



**RMC**  
Rural Maryland Council



**2021 Rural Summit**  
**Redefining Resilience and Recovery**



**Wednesday, December 1, 2021**  
**and**  
**Thursday, December 2, 2021**

**DoubleTree Hilton Hotel, Annapolis, Maryland**  
*rural.maryland.gov*

# Welcome to the 2021 Rural Summit

Dear Attendees,

Thank you for joining us for the 2021 Rural Summit “Redefining Resilience and Recovery.” For some, the word resiliency has meant the ability to withstand environmental shocks. For others, it means the ability to withstand financial shocks. But the pandemic has made it clear that a resilient community is one that can withstand whatever is thrown at it – education, healthcare or telecommunications. A holistic approach is needed, one that includes small businesses development, identifies new opportunities, and promotes land use policies that encourage land acquisition, conservation and access. As a result, we will ensure a vision that all Marylanders are prosperous with thriving resources, vibrant economies and healthy connected communities.

We would like to thank the Rural Summit Planning Committee members for their hard work in helping to put this conference together. We have many exciting speakers, presentations, and sessions focused on community and economic development, agriculture, and health care.

Please enjoy our knowledgeable speakers and engaging breakout sessions. We encourage you to take the time to connect with other attendees, as these simple connections can often start lasting collaborations. We hope everyone concludes the conference inspired to work together to improve the quality of life for all of Maryland.

Sincerely,



John Hartline  
Executive Board Chair, Rural Maryland Council



Charlotte Davis  
Executive Director, Rural Maryland Council

## - Rural Summit Committee Members-

Mindie Burgoyne, Kelly Dudeck, Leslie Hart, Susan Harrison, John Hartline, Gabrielle Leach, Steve McHenry, Nancy Nunn, Susan O’Neill, Janice Palmer, Claudia Wilson Randall, Dan Rider, Andrew Rose, Sara Seitz, Dona Sorce, Tony Thakur, Mike Thielke, Cassandra Vanhooser, Scott Warner.

## Navigating the Summit

Breakout sessions will occur on the lower level of the Hotel along the Conference Center Concourse in the Coastal Room (West, Main, and East), the Windward Room, and the Leeward Room.

The Rural Summit’s PowerPoint presentations will be available following the Summit. An email with a link to access these presentations and an evaluation sheet for the overall conference and breakout sessions will be sent to participants following the Summit.

Join today’s conversation on social media using

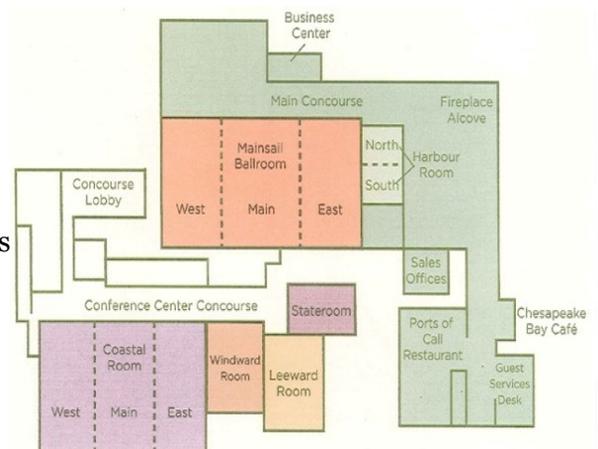
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**Wifi Access Code: adt21**

# Day 1 - 2021 Rural Summit

Wednesday, December 1, 2021 | 10:00 am - 8:30 pm | DoubleTree Hilton Hotel - Annapolis, MD

## Agenda

Opening 2021 Rural Summit				
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	<b>Main Concourse</b> Exhibitor Set-Up			
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<b>Main Concourse</b> Participant Registration <i>Registration Table sponsored by Caroline County Economic Development</i>			
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<b>Mainsail Ballroom</b> Welcome (RMC Chair John Hartline)			
	<b>Population Trends in Rural Maryland, Maryland Department of Planning Secretary Robert McCord</b> Hear an update on the recent U.S. Census and what that means for Maryland’s rural communities.			
	<b>United States Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Xochitl Torres Small</b> Recently confirmed to serve as Under Secretary for Rural Development, Representative Xochitl Torres Small will serve as an unwavering voice for millions of rural Americans and drive the effort to revitalize rural economies by implementing President Biden’s aggressive plans under the Build Back Better agenda.			
12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	<b>Mainsail Ballroom</b> (Networking Plated Lunch)			
1:00 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.	<b>Broadband Plenary</b> <b>Director, Kenrick Gordan, Office Statewide Broadband</b> Governor Hogan has allocated \$400 Million for rural broadband expansion. This session will provide an update on current state efforts. <i>Sponsored by Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development</i>			
1:25 p.m. - 1:35 p.m.	<b>The Honorable Larry Hogan, Governor, State of Maryland</b>			
<i>5 minute transition</i>				
1:40 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.	<u>Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Forestry</u> <b>State Available Agricultural Resources</b> Coastal Main	<u>Community Development</u> <b>Agriculture and Forestry Climate Change Response Strategies</b> Coastal East	<u>Economic Development</u> <b>Economic Opportunities of Working Landscapes</b> Windward	<u>Healthcare</u> <b>Recent Trends in Telehealth</b> Leeward  (Sponsored by the State Office of Rural Health)
<i>10 min. transition/Visit Exhibitors</i>				

# Day 1 - 2021 Rural Summit

Wednesday, December 1, 2021 | 10:00 am - 8:30 pm | DoubleTree Hilton Hotel -Annapolis, MD

2:50 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.	<u>Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Forestry</u> <b>Maryland, a Leader in Cybersecurity + Agriculture</b> Coastal Main	<u>Community Development</u> <b>Unique Approaches to Rural Workforce Development</b> Coastal East	<u>Economic Development</u> <b>Cooperative Development 101</b> Windward	<u>Healthcare</u> <b>Rural Health Transportation: How do you provide transportation when there are no taxis or Uber?</b> Leeward (Sponsored by the State Office of Rural Health)
<i>10 min. transition/Visit Exhibitors</i>				
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	<u>Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Forestry</u> <b>Building Resilient Food Systems</b> Coastal Main	<u>Community Development</u> <b>Affordable Housing Needs in Rural Maryland</b> Coastal East	<u>Economic Development</u> <b>Case Study: Economic Development in Harford County</b> Windward	<u>Healthcare</u> <b>Bouncing Back Better in Rural Maryland: The Evolution of an Innovative Rural Health Strategy Based on Lessons Learned to Meet Diverse Community Needs Moving Forward</b> Leeward (Sponsored by the State Office of Rural Health)
<i>15 min. transition/Visit Exhibitors</i>				
5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.	<b>Networking Reception: Meet &amp; Greet the Candidate</b> Cash Bar and Hors D'oeuvre			
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<b>Mainsail West</b> RMC Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner			

# Day 2 - 2021 Rural Summit

Thursday, December 2, 2021 | 8:15 am - 1:00 pm | DoubleTree Hilton Hotel -Annapolis, MD

## Keynote Speaker - Whitney Kimball Coe



Whitney Kimball Coe is the Director of National Programs for Rural Strategies and leads the Rural Assembly, a nationwide movement striving to build better policy and more opportunity for rural communities across the country. As an organizer, speaker, moderator, and writer, Whitney has shared her perspectives on community and civic courage with audiences around the world. She has been featured on stage at the Aspen Ideas Festival, the inaugural Obama Foundation Summit, and as a guest on the radio program On Being with Krista Tippett. She writes a regular column for her local newspaper, the Daily Post Athenian, and has participated in Citizen University's Civic Saturday Fellowship program. She holds a M.A. in Appalachian studies from Appalachian State University and an undergraduate degree in religion and philosophy from Queens University. Whitney will present on Day 2 of the Summit, December 2, 2021 during the 10:15 a.m. General Session.

