



# Cyber Security In Agriculture Forum

## May 17, 2024

### Cecil College, Maryland

### *About the Speakers*



**Chris Abell** is a technology champion, bridging the gap between innovation, employers, and practical workforce solutions. As a co-founder and the technology lead of the Maryland Apprenticeship Connector (MAC), Chris plays a key role in advocating for apprenticeships as a crucial pathway in tech-related roles, highlighting their immediate operational benefits and importance in future-proofing the workforce.

Contact Chris Abell at: [chris@carrolltechcouncil.org](mailto:chris@carrolltechcouncil.org)



**Mary Way Bolt** is a lifelong resident of Cecil County, Dr. Mary Way Bolt began her college education at Cecil College by earning an associate degree in nursing in 1986. She returned to the college in 1990 as a member of the nursing faculty and was promoted to nursing department chair, director of nursing education, acting dean of instruction, and associate dean for nursing, allied health and health services. Bolt, who was named vice president of academic programs in 2004, earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Maryland Baltimore County, a master's in community health nursing from the University of Maryland Baltimore, and a doctorate in higher education and leadership from Widener University.

Contact Dr. Mary Way Bolt at: [mbolt@cecil.edu](mailto:mbolt@cecil.edu)



**Steve Connelly** was appointed Deputy Secretary Connelly in January 2022. Before that he served as Assistant Secretary of Marketing, Animal Industries, and Consumer in 2014. Connelly previously was working at MDA managing a Crop Insurance and Risk Management promotion program. He earned a degree in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of Maryland. His earlier career includes being a partner in the Capstone Group-NCH, a firm providing association management and government relation services, USDA's Farm Service Agency, Maryland Ag Education Foundation, Maryland Department of Agriculture, and Maryland Farm Bureau. He was raised on a family dairy farm in Cecil County, MD, and resides in Rising Sun, MD with his wife Valerie.

Contact Deputy Secretary Steve Connelly at: [steve.connelly@maryland.gov](mailto:steve.connelly@maryland.gov)



**Senator Jason Gallion** is a farmer, a family man, and a man of faith dedicated to public service. His successful career in agriculture and leadership experience within the volunteer fire service and other local groups reflect Jason's deep knowledge and strong relationships within these communities, his effective organizational skills, and his high ethical standards. Elected to the Maryland State Senate in 2018, Jason serves on the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee.

Senator Jason Gallion at: [Jason.Gallion@senate.state.md.us](mailto:Jason.Gallion@senate.state.md.us)



**Justin Garcia** has been the Compliance and Public Relations Manager at SunMed Growers since 2019. He graduated from the University of Maryland in 2016 with a B.A. in Government and Politics and formerly worked in campaign fundraising and consulting before joining the cannabis industry. Justin is the Chair of the Maryland Advisory Board on Medical and Adult-Use Cannabis and a proud Baltimore City resident.

Contact Justin Garcia at: [justing@sunmedgrowers.com](mailto:justing@sunmedgrowers.com)



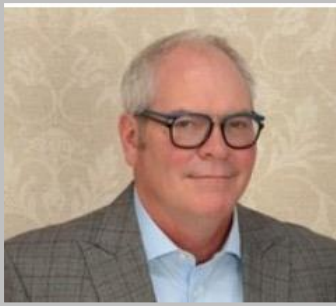


**Colin Hamill** is the Founder and IT Solutions Designer of Sentinel Forge Technologies. Colin founded his company after the May 2021 cyberattack on Colonial Pipeline, where we all saw a real-world example of how damaging cyberattacks can be to our society & the complex supply chains that we all rely on. Protecting & hardening our country's critical infrastructure, especially our food supply, against cyberattacks is one of the most important issues facing us today.

