

Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Small Business Academy: May 2-5, 2023



May 2, Day 1:

Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez, State of Wisconsin



Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez, MSN, MPH, RN, was sworn in as Wisconsin's 46th Lieutenant Governor on January 3, 2023. A working mom, wife, and proud Wisconsinite, Lt. Gov. Rodriguez was elected on November 8, 2022. Before her election, she served in the Wisconsin State Assembly, representing Assembly District 13, comprised of a portion of Waukesha and Milwaukee Counties. While serving as a state representative, she worked on the Committees on Health, Insurance, Energy and Utilities, and Science, Technology and Broadband. Lt. Gov. Rodriguez is an experienced healthcare executive who has worked in various leadership roles for over 20 years,

including founding her own small business. Prior to serving in the Wisconsin State Assembly, Lt. Gov. Rodriguez was the vice president of Population Health and Integrated Care Management at one of the largest healthcare systems in the Midwest.

Missy Hughes, Secretary & CEO, WEDC



Missy Hughes is the secretary and CEO of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), the state's lead economic development organization. She was appointed to the post by Governor Evers in September 2019. Prior to joining WEDC, she was chief counsel and chief mission officer for Organic Valley, a Wisconsin-based, nationwide cooperative of organic dairy farmers. In her role at WEDC, Secretary Hughes oversees efforts to attract businesses to Wisconsin and help existing businesses expand, meet current and future workforce needs, promote global trade and investment, support thriving communities and small businesses, encourage entrepreneurship and innovation, address the unique needs of rural residents, and advance the economic well-being of every resident.

Eric Ness, Director, Director, Wisconsin District Office, U.S. Small Business Administration



Eric Ness is the District Director for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Wisconsin District with locations in Madison and in Milwaukee. As District Director, Eric is responsible for the delivery of SBA programs throughout Wisconsin. Eric joined the SBA in 1990 as a Commercial Loan Officer where he had the opportunity to work in both processing and liquidation of loans. He has served as Finance Chief and Assistant District Director for Economic Development. In December of 2001, Eric assumed the position of Wisconsin District Director. Prior to coming to SBA, Eric worked for Impact Seven as a Business Analyst and was General Manager of Western Wisconsin Development Corporation in Northwestern Wisconsin.



David Friedman, Small Business Banking Leader, U.S. Bank

David Friedman is the Small Business Banking Leader of the Midwest Region for U.S. Bank and has been with U.S. Bank for the past 19 years. He has lead the Small Business Banking teams across the Midwest Region, including MN, ND, SD, IA, NE, WI, IL, KS, and Kansas City, MO. He is an experienced leader with 21 years of banking and financial services success in transforming cultures, leading teams and focused customer obsession.

Dr. Eugene Manzanet, Ph.D., MBA, Senior Director, Diverse Business Development, WEDC



Eugene Manzanet, after serving eight years in the United States Marine Corps Reserve has dedicated his time and energy to serving the Milwaukee area as resource of information for financial education, community, and economic development. As a current resident and homeowner of the near northwest side of Milwaukee, he was born in New York City and raised in the heart of the "South Bronx." He is currently the Senior Director of Diverse Business Development for the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. He is responsible for providing strategic leadership to the Diverse Business Development (DBD) team that supports diverse businesses and communities statewide. His last position was Vice President of Community Lending at US Bank Home Mortgage Wisconsin. Before rejoining US Bank for fourteen years, he served as the Vice President of Community Development Banking for PNC Bank.

Alex Ysquierdo, Diversity Business Development Manager, WEDC



Alex Ysquierdo is the Diversity Business Development Manager for Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation WEDC. Alex joined WEDC in April of 2021 and brings over 20 years of banking and community involvement experience. He believes that the best way to help his communities is to be involved, he volunteers and serves on a few boards, the Board of Directors for Downtown Madison Inc., Board of Directors for Goodwill of South-Central Wisconsin, Board of Directors for Affordable Dental Care, Board of directors for Access Community Health Centers, member of The Latino Coalition for Action and sits on the Policy Council and is the Community Representative for Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Program for United Migrant Opportunity Services, WI. He earned his Bachelor's degree in

International Studies from UW-Stevens Point and his Masters in Organizational Leadership and Change from Edgewood College.