# Day 2 - 2021 Rural Summit

Thursday, December 2, 2021 | 8:00 am - 1:00 pm | DoubleTree Hilton Hotel -Annapolis, MD

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Main Concourse</b>  <b>Registration/Visit Exhibitors</b>  <i>Continental Breakfast</i>  <b>Registration Table sponsored by Caroline County Economic Development</b></p>			
8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rural Maryland Foundation – Transfer of Wealth Discussion</b>  Stateroom</p> <p>In 2017, the Foundation completed a transfer of wealth (TOW) opportunity analysis for Maryland, rural Maryland and its counties, and development regions. The TOW opportunity for Maryland is staggering in its scale and potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2016 Household Current Net Worth=\$530 Billion</li> <li>• 10-year (2017-2026) TOW Opportunity=\$64 Billion</li> <li>• 50-year (2017-2026) TOW Opportunity=\$703 Billion</li> </ul> <p>Plan to pick up breakfast and join us for this session to discuss Rural Maryland's long-term philanthropic and community economic development strategy and explore how impact investing could augment development goals.</p>			
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<p><u>Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Forestry</u></p> <p><b>Updates in Forestry Market Development, and the Economic Adjustment Strategy</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Coastal Main</i></p>	<p><u>Community Development</u></p> <p><b>State Revitalization Programs in Rural Communities</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Coastal East</i></p>	<p><u>Economic Development</u></p> <p><b>Utilizing Asset Mapping for Growth and Sustainability</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Windward</i></p>	<p><u>Healthcare</u></p> <p><b>Maryland's Response to the Opioid Crisis</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Leeward</i></p> <p>(Sponsored by the State Office of Rural Health)</p>
<i>15 min. transition/Visit Exhibitors</i>				
10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>General Session (Mainsail Ballroom)</b>  Welcome, RMC Chair John Hartline</p>			
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Honorable Peter Franchot, Comptroller</b></p>			
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Keynote Speaker, Whitney Kimball Coe,</b>  Director of National Programs at the Center for Rural Strategies  <b>Sponsored by The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment</b></p>			
11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Plenary: 2021 Legislative Review from Governor's Legislative Officer, Andrew Cassilly</b></p>			
11:30 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Agriculture Video Showcase</i>  <b>Kurt Fuchs, Vice President of Government Affairs for Mid Atlantic Farm Credit</b>  <b>Sponsored by Mid Atlantic Farm Credit</b></p>			
<i>Boxed Lunches Available Prior to Legislative Panel</i>				
11:40 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mainsail Ballroom</b></p> <p><b>Plenary: Maryland Legislative Panel/Meet Your Legislator Senator Michael Jackson/ Senator Sarah Elfreth/Delegate Mike McKay/Delegate Jim Gilchrist - Moderated By Lindsay Thompson, Thompson Ag Consulting.</b></p>			
1:00 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;">Closing Remarks - RMC Chair John Hartline</p>			
	<p style="text-align: center;">Summit Concludes</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Optional Wrap-Up Meet and Greet: Health Committee Revitalization Gathering: Discussion of next steps with this important subgroup of RMC Board Membership in the Stateroom.</i></p>			

# Breakout Sessions - Day 1 - 12.1.2021

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## Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Forestry

### **Breakout Session #1 - State Available Agricultural Resources**

**1:40 p.m. to 2:40 p.m. - Coastal Main Room**

#### Panelists

Paul Goeringer, Senior Faculty Specialist and the Extension Legal Specialist at the University of Maryland

Mark Powell, Chief of Agriculture and Seafood Marketing for the Maryland Department of Agriculture

Stone Slade, Director of Seafood Marketing for the Maryland Department of Agriculture

Karen Fedor, Program Administrator for the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Marketing Office

This session will highlight the current activities and resources that are available through the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Maryland's Best and legal resources through University of Maryland's Agriculture Law Education Initiative program. In addition to advertising campaigns, Business to Business (B2B) initiatives, International Marketing, Farmers Market Nutrition Program, Farm to School and Farm to Institution initiatives, MDA Marketing engages with agriculture producers of every commodity group. Seafood Marketing, housed jointly with Ag Marketing, puts Maryland seafood products in front of buyers from Baltimore restaurants to Canadian wholesale dealers. This presentation is intended to increase awareness of current State agricultural efforts and identity best practices learned from legal workshops held in 2019.

### **Breakout Session #2 - Maryland, a Leader in Cybersecurity + Agriculture**

**2:50 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. - Coastal Main Room**

#### Panelists

Andrew Rose, Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center

Kim Mentzell, Cyber Program Manager at the Maryland Department of Commerce

This session will focus on how Maryland both pioneered and is leading the way in bringing cybersecurity awareness and resources to the agriculture/food supply chain. Cybercriminals, nation states, activists, malicious competitors, and others are a growing (and evolving) threat to our agricultural/food supply chain. As part of a long-term solution, we will discuss the cyberag educational pilot program to bring cyber awareness to rural and agricultural communities. Our expert speakers will review the entire landscape of who the ag/food adversaries are, what their motivations are, how they attack, and how to mitigate/respond to them (in easily understandable language).

### **Breakout Session #3 - Building Resilient Food Systems**

**4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Coastal Main Room**

#### Panelists

Dr. Stephan Tubene, Associate Professor and Small Farm Specialist at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Steve McHenry, Executive Director of the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation

Cheryl DeBerry, Broadband and Energy Manager for the Garrett County Broadband Expansion Team

The COVID pandemic highlighted gaps in the supply chain and we saw lots of people step in to distribute food to folks that lost their jobs, on unemployment. We envision local farmers being a part of the solution for access to additional market (seconds, gleaning) and value added. Hear about the Food Resiliency Council's work, the State government response to increasing local production, and overview of the small farming community.