Contact Colin Hamill at: [colin.hamill@sentinelforgetech.com](mailto:colin.hamill@sentinelforgetech.com)



**Joyce Hunter** is a strategic-doer and a philanthropreneur. She was appointed by President Barack Obama to the position of **Deputy Chief Information Officer for Policy and Planning at the Department of Agriculture (2013-2017)** and was the **Acting Chief Information Officer from March 2016 to July 2016**. In addition to policy and technology planning, Ms. Hunter is the creator of the Data Science Agriculture, Athletic and Energy summer camps for underserved, underrepresented and underestimated youth, which is entering its 10th<sup>th</sup> year of operation. Ms. Hunter is currently the Executive Director of Mission-Critical, a non-profit Think Tank, providing objective, nonpartisan research, advisory, and education to legislative, commercial, and public-sector cybersecurity, national security and critical infrastructure stakeholders. She is also the Chair of the Advisory Board for CyberAg, encouraging collaboration between various stakeholders, including farmers, technology providers, cybersecurity experts, and government agencies, to share knowledge, strategies, and innovations. Ms. Hunter earned a BA from Villanova

	<p>University and an MBA in Marketing from the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business. She is also published in The Handbook of Federal Government Leadership and Administration: Transforming, Performing and Innovating in a Complex World (Routledge 2017) and the recent ICIT publication “Securing the Nation’s Critical Infrastructures: A Guide for the 2021 – 2025 Administration” (CRC Press 2022).</p> <p>Contact Joyce Hunter at: <a href="mailto:joyce@f3tech.org">joyce@f3tech.org</a></p>
	<p><b>Maureen O’Shea Fitzgerald’s</b> 10+ years of experience in agriculture, real estate, and business development paired with her on-farm work experience and degrees in Economics and Finance, give her a well-balanced understanding of the business of farming. Maureen’s love of farming was born out of curiosity and interest. She is passionate about regional agriculture, not only for its economic vitality and importance, but the nutritional benefits as well. She understands eating locally sourced, fresh food leads to improved physical and mental health. Supporting local businesses and boosting the health of local communities is a recipe for economic success.</p> <p>Contact Maureen O’Shea Fitzgerald at: <a href="mailto:MFitzgerald@HorizonFC.com">MFitzgerald@HorizonFC.com</a></p>
	<p><b>Kelly Schulz</b> is a mother, wife, successful small business owner, and served seven years in Governor Hogan’s administration as the Secretary of Labor and Secretary of Commerce. In her most recent role as Secretary of Commerce, Kelly oversaw the state’s primary economic development agency, responsible for attracting new businesses, job growth, and workforce development. Under Kelly’s leadership, the department also served as the largest resource to provide financial assistance to struggling Maryland companies adversely impacted by COVID-19. Prior to entering her career in public service, Kelly was always focused on her community. While raising her boys, Kelly put herself through college and worked as a server and bartender in the evenings and on weekends, yet always made time to serve on the school PTA and to volunteer with Brandon and Bradley’s sports teams.</p> <p>Contact Kelly Schulz at: <a href="mailto:Kelly@mdtechcouncil.com">Kelly@mdtechcouncil.com</a></p>
	<p><b>Bill Sorenson</b> joined Cecil County in October 2022 as the Economic Development Director. Prior to joining the county, Bill was a Director of Regional Business Development at the Maryland Department of Commerce and a jurisdictional representative for Howard County. Prior to his public sector service Bill held positions of Vice President of North America Services at Dell/EMC Corporation and Managing Director of Mid Atlantic sales at Hewlett Packard Enterprises. Bill has a Bachelor’s Degree in Economics and Mathematics from Towson University and resides in Harford County.</p> <p>Contact Bill Sorenson at: <a href="mailto:wsorenson@CecilCountyMd.gov">wsorenson@CecilCountyMd.gov</a></p>



**Lindsay Thompson** owns Thompson Ag Consulting providing association management, public and government relations services. Thompson serves as the Executive Director for the Industry Task Force II on 2,4-D Research Data and the Maryland Grain Producers Association. Lindsay has experience in government, regulatory, and public relations on agricultural and pesticide issues throughout the Mid-Atlantic region over the last decade. Thompson holds a B.S. in political science and a M.S. in public policy. Lindsay also farms with her husband on Maryland's eastern shore where she resides on her family farm with her husband Jared and their 3 children.

Contact Lindsay Thompson at: [lindsay.mdag@gmail.com](mailto:lindsay.mdag@gmail.com)



**Karen Zuccardi** is the Manager of the Rural Business Innovation Initiative at TEDCO (The Maryland Technology Development Corporation). She brings TEDCO resources to the northern counties in the state and specializes in early-stage tech startup development. Karen holds an undergraduate degree in International Economics and a master's degree in Public Service. She is passionate about her work, believes in rural communities' untapped potential, and is committed to fostering innovation and growth in these regions.

You may contact Karen at: [kzuccardi@tedcomd.com](mailto:kzuccardi@tedcomd.com)