Dorothy Enriquez, CEO & Principal Consultant, The Elevate Collective, LLC

Dorothy Enriquez is a third culture kid by way of Belize, Italy, Japan and the US. She founded The Ellevate Collective, a premier learning and leadership firm (TEC). Through her work at TEC, Dorothy helps leaders optimize their influence so that they are equipped to lead from every seat they sit in and is known for her effective communication skills, 'edutaining' leadership courses and interactive cohort style experiences. A 15-year veteran of Corporate America, wielding multiple certifications and a master's degree in Human Communication, she strives to make transformative development accessible and relatable. Her written works can be found in Training Industry Magazine, Forbes, Newsweek, and The BOSS Network. From organizations to nonprofits and small businesses, Dorothy focuses on work that centers psychological safety, connectedness & belonging and meaning (the highest level of happiness) and growth experiences that centers how we experience the world of work.

Micae Brown, Assistant Vice President, Business Access Advisor, U.S. Bank



Micae Brown is the Assistant Vice President, Business Access Advisor at U.S. Bank. She is also the founder and CEO of Micae Brown Sales Agency (MBSA). Micae's sales expertise stems from over fourteen years of sales working in technology, professional services, retail management, media, and advertising. As a CEO of her company, Micae leads her team of experts to help businesses across the country develop sales strategies to sell their products and services. At U.S. Bank, she helps create pathways for African American business owners to access capital through diverse pipelines, strategic partnerships, and practical technical assistance.

Jessie Cannizzaro, Master Plumber and Owner, Milestone Plumbing

Jessie Cannizzaro is the owner of Milestone Plumbing, Inc. in Wauwatosa where she and her team provide residential and small commercial plumbing services to homeowners and contractors throughout the Milwaukee, Waukesha, and Ozaukee counties. She holds a Wisconsin Master Plumber license and Wisconsin Cross Connection Control registration in addition to both her Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. Jessie is currently serving as Past President for her local NARI Milwaukee Chapter and also serves on the NARI Milwaukee Membership Committee and NARI Milwaukee Education Committee while volunteering time to go into schools and promote career opportunities in the trades to students. Jessie accepted a seat on the Wisconsin State Plumbing Advisory Committee in 2021 to continue to give back to the trades in a new role and also serves on the ABC (Associated Builders and Contractors) of Wisconsin Board of Directors as the association's Chair-Elect. She lives in Wauwatosa with her husband and their two "future" plumbing apprentices: William (5 years old), Fitzgerald "Fitz" (3 years old) and their German Shepherd rescue Max.



Tammie Clendenning, Lead Economic Development Specialist, U.S. SBA

Tammie Clendenning is the Lead Economic Development Specialist for the Wisconsin District of the U.S. Small Business Administration. Tammie is responsible for providing training on SBA's programs and services including capital access, procurement and business advising. She enjoys talking to entrepreneurs about the many resources available to them at exhibits and networking events. Tammie is the district office technical representative for the Women's Business Centers in the state. Prior to joining SBA, she held business development and leadership positions in commercial finance. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and is a small business owner.

Christopher Cote, Development Services Manager, First American Capital Corporation, Inc.



Boozhoo! Christopher is a first generation Anishinaabe descendant of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. He has eight years of managerial experience in the Native CDFI Industry and working within Native communities, both with indigenous business owners and tribal enterprises. Christopher's role as Development Services Manager at FACC, focuses upon providing business management technical assistance and guidance with Native-owned, diverse, and other underrepresented small businesses throughout the state of Wisconsin. Miigwetch!

Rudy Gutierrez, SBS Sales Manager, U.S. Bank

Jacob Haupt, Director of Jobs and Business Development, Western Wisconsin Women's Business Center



Jacob Haupt is the director of the Western Wisconsin Women's Business Center. Prior to his current position, he worked as a business development specialist for the Western Wisconsin Women's Business Center and the Wisconsin Procurement Institute – Wisconsin's only procurement technical assistance center. Throughout his life, he also worked at his family's 109-year-old water well-drilling business in central Wisconsin. Jacob holds a Master's degree in Public Administration and Urban Planning from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee and a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Political Science from the University of Wisconsin La Crosse. He has also spoken

nationally about using census data for market research for small businesses. Jacob is passionate about working with under-served populations and making an impact in West-Central Wisconsin.