# Breakout Sessions - Day 1 - 12.1.2021

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## *Community Development*

### **Breakout Session #1 - Agriculture, Forestry, and Local Government Climate Change Response Strategies**

**1:40 p.m. to 2:40 p.m. - Coastal East Room**

#### Panelists

Gary Allen, President of the Maryland Forestry Foundation

Jennifer Dindinger, Senior Agent, Watershed Restoration Specialist, University of Maryland

Colby Ferguson is the Government Relations Director for Maryland Farm Bureau

Ernie Shea, Board Vice President, Harry Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology

Change in climate patterns impact local agriculture production through extreme weather events, introduction of invasive species, and impacts on water supplies. This session will align the incentives and benefits of healthy forest and agricultural management of the State's natural resources to mitigate and resist both climate impacts and land conversion pressures. Resilient communities need to address these issues and this session will educate what farmers, foresters, towns, and counties are doing in response to climate change.

### **Breakout Session #2 - Unique Approaches to Rural Workforce Development**

**2:50 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. - Coastal East Room**

#### Panelists

Dr. Behnam Khatabi, Assistant Professor, Department of Agriculture, Food, and Resource Sciences, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Nicholas Redding, President, Preservation Maryland

Sandra Pruitt, Executive Director, People for Change Coalition

David Smarik, Career and Employer Solutions Outreach Coordinator at Allegany College of Maryland

Rural areas have access to a well educated, lower cost workforce. A key to resiliency is getting people into steady and stable employment and wages that increase. This session will highlight three different case studies related to work force development in rural areas - Student education, training and workforce development in hemp production; career and technology cyber security training with high school students; hands on opportunities for individuals looking to build trade career; and Western Maryland Works - a full-service makerspace, training facility, and small-business incubator project that provides access to state of the art technology and equipment.

### **Breakout Session #3 - Affordable Housing Needs in Rural Maryland**

**4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Coastal East Room**

#### Panelists

Darius Johnson, Executive Director, Kent Attainable Housing

Duane Yoder, President of the Garrett County Community Action Committee

Claudia Randal Wilson, Executive Director, Community Development Network

Workforce and affordable housing are necessary for vibrant rural communities and economic development. This session will address the recent Maryland Housing Needs Assessment, address two local rural case studies, and focus on defining rural affordable housing and other socio-economic needs. Additionally, this session will identify the challenges to address affordable housing in rural areas that relate to infrastructure needs and per capital income.

# Breakout Sessions - Day 1 - 12.1.2021

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## *Economic Development*

### **Breakout Session #1 - Economic Opportunities of Working Landscapes**

**1:40 p.m. to 2:40 p.m. - Windward Room**

#### Panelists

Joel Dunn, President and CEO of Chesapeake Conservancy  
Ann Jones, Director of the Baltimore County Land Trust Alliance  
Lucille Walker, Executive Director of the Southern Maryland Heritage Area

Join us for an in-depth conversation on land use. Maryland is a small state with not a lot of land and increased pressure due to development, energy, and climate demands. This session will present an overview of state-wide land conservation efforts; the Maryland Outdoor Recreation Economic Commission; Heritage Tourism; and, identify ways to support rural economic development through adequate access, agricultural uses, recreation, and tourism.

### **Breakout Session #2 - Cooperative Development 101**

**2:50 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. - Windward Room**

#### Panelists

Mary Griffin, Executive Director of Cooperative Development Foundation  
Ron Hantz, Network for Developing Conscious Communities  
Mike Thielke, Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center

Cooperative associations have been organized throughout history to carry out many different activities, often in response to economic and social stress. Cooperatives differ from other business types in that there is a set of guiding principles for operation. These principles provide a philosophical foundation for the business by establishing a governance structure and the method by which profits are distributed. Come learn about Cooperative Developments and how they may benefit your community.

### **Breakout Session #3 - Case Study: Economic Development in Harford County**

**4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Windward Room**

#### Panelists

Dr. Austin J. Hill, Director for Strategic Partnership at Harford Community College  
Matt Baylis, Apprentice Coordinator at Harford Community College  
Barry Glassman, Executive of Harford County

Come learn how to incorporate outside local partners into your strategic plan for delivering greatly needed training and innovation to underserved and historically economically depressed areas in your market area. Projects highlighted include Harford Community College at Edgewood initiative, Harford's Leading Edge Training Center, and the Grove at the Harford County Agricultural Center.

# Breakout Sessions - Day 1 - 12.1.2021

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## *Health Care*

### **Breakout Session #1 - Recent Trends in Telehealth**

**1:40 p.m. to 2:40 p.m. - Leeward Room**

#### Panelists

Nicole Majewski, Chief, Health Information Technology at Maryland Health Care Commission  
Beth Anne Langrell, President and CEO, For All Seasons

Rural Maryland remained resilient during the pandemic; however, fundamental challenges remain. Many rural Marylanders lack access to services and health care facilities. Ironically, due to the pandemic, we have made progress on the solutions to these challenges. The pandemic showcased the delivery of services electronically through telemedicine. Programs were expanded to include telehealth services and residents became more comfortable with this alternative delivery method. During this year's recent Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session, access to telehealth and audio only medical services were expanded through the Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021 sponsored by Senator Melony Griffin and Delegate Josaline A. Pena-Melnyk (SB3/HB123). This session will provide a background on telehealth adoption and information on the current Maryland Health Care Commission telehealth study as well as participants will hear from a practitioner with boots on the ground experience in health care service delivery through telemedicine.

### **Breakout Session #2 - Rural Health Transportation: How do you provide transportation when there are no taxis and Uber?**

**2:50 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. - Leeward Room**

#### Panelists

Dr. Corey Bowen, Head Start/Early Head Start Director  
Noelle Flaherty, Director of Integrated Case Management at CalverthHealth Medical Center  
Yolanda Hipski, Regional Transit Coordinator for the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland  
Ashlee Lane, Director of the Lead Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities for the Allegany County Human Resources Development Commission  
Wendolyn McKenzie, Executive Director of Allegany Human Resources Development Commission

Transportation including non-emergency medical care presents a challenge to rural Marylanders who find it difficult to reach medical services. There is very little public transportation available in rural areas so our rural communities must be innovators to address this challenge. Thanks to funds made available by Governor Hogan and the Maryland Legislature through the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund, this issue is being addressed by the Wheels to Wellness (W2W), in Calvert and St. Mary's counties, with plans to expand to Charles County soon. So far, the program has travelled up to 15,000 miles each year in Calvert and St Mary's counties assisting those in mostly rural areas who cannot provide their own transportation to medical appointments. In this session, participants will learn more about the W2W program and additional successful case studies from across the State.

