loss unit focused on electro-optic and RF sensor development and data analysis. Prior to SAIC, she served as a military intelligence officer in the U.S. Army.

She has made a number of technical contributions throughout her career to the fields of imaging spectroscopy, geology, navigation, and optical element manufacturing. For instance, she initiated and led a DARPA program that demonstrated the use of global lightning signals as navigation beacons, as well as developing new filtering techniques to allow on-the-fly incorporation of diverse sources of location data. As a NASA-funded scientist, she developed new methods for extracting mineralogical information from reflectance spectra. Dr. Tompkins has also developed and patented new spatial and spectral data processing techniques for applications such as change detection, plant species discrimination, and feature extraction from imaging spectroscopy data. She received her Ph.D. and M.Sc. in Geological Science from Brown University, and her B.A. in Geological and Geophysical Sciences from Princeton.



MINDY WALLS

Mindy Walls is an Assistant Vice President for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at WVU where she is coordinating the cross-campus initiative in entrepreneurship and innovation. She has 13 years experience in entrepreneurship education and business consulting focusing on business strategy and leadership training and development. Walls served as the Associate Director of the West Virginia University Entrepreneurship Center where she developed the academic minor in entrepreneurship. Later, she became the Center Director where she developed the West Virginia Statewide Collegiate Business Plan Competition and other co-curricular student activities. She has developed and taught numerous entrepreneurship courses in both face-to-face and online environments. Walls has twice been recognized by her peers for teaching. In 2011 the SBA named her the State Small Business Financial Champion of the year for her work with student entrepreneurs. She is a member of the United States Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) where she serves on the executive board as the VP of Events and Programs. She has also served that organization as Sr. VP- Elect Programming and VP of Conference. Walls currently serves on the state advisory board for the West Virginia Small Business Development Centers, and is a member of the Monongalia, Preston BB&T Bank advisory board.



DR. KATHRYN WILLIAMSON

Dr. Kathryn Williamson joined the West Virginia University Department of Physics in January 2016 after spending 3 years as the Public Education Specialist at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) in Green Bank, West Virginia. At NRAO she engaged students and teachers in inquiry-based astronomy investigations using radio telescopes both in-person and online. Her doctorate degree is from Montana State University, and her dissertation was on college students' understanding of gravity. Her current area of research focuses on how youth in out-of-school-time science clubs, such as the Pulsar Search Collaboratory and Skynet Junior Scholars, learn to see themselves as scientists and choose to pursue careers in science.



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Tracy Miller, President, Mid Atlantic Aerospace Complex

Michele O'Connor, Investment Manager, West Virginia Jobs Investment Trust

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