Michael Hetzel, Director of Lending, WWBIC

Michael Hetzel, Director of Lending, has over 37 years of experience in the banking industry and has served as WWBIC's Director of Lending since 2012. He oversees WWBIC's lending function related to micro-loan, small business and SBA 7a underwriting; small business consulting and marketing for WWBICs 24 loan funds (including CDBG loan funds). He also serves as WWBIC's primary banking partner contact person for the State of WI. He oversees and works with a statewide team of five lenders who annually originate more than \$10 million in new loans. He has consistently managed WWBIC's lending team to meet goals set by WWBIC, CDBG and other federal government loan programs for loans to low-to-moderate income borrowers, especially women, people of color, Spanish speaking business owners and veterans. Under his leadership, the total WWBIC loan portfolio and the deployment of capital have grown and continues to grow from 6 million in 2012 to over 25 million in 2022. Mike received a BBA from UWM and has been certified as a licensed financial counselor. Since starting his career, Mike has worked at First Interstate Bank, Wells Fargo Bank, Firststar Bank, US Bank; Associated Bank Corporation and PNC Financial Services Group.

Ab Kue, CEO, RPM Bodywork



Ab Kue is a Hmong American entrepreneur who has called the Greater Milwaukee area home for the past 25 years. Ab is Owner and CEO of RPM Bodywork, a sports massage company focused on pain relief with locations in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward, Mequon, and Waukesha. Ab's vision, strategic leadership, and business planning has guided RPM Bodywork to year-over-year business growth since founding the company in 2015. In addition to entrepreneurship, Ab is passionate about community involvement as an active member of the Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce (HWCC) and Board Member of the Milwaukee Consortium for Hmong Health.

Ugo Nwagbaraocha, President, Diamond Discs International

Ugo Nwagbaraocha is President of Diamond Discs International, an industry leading infrastructure construction equipment distributor, wholesaler and light assembly of power walk behind concrete saws, high power gas saws, power tools, safety construction equipment including utility trench covers, safety cones, safety barrels, etc, and certified surgical grade Personal Protection Equipment. One of the nation's largest inventories of professional grade diamond edged cutting tools, diamond blades, diamond core bits and related products.

May 3, Day 2:

Henry Hurt, President/Owner, Hurt Electric

Henry Hurt is the President/Owner of Hurt Electric and has been the owner for the past 27 years. He completed his electrical apprenticeship in 1983. He is the Co-Chair of WI Apprenticeship Council, CO-Chair of WRTP/BIGSTEP, and part of the MATC Electrical Advisory Committee. He was a past chairman of Milwaukee Electrical Joint Apprentice Committee and previously President of Milwaukee NECA Chapter – Electrical Contractors Association. He has been awarded several contractor and personal awards.

Dele Ojelabi, President, Comcentia



Dr. Dele Ojelabi is the founder and president of Comcentia, a Mequon WI based IT consulting company that specialize in Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP) Integration, DevOps, and Workforce Solutions. Dr. Ojelabi is a long-term Milwaukee resident, having moved to Milwaukee from France on a Doctoral exchange and chose to make Milwaukee home thereafter. Dele grew up in Lagos, Nigeria and graduated from the University of Lagos, Nigeria before moving to Paris, France for an MBA at the Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussees. He received a master's degree in MIS from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee and Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) from Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, England. He is a board member of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Alumni association and a part-time professor of computer science at Maquette University. Dele is bilingual, French, and English. He enjoys spending time with his two daughters, eating ethnic food, and discovering new places around the world. Dele is passionate about increasing women and minority participation in the technology industry.

Rob Pero, CEO & Creative Director, Perodigm

Rob Pero is an entrepreneur, creative, and advocate. He is the founder and CEO of the Indigenous-led media group Perodigm; founder of Canndigenous, the first independent Indigenous-owned hemp company in Wisconsin; owner of Ripley Green apothecary; founder of the leading advocacy organization promoting Indigenous interests in cannabis nationwide, the Indigenous Cannabis Industry Association; and a founder of the Indigenous Business Group, a nonprofit supporting Indigenous-led businesses and economic development in Indian Country. Rob is a member of the Bad

River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians and is committed to honoring his Indigenous heritage and Ojibwe roots. Rob values family, support for community, respect for the natural world, and a commitment to doing everything, as the Ojibwe say, “in a good way”.