# Breakout Sessions

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## *Health Care (continue from 12.1.2021)*

### **Breakout Session #3 - Bouncing Back Better in Rural Maryland: The Evolution of an Innovative Rural Health Strategy Based on Lessons Learned to Meet Diverse Community Needs Moving Forward**

**4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Leeward Room**

#### Panelists

Tina Backe, Coordinator of the Community Health Worker Program in the Office of Population Health Improvement at the Maryland Department of Health

Dr. Rachel Mandel, Senior Healthcare Advisor with the Asian American Center of Frederick

The pandemic exposed the magnitude of the challenges rural communities and public health systems must overcome to be able to provide equal access to care for all their distinct populations. In response, new partnerships and strategies quickly evolved. In collaboration with the medical community, the health department, non-profits, faith based and philanthropic organizations, the Asian American Center of Frederick (AACF) explored novel and previously untried methods of outreach to create a framework for the provision of equitable care. These new collaboratives utilized the experience and knowledge of Community Health Workers, as well as AACF's interpreter services to successfully engage residents with a sensitivity to culture, race, ethnicity, language, and geography. The infrastructure and partnerships that were built in response to COVID will continue to be used to achieve health equity by supporting future health initiatives around chronic disease management as well as efforts to remove access to care barriers. This session will also cover the State Community Health Worker (CHW) certification program and preliminary information from a recent CHW survey.

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#### Notes:

# Breakout Sessions - Day 2 - 12.2.2021

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## Agriculture

### **Breakout Session #1 - *Updates in Forestry Market Development, and the Economic Adjustment Strategy***

**9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. - Coastal Main**

#### Panelists

Kelly Dudeck, Chief Strategy Officer, Grow & Fortify

Philip Gottwals, Founder, Agricultural & Community Development Services

Beth Hill, Executive Director, Maryland Forests Association

Jennifer Walsh, Executive Director, The Greater Cumberland Committee

A \$4 billion industry affecting 18,000 Maryland families has experienced turbulent times over the last decade. Fortunately, the future is bright for forest products and Maryland is poised to emerge as a leader in the national recovery. Our unique assets, resource diversity, and environmentally engaged consumers are the foundation for a redesigned sector fully engaged in sustainable markets locally, regionally, and globally. The Economic Adjustment Strategy brings together feedback from over 1,500 individuals to establish a set of goals tying together the industry's common interests, community, and public policy. This session will introduce key leaders in this redevelopment effort. You'll learn about the initiatives planned, hear how outreach has vaulted the understanding of the sector's importance, see the powerful online tools generated to retain and attract business, and be some of the first to learn of the Maryland ESG branding project.

## Community Development

### **Breakout Session #2 - *State Revitalization Programs in Rural Communities***

**9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. - Coastal East**

#### Panelist

Kevin Baynes, Director, State Revitalization Programs within Maryland's Department of Housing and Community Development's Division of Neighborhood Revitalization.

Garland A. Thomas, Assistant Director, Department of Housing and Community Development

Come learn about the resources available by the Department of Housing and Community Development. Session topics include the State of Maryland loan, grant and technical assistance programs available to assist local governments, nonprofit organizations and small businesses to reinvest in their communities and make great places for Marylanders to live, work and prosper. Information will be provided regarding program eligibility requirements as well as examples of past successful projects.

## Economic Development

### **Breakout Session #3 - *Utilizing Asset Mapping for Growth and Sustainability***

**9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. - Windward**

#### Presenter

Jeff Trice, Owner, Jeff Trice Business and Personal Consulting

Identifying and creating an "asset map" of available resources can help you envision the future you want for your community, business, organization, or even your personal life. Identifying your strengths, areas of potential growth, and opportunities for expansion can help set a course that looks beyond recovery and builds resilience. We will explore how asset mapping can be used to address economic issues that pertain to rural environments, and how rural Maryland can take advantage of the expanded opportunities mapping offers.

# Breakout Sessions- Day 2 - 12.2.2021

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## Healthcare

### **Breakout Session #4 - *Maryland's Response to the Opioid Crisis***

**9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. - Leeward**

#### Presenter

Robin Rickard, Executive Director, Opioid Operational Command Center

This session will address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the opioid crisis in Maryland. It will cover recent and historical fatal and non-fatal overdose trends. It will address the extent to which these trends were impacted by COVID-19. It will also address the actions that Maryland is taking in response to the opioid crisis. This involves the Opioid Operational Command Center's efforts to coordinate with state agencies and local partners to promote comprehensive response efforts.

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***On behalf of the Rural Summit Planning Committee, we would like to thank the following volunteers and moderators that helped with the 2021 Rural Summit:***

**Debbie Bowden**, Director of Economic Development for Caroline County

**Mindie Burgoyne**, Senior Business Development Representative for the Eastern Shore.

**Senator Addie C. Eckardt**, represent District 37 as a member of the Maryland Senate

**Dr. Enrique Escobar**, Assistant Professor and Interim Associate, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

**Delegate David Fraser-Hildago**, represents District 15 as a member of the House of Delegates

**Dawson Hunter**, Housing and Transportation Coordinator, Kent County Government

**Nan Mann**, Office of U.S. Senate Chris Van Hollen, Western Maryland Regional Director

**Steve McHenry**, Executive Director, MARBIDCO

**Don Mulrine**, Town Manager for Denton, Caroline County

**Secretary Kelly M. Schulz**, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Commerce

**Sara Seitz**, Director of the State Office of Rural Health

**Dona Sorce**, Program Officer, Department of Housing and Community Development

**Anne Hairston-Strang**, Acting State Forester for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service

**Tony Thakur**, CEO of NETGlo

**Mike Thielke**, Executive Director of the Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center

**Lindsay Thompson**, Owner, Thompson Ag Consulting

**Cassandra Vanhooser**, Director of Economic Development and Tourism, Talbot County

# Speaker Biographies

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**Gary Allen** has served as the President of the Maryland Forestry Foundation since 2009 where he manages programs in private forest land management, natural resources careers, higher education fellowships, and urban and community forestry. He offers expertise in public policy, outreach, management, and advocacy in areas of environmental resources, land use, and public policy and education for federal, state, and local government.

**Tina Backe** is the coordinator of the Community Health Worker Program in the Office of Population Health Improvement at the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), where she manages the process to certify individual CHWs and accredit CHW training programs. Backe is a member of the CHW Training Program Application Review Committee and staffs the State CHW Advisory Committee. She holds two masters degrees from San Francisco State University - one in biology and one in special education.

**Matt Baylis** is the Apprenticeship Coordinator for HCC. Matt has been in Workforce Development for five years working with all current programs and helping develop several new programs. He works directly with HCC's current and potential apprenticeship partners as well as working with many local organizations to provide training and employee development and growth. Matt is also currently coordinating programming taking place at HCC's Leading Edge Training Center powered by the Ratcliffe Foundation.

**Kevin Baynes** is director of State Revitalization Programs within Maryland's Department of Housing & Community Development's Division of Neighborhood Revitalization. He administers several of the state's premier revitalization initiatives including the Community Legacy Program, Strategic Demolition Fund, Project C.O.R.E., Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative, National Capital Economic Development Fund, SEED Community Development Anchor Institution Fund, and Sustainable Communities. Baynes holds a Master of Community Planning degree with a concentration in Community and Economic Development from the University of Maryland College Park.

**Andrew Cassilly** currently serves as Senior Advisor to the Office of the Governor. Andrew's roles include advising the governor on legislative issues and serving as a liaison to the Maryland General Assembly members. Andrew works closely with several departments including MDOT, MEA, DNR, MDA and others to address legislative issues and recommendations. Prior to his role serving the governor, Andrew served five years as a State Delegate for Harford County. Andrew served for 28 years with the Harford County public Schools in many roles such as Coach, Teacher, School Administrator, Assistant Supervisor, Manager of Operations and Assistant Supervisor for Innovative Partnerships. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology from Millersville University in Pennsylvania and his master's degree in Administrative Management from Loyola College in Baltimore.

**Cheryl DeBerry** is the Broadband and Energy Manager in Garrett County's Department of Technology and Communications. Before accepting this new challenge, she spent more than 18 years as the Natural Resources Business Specialist for Garrett County Economic Development where she developed buy local initiatives including [www.GarrettFarms.org](http://www.GarrettFarms.org) and worked with farm businesses, cooperatives, and farmers markets to expand local food production and distribution. DeBerry is a founding member of the Western Maryland Food Council, and she serves as an appointed member of the Maryland Agriculture Commission and the Governor's Intergovernmental Commission for Agriculture.

**Kelly Dudeck** is with Grow & Fortify, a company who supports value-added agricultural organizations and the businesses they represent. Kelly has spent close to two decades working in either agricultural policy, land preservation, local food systems work, or agricultural economic development.

**Jennifer Dindinger** is a Regional Watershed Restoration Specialist for University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension. Based in Cambridge, she works on Maryland's Eastern Shore assisting communities with identifying stormwater problems and funding and implementing restoration projects that produce a measurable improvement in water quality. She is also trained in facilitation and Strategic Doing™. Jennifer holds a Master's degree in Environmental Policy from Bard College and a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology from the University of Delaware. She is a Senior Fellow in the Environmental Leadership Program and an active volunteer in her community.

**Joel Dunn** is the President and CEO of Chesapeake Conservancy, a nonprofit organization based in Annapolis that's dedicated to protecting Chesapeake landscapes that are vital to the health of the Bay and its cultural heritage. Under Dunn's leadership, the Conservancy has focused on using technology to practice precision conservation and building successful partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies, private foundations, and corporations to advance conservation.

# Speaker Biographies

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**Senator Sarah Elfreth** was Elected in 2018 to represent Annapolis and southern Anne Arundel County, Senator Sarah Elfreth is the youngest woman ever elected to the Maryland Senate. She is passionately committed to serving her constituents both in the State House and in the community. Sarah worked with colleagues across the aisle and around the State to pass 39 bills she sponsored in her first three legislative sessions. These new laws range from creating Maryland's first Office of Statewide Broadband, investing in libraries, small businesses, and critical prenatal care for healthy Maryland mothers, and protecting oysters and clean water.

**The Honorable Peter Franchot** was elected Maryland's 33rd Comptroller on November 7, 2006, and sworn in to office on January 22, 2007. He was re-elected on November 2, 2010, November 4, 2014, and November 6, 2018. Prior to his election to statewide office, Mr. Franchot served twenty years in the House of Delegates, representing the residents of Montgomery County. Mr. Franchot served on the House Appropriations Committee and chaired its Transportation and the Environment Subcommittee. Throughout his career, he has been a strong advocate for education, health care, transportation and environmental protection initiatives.

**Karen Fedor** is the Program Administrator for the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Marketing Office where she works to connect Maryland farmers, producers and watermen to schools, institutions, wholesale distributors, grocery store chains and other buyers. Karen leads the Certified Local Farm Enterprise Program and the Maryland Farm to School program which has increased sales of local product in school meals from \$0 to \$19 million annually. She also administers the Maryland Specialty Crop Block Grant program, Maryland Wine and Grape Promotion Fund, and organizes the Governor's Buy Local Cookout. She recently served as a Panel Chair for the Review Committee for the USDA Regional Food System's Partnership Grant. Prior to joining MDA's Marketing Office, Karen was the program manager and an inspector for MDA's Organic Certification program. She's been with MDA since 2006. Karen holds a B.S. from The Ohio State University and Graduate Certificate from University of Maryland Global Campus. Karen is currently a Fellow of Class XI of the LEAD Maryland Program and a volunteer fundraising chair for the Broadneck High School's Music Boosters.

**Colby Ferguson** is the government relations director for Maryland Farm Bureau working in both Annapolis and D.C. He has also served as the Agriculture Business Development Specialist for Frederick County and has private-sector experience with Sinclair Cattle Company in Pennsylvania and Southern States Cooperative. Ferguson serves on the Maryland Commission on Climate Change, Maryland Healthy Soils Commission, Maryland Aquaculture Coordinating Council, Maryland Agriculture Council, and Maryland Agriculture Marketing Professionals group. He is a 2006 LEAD Maryland fellow, and he served on the LEAD Maryland Board of Directors for 10 years.

**Noelle Flaherty, RN, MS, MBA, CCM** is the Director of Integrated Case Management at Calvert Health Medical Center. She has been a nurse for 25 years and has experience in a variety of healthcare settings, including inpatient, outpatient, case management, managed care, and quality improvement.

**Kurt Fuchs** is the Senior Vice President of Government Affairs for MidAtlantic Farm Credit. Kurt acquired a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from McDaniel College and has also studied at the University of Baltimore and University of Limerick in Ireland. Kurt is a graduate of the LEAD Maryland and Shore Leadership programs. Kurt is a member of the RULE Advisory Board. He is also a board member of the PA State Council of Farm Organizations, Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc., MidShore Regional Council, Choptank Ruritan Club, and LEAD Maryland Foundation, Inc.

**Delegate Jim Gilchrist** has served as a delegate for Maryland's 17th legislative district since 2007. He represents Rockville and Gaithersburg in Montgomery County. He is currently serves on the Environment and Transportation Committee and is Chair of the Joint Subcommittee on Program Open Space and Agricultural Land Preservation.

**Barry Glassman** has been recognized for outstanding character, service, and leadership. His record as a fiscal conservative includes promoting rural values and steadfast protection of Harford County's land and water resources. Barry has served on the Harford County Council, in the Maryland House of Delegates and the state Senate. He retired from Baltimore Gas & Electric and was elected Harford County executive in 2014. Now in his second term, Barry led his administration to earn 16 awards from the National Association of Counties. In 2019, he was honored with the Maryland Association of Counties' Marilyn J. Praisner Award for outstanding public service.

**Paul Goeringer** is a senior faculty specialist and the Extension Legal Specialist at the University of Maryland where his work focuses on agricultural leases, energy leases, landowner liability, production contracts, agricultural nuisance issues, environmental law, and estate planning issues impacting agricultural producers. Goeringer has authored more than 200 articles and is a sought-after speaker on agricultural law issues. He is a board member for the American Agricultural Law Association and is active in the Agriculture Law Section of the Maryland State Bar Association, the Southern Agricultural Economics Association, and the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association.

# Speaker Biographies

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**Rick Gordon**, P.E. has over 30 years in engineering design and construction administration experience. His career began as a civil engineer working with municipalities on public works projects. He then moved into commercial, industrial development, ultimately managing development for a small development company. Rick served at the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a General Field Representative for the USDA's Rural Utilities Service Telecommunications Program. In this role, he assisted small telephone companies and internet providers seeking federal funding for telecommunications improvements, including broadband expansion. Now, as the Director of the Governor's Office of Rural Broadband, Rick oversees the expansion of broadband capabilities statewide to bring access to households and businesses in Maryland's rural areas. He works with agencies across county, state and federal governments and with independent provider stakeholders to establish and enact a plan to provide statewide access to high-speed internet.

**Philip Gottwals** is a founding Principal of Agricultural and Community Development Services (ACDS, LLC) and directs the company's agricultural and rural economic development services. He brings over 14 years of experience in agricultural development and marketing at the local, state, and national level as well as the experience of successfully starting and managing three food and development-oriented businesses.

**Mary Griffin** is the Executive Director of the Cooperative Development Foundation (CDF), which promotes and develops cooperatives through loans and grants, education and programmatic initiatives. CDF is the nonprofit affiliate of the National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA CLUSA), the apex organization for all types of cooperatives, where Griffin served as director of public policy from 2004-2010. She also has worked with the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau since its launch, serving as senior advisor in its Office of Community Affairs. She has worked as senior counsel on financial services at Consumer Reports and was an attorney with Maryland Legal Aid Bureau.

**Ron Hantz** has more than thirty years of professional experience in real estate development, community and economic development, policy advocacy and mortgage financing. He is a senior community development consultant to both non-profits and the private sector; he has consulted to private foundations, to government and to public and private organizations on community development issues. Ron received his undergraduate degree in Sociology and African American Studies at University of Maryland Baltimore County. He has completed Georgetown Nonprofit Certification Program and has additional graduate course in city planning and holds a Master Certificate Graduate of the Johnnie Coleman Institute, where he received his formal training in metaphysical practices. As founder and board president of the Network for Developing Conscious Communities, he is instrumental in advocating a new community development paradigm based on "conscious community development."

**John Hartline** has been the Executive Director for the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland since October 23, 2013. He immediately became active in the Rural Maryland Council, Maryland Economic Development Association and Maryland Association of Counties. John has served as Chair of the Rural Maryland Council since December 2019. In 2014, he was voted onto the Board of Directors of the Maryland Broadband Cooperative and became the Treasurer of the Cooperative in November 2019, a position he still holds. Mr. Hartline holds a Master of Business Administration from George Mason University, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Bowling Green State University and was also a math instructor at the College of Southern Maryland in La Plata, MD.

**Dr. Austin J. Hill** is the newly appointed Director of Strategic Partnerships at Harford Community College. He was born and raised in Wilmington, Delaware and has 10 years of teaching experience, having previously worked for Harford County Public Schools and Baltimore City Public Schools. As the Director of Strategic Partnerships, Austin is leading the Leading Edge Training Center Powered by the Ratcliffe Foundation efforts, which is the college's initiative to provide workforce development and career training in the Route 40 Corridor. He also is leading offers to design specialized programs that provide training and employment opportunities for direct employers for in the Harford county area.

**Beth Hill**, Beth Hill is a lifelong resident of the Eastern Shore of Maryland with more than 20 years of experience in the sawmill, piling and timber industry. She previously served as the General Manager of Dorchester Lumber Company Inc., a family owned business founded in 1950. She served on the Governor's Commission for Protecting the Chesapeake Bay through Sustainable Forestry (2005- 2006) and currently serves on the Maryland Sustainable Forestry Commission, Delaware Forests Association Board of Directors, and was appointed by Governor Larry Hogan in 2018 to as the forestry representative on the Maryland Agriculture Commission

**Yolanda Hipski, AICP, RLA** is the Regional Transit Coordinator for the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland and is the project manager for the Wheels to Wellness project. Hipski has extensive experience in both the public and private sector focusing on planning, zoning and transportation.

# Speaker Biographies

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**Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.** was sworn in as the 62nd governor of the State of Maryland on January 21, 2015. In 2018, he was overwhelmingly re-elected to a second four-year term, receiving the most votes of any Maryland gubernatorial candidate and becoming only the second Republican governor to be re-elected in the 242-year history of the state. In his first inaugural address, Governor Hogan reminded citizens of Maryland's history as a state of middle temperament and pledged to advance the best ideas, regardless of which side of the political aisle they come from. He is recognized nationally as a strong, independent leader who consistently delivers real results and achieves common sense, bipartisan solutions. After being elected by his fellow governors, Governor Hogan recently completed a successful term as chairman of the National Governors Association, and he consistently maintains one of the highest job approval ratings in the country.

**Senator Michael Jackson** is a member of the Maryland Senate representing District 27 in Calvert, Charles and Prince George's counties. Jackson was a member of the Maryland House of Delegates representing District 27B in Calvert and Prince George's counties from January 2015 to January 2021. Jackson is also the former Sheriff of Prince George's County, Maryland.

**Darius Johnson**, a Kent County native, is the first Executive Director of Kent Attainable Housing, which helps low-to-moderate income families in Kent County achieve homeownership. His previous work includes Communications and Community Revitalization at Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, and Strategic Outreach and Program Management at the Maryland Center for Construction Education & Innovation. Additionally, Darius is a Senior Fellow with the Environmental Leadership Program and a Community Curation Fellow with Chesapeake Education & Innovation. Additionally, Darius is a Senior Fellow with the Environmental Leadership Program and a Community Curation Fellow with Chesapeake Heartland: An African American Humanities Project at Washington College. Darius is a graduate of Washington College's Class of 2015 where he studied Business Management, Political Science and Philosophy.

**Ann Jones** is the director of the Baltimore County Land Trust Alliance. She has administered the Rural Legacy Program for the Piney Run Area since its inception and works as the Conservation Director for the Land Preservation Trust, coordinating easement acquisition and monitoring efforts for them. Jones also works with Partners for Open Space and Forever Maryland advocating for full funding of Maryland's land preservation programs. A resident of Howard County, Jones is from a farm that has been in the family for more than 250 years and is protected with a permanent agricultural preservation easement. Jones is currently the vice-chair of the Howard County Agricultural Preservation Board.

**Dr. Behnam Khatabi** is an Associate Professor of Plant-Microbe Interactions/Plant Pathology at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Dr. Khatabi conducts a broad range of research projects from basic and applied plant pathology to interdisciplinary plant-microbe interactions. Dr. Khatabi's research mainly focuses on plant pathogens, as these are a major constraint that results in the limitation of crop production worldwide. In addition, Dr. Khatabi offers training in cellular biology, molecular biology, and recombinant DNA technology and Techniques in Molecular Biology and Agro-biotechnology. All of his courses have lab component, which involve hands-on activities to ensure students can apply concepts from classroom learning to laboratory conditions.

**Beth Anne Langrell**, since 2014, Beth has served as the Chief Executive Officer of For All Seasons, the only non-profit behavioral health clinic and rape crisis center serving the five counties of Maryland's Mid-Shore. Langrell has been instrumental in the agency becoming the foremost leader in mental health services and advocacy, and over the past 6 years she has guided its growth from 24 to 80 employees. Langrell has overseen notable agency advancements including: all agency therapists receiving trauma-informed certification, expanded services with a new office on Tilghman Island, an additional satellite office in Easton, school-based programs in three counties, telemedicine services in psychiatry, a Center for Learning to provide increased mental health education to the community, and the agency's first CARF accreditation. She has also taken an active role in the drafting of statewide legislative bills to prioritize the state's mental health discussion and funding.

**Ashlee Lane** is the director of the Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities for the Allegany County Human Resources Development Commission Inc. where she oversees 14 programs available to seniors and disabled residents throughout the county that help to provide vulnerable populations accessibility to transportation, food, health and nutrition education, in home care, and legal aid. Lane's works collaboratively with local partners to address the needs of the area's most vulnerable population to allow clients to live longer, enriched, and independent lives in their own homes.

**Nikki Majewski** is the Division Chief for Health Information Technology in the Center for Health Information Technology and Innovative Care Delivery at the Maryland Health Care Commission, an independent State agency whose responsibility includes planning for health system needs and promoting informed decision-making. Nikki evaluates health information technology implementation and security challenges, solutions, and best practices in collaboration with stakeholders to inform policy and future planning in Maryland. Nikki supports various MHCC initiatives to advance the utility of health information technology statewide

# Speaker Biographies

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**Dr. Rachel Mandel** is a physician executive with more than 30 years of clinical, executive, and teaching experience. She is a Board Certified Ob/Gyn who has a passion for community health initiatives and the identification and elimination of access to care disparities. Mandel has partnered with non-profit community based organizations, government entities, faith-based organizations as well as philanthropic foundations to develop strategies and initiatives that have a significant impact on the health and well-being of the community. She serves on the Board of Trustees for the Community Foundation of Frederick County and is a Fellow of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She also holds a Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do.

**Secretary Robert S. McCord** provides comprehensive leadership of the Department's mission, objectives, and initiatives. With the Maryland Department of Planning since 2015, he has served as Assistant Secretary of Operations and Deputy Secretary. McCord comes to Planning with private sector and public experience. He worked in private practice in Bel Air, Maryland before joining the Harford County Law Department in 1998 as Deputy County Attorney, then County Attorney from 2004-2014. He has seen issues from Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore as a trustee on the Local Government Insurance Trust. He is an Adjunct Professor, University of Baltimore School of Law, 1990-present. He holds a degree from Loyola University Maryland, B.A. (Business Administration and Philosophy), 1983; M.B.A. (Marketing), 1985; University of Baltimore School of Law, J.D. cum laude, 1989.

**Delegate Mike McKay** has represented District 1C, which includes Washington & Allegany Counties in the House of Delegates since 2015 where he is a member of the Appropriations Committee. Throughout his time in public service, Delegate McKay has been a passionate champion for Western Maryland and the state's rural communities, especially in the areas of economic and workforce development and healthcare. Delegate McKay was recently named Co-Chair of the State Commission on Economic Stability, which is charged with developing a path to the middle class for all Marylanders. He was the 2019 Recipient of the Mac Middleton Rural Health Legislator of the Year and is the Western Maryland representative on the Rural Maryland Council.

**Wendolyn McKenzie**, executive director of Allegany Human Resources Development Commission. As the community action and Lead Area Agency on Aging, HRDC plays a significant role in the community by administering key transportation, child and family, elder, adult medical day care, and housing and community programming services, providing services to 10,935 households in 2020 alone. McKenzie continues to maintain programs in a difficult economic environment and ensures that services to the target population remain strong as relationships with funding partners continue to be nurtured and strengthened. She has been instrumental in helping the agency to transition from a traditional case management model to a multi-generational one.

**Kim Mentzell** currently serves as the Cyber Program Manager at the Maryland Department of Commerce. She has worked in the technology field for more than 20 years as an educator and professional in cybersecurity, networking, Linux, and programming. She has held positions as an IT manager, network administrator, technology coordinator, programmer, and auditor. Mentzell's active certifications include CCNA-Cyber Operations, CCNA-Routing and Switching, A+, Network+, Security+, and CCAI. She serves as a senior advisor to CyberAg.org and is the co-chair for the MD Cyber Education Committee in conjunction with the MD Center for Computing Education (MCCE) Steering Committee.

**Steve McHenry** is the executive director of the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (MARBIDCO), a quasi-public commercial agricultural lender and financial intermediary organization that provides development and credit-enhanced financing to beginning and established food and fiber producers and processors and helps facilitate rural land preservation. McHenry has also served as executive director of the Rural Maryland Council and director of government affairs for the Maryland Municipal League. He was a fellow in the 2000 Class of LEAD Maryland (Class I) and a member of the 2002 Class of Leadership Maryland.

**Mark Powell** is chief of agriculture and seafood marketing for the Maryland Department of Agriculture. He previously served as editor of the Easton-based newspapers, *The Delmarva Farmer*, *Mid-Atlantic Grower* and the *New Jersey Farmer*. Powell currently represents MDA on the Maryland Soybean Board and the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board. He also represents state departments of agriculture on the Administrative Council of Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education – Northeast and is on the Community Advisory Board of the Johns Hopkins Hospital Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center. Powell was a member of the first LEAD Maryland class.

# Speaker Biographies

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**Robin E. Rickard** has served as the Executive Director of the Opioid Operational Command Center (OCCC) since June of 2021. In this position, she oversees the coordination of efforts of all Maryland state agencies responding to the opioid crisis. Prior to this Circuit and District role, she served for two years as the OCCC's deputy director and chief of staff. Robin has an extensive background in the field of criminal justice and a passion for working with justice-involved individuals with substance use disorders. Prior to her time with the OCCC, she served as Assistant State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County beginning in 1999, where she prosecuted hundreds of felony drug cases. In 2008, she became involved in Anne Arundel County's Drug Treatment Court and oversaw both the Drug Courts on behalf of the State's Attorney's Office. Robin received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 1999.

**Andrew Rose** is an agricultural, food, and climate futurist who is deeply involved in the non-profit community, where he serves on or advises many non-profit boards and social impact organizations. In addition to his current work with F3Tech, an agriculture incubation/acceleration organization, Rose is an advisory board member of the Chesapeake Agriculture Innovation Center. He previously served as the chief strategy officer in residence at the Emerging Technologies Centers, the chairman of the advisory board for the Maryland Cybersecurity Association, and a senior advisor for the national American Farm Bureau Federation 2020 AgInnovation Challenge event. Rose organized the TEDx Baltimore events and helped found the GIVE Program, a leadership training program in Maryland for rising professionals.

**Ernie Shea** is President of Solutions from the Land and Vice President of the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology Board of Directors. Solutions from the Land is a nonprofit organizations that incubates and supports farmer-led, multi-stakeholder platforms that inspire, educate and equip agricultural partners to innovate and lead efforts to sustain productivity, enhance climate resilience, and contribute to local and global goals for sustainable development. The Hughes Center is a nonprofit with a mission to provide leadership to promote environmentally sound and economically viable agriculture and forestry as Maryland's preferred land use through research, outreach and collaboration.

**Stone Slade** is the director of seafood marketing for the Maryland Department of Agriculture where he oversees the seafood marketing program design to increase sales, market share, and consumer demand for products from Maryland watermen and seafood processors. Before accepting this position, Stone oversaw the Maryland's Best – Agriculture program, the state's buy local agriculture marketing program. He has also worked as a marketing specialist for the Strategic Initiatives Division of Cotton Incorporated in Cary, NC, and business manager for Maunsel House and Estate in North Newton, Bridgewater, UK. He is a fellow in Class VIII of LEAD Maryland.

**Xochitl Torres Small** is the Under Secretary for Rural Development. Before coming to Rural Development, Xochitl was a United States Representative for the fifth largest district in the country. In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, Xochitl kept a rural hospital from closing its doors, improved constituent access to healthcare over the phone, and helped secure tens of millions of dollars for broadband in New Mexico through USDA's ReConnect Program. Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, Xochitl raised the alarm on broadband disparities, serving on Majority Whip James Clyburn's Rural Broadband Taskforce and as an original cosponsor of the Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act. As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, Xochitl helped champion the needs of dairy farmers and sponsored legislation to help local producers and rural communities invest in infrastructure to navigate new markets. Xochitl forged additional bipartisan solutions on the House Armed Services Committee and as chairwoman of the Oversight, Management, and Accountability subcommittee of the House Homeland Security Committee. Xochitl was the first woman and first person of color to represent New Mexico's second congressional district.

**David Smarik** is a coordinator of Advanced Manufacturing training at Allegany College of Maryland (ACM). His work is central to ACM's Continuing Education and Workforce Development training leading to industry-recognized credentials in Advanced Manufacturing. ACM's advanced manufacturing programs include Machining, Industrial Maintenance Technology, Welding, Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing), and Automation (Industrial Robotics). ACM recently was approved by Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to implement an Associates of Allied Science in Manufacturing Engineering with course work beginning in Fall Semester of 2022. Mr. Smarik will be coordinating this program with ACM's Career and Technical Education department which will include early college opportunities and articulation with Allegany County Public Schools. Mr. Smarik also serves on several committees including the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) curriculum committee.

# Speaker Biographies

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**Garland Thomas** currently serves in the capacity of Assistant Director - Neighborhood Revitalization, for the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). He is responsible for overseeing the utilization of state funds for community development and smart growth in Baltimore City. His experience includes facilitating training and presentations at local and national conferences. In addition, he has provided direct teaching, consultation and has worked in coordination with statewide stakeholders in the navigation of various systems of care. Garland has worked as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Baltimore for the past several years teaching courses on community building, human services and hip-hop culture. A Baltimore native, Garland received a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Psychology from Hampton University and the Masters of Education degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the Coppin State College.

**Jeff Trice** is a serial entrepreneur, workforce and economic development specialist, and Navy veteran who is passionate about helping people find meaningful work that allows them to reach their full potential, prosper, and give back to their community. His experience in workforce development, training, and small business development make him uniquely suited to help start-ups and entrepreneurs. Trice has served as Director of Business Solutions for Anne Arundel County, Business Services Program Manager for the State of Maryland, and most recently, as Dorchester County's Economic Development Director.

**Dr. Stephan Tubene** is an associate professor and small farm specialist at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. An internationally recognized scholar, he has experience implementing multi-sectoral development programs in numerous countries ranging from North America to the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Tubene is fluent in English, French, and several African languages. In addition to a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Kansas State University, he earned a Chemistry and Agricultural Industries from the Institut Facultaire des Sciences Agronomiques de Yangambi.

**Lucille Walker** is executive director of the Southern Maryland Heritage Area (*Destination Southern Maryland*) where she is leading the effort for the Southern Maryland Heritage Area to become the 56<sup>th</sup> National Heritage Area. Walker is the chairman and legislative lead for the Maryland Heritage Areas Coalition, vice-chairman of the Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission (SMADC), and the Advisory Council for the Mollusks Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary. The Southern Maryland Heritage Area also created the Maryland Rediscovery 400 initiative to help tell a more complete history of Maryland and its beginnings, with a focus on descendant populations, African Americans, and First Peoples, as Maryland looks ahead to its 400<sup>th</sup> Commemoration.

**Jennifer Walsh**, Jennifer is the Executive Director of The Greater Cumberland Committee, a regional economic development organization whose mission is to create a vibrant and prosperous five-county, tri-state region (all within the Appalachian Region) by serving as a convener, facilitator and catalyst for actions that will develop into long-lasting economic development strategies. Born and raised in New Mexico, Jennifer graduated with honors from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2001. Following law school, she served as a Law Clerk for Justice Joseph Baca at the New Mexico Supreme Court in Santa Fe, New Mexico and then for Judge Hiram Puig-Lugo at the District of Columbia Superior Court in Washington, D.C. Jennifer worked as a Legislative Assistant at the United States Senate for former US Senator, Jeff Bingaman, before moving to Cumberland, Maryland in late 2003. Jennifer has been practicing law in Cumberland since 2004 and currently practices part time in the areas of estate and long-term care planning at the Law Firm of Geppert McMullen Paye & Getty. Jennifer is a Fellow in the inaugural 2019-2020 Appalachian Leadership Institute Class.

**Claudia Randal Wilson** is the Executive Director for the Community Development Network Randall has more than two decades of experience in community development, housing and nonprofit leadership in Maryland, at both the local and state level. Randall has worked with CDN since 2018, first as a consultant and then as associate director, playing a key role in all aspects of the organization's activities.

**Duane Yoder** serves as president of the Garrett County Community Action Committee (GCCAC) in Oakland, one of the most successful rural community development corporations in Maryland. Over the past 20 years, GCCAC has developed or financed 1,400 units of affordable rental and owner-occupied housing and provides a range of services in early child education, childcare, transportation, senior citizen programs, emergency services, and housing. Yoder currently serves on the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond Community Investment Council and is active with a number of national and state boards and councils. He is a 2002 graduate of Leadership Maryland.



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