Jason Rae, President & CEO, Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce

Jason Rae (he/him) is the founder and President & CEO of the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce, an organization of more than 600 LGBTQ owned and allied businesses from around the state. Jason founded the organization in 2012 and has seen it grow to record numbers and achievements, including winning the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce’s Chamber of the Year award in 2015. With his role with the LGBT Chamber, Jason serves as the National Chair for NGLCC’s Affiliate Chamber Council, which works to support the work of local LGBT affiliate chambers across the country. In his volunteer time, Jason currently serves on the Board of VISIT Milwaukee and the Southeast Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District. Jason holds an Honors Bachelors of Arts degree from Marquette University in history and political science and a Masters of Business Administration degree from Drexel University.

Adam Skenandore, President, ANASA Traffic Services



Adam is the President/Owner of ANASA Traffic Control Services. The interest in the traffic control industry started in 2009 when Adam was offered a job as a traffic technician/flagger for a large utilities installation company. Through years of hard work and the willingness to listen and learn, he was able to make his way up to General Manager overseeing the Wisconsin area. His experience ranges from traffic control management on mega WisDOT projects all the way to smaller flagging and traffic control operations for the gas and electric utilities sector. Adam is continuing to use his years’ worth of experience and knowledge to keep growing all aspects of the business,

as well as developing new ways to increase safety.

Genia Stevens, Founder & Executive Director, Rock County Jumpstart



Genia Stevens is the Founder and Executive Director of Rock County Jumpstart. She's also a Rock County Board Supervisor. For over 23 years, Stevens has supported small businesses with strategic communications, strategic planning, business plan development, and organizational design. In 1999, Stevens started her company Belwah Media, a communications and marketing firm, helping locally-owned businesses in the Beloit and Janesville area with developing traditional and digital marketing strategies designed to successfully scale their business. In 2019, she launched Belwah Strategy, a subsidiary of

Belwah Media, a consulting firm that helps companies solve complex organizational challenges by employing an iterative, human-centric, hands-on approach. From 2019 to 2022, Stevens served as the Entrepreneur in Residence for Madison College – Goodman South Campus. In this role, she provided business coaching for students, faculty, staff, and Dane County community members who wanted to start a business. In January 2019, Stevens founded Rock County Jumpstart, a collaborative initiative designed to improve the likelihood of success of minority business owners in Rock County, WI. Jumpstart has a specific focus on providing culturally-competent, culturally-relevant, and culturally-sensitive services designed to address the specific and unique needs of Black business owners in Rock County. In April 2019, Stevens was appointed to the Rock County Board of Supervisors. She was elected in April 2022 to serve a full term. Stevens has served on numerous boards and committees, including the City of Beloit Equal Opportunities Commission, the Beloit NAACP Economic Development Committee, the Beloit NAACP Political Action Committee, the Foundation for Madison's Public Schools, Beloit Memorial High School's Career Academy Master Planning Committee, the Beloit School District Strategic Planning Committee, and the Lt. Governor's Small Business Academy Planning Committee. In 2020, Stevens was named one of Wisconsin's Most Influential Black Leaders by Madison365. In 2021, Stevens was named a YWCA Rock County Woman of Distinction.

Jim Strube, Business Opportunity Specialist, U.S. Small Business Administration

James Strube is a Business Opportunity Specialist (BOS) for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Wisconsin District Office, with locations in Madison and Milwaukee. As a BOS, he is responsible for the day-to-day management of SBA government contracting and business development programs throughout the state. Mr. Strube joined the SBA in November 2015 and has a federal government contracting background. Prior to coming to the SBA, he worked for the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs as Warranted Level I Contracting Officer. He is also a former U.S. Marine. Mr. Strube graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater with a Bachelor of Arts, and later obtained a Master of Music from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Jean Marie Thiel, President, Belonger Corporation Inc.



Founded in March, 2000 Jean Marie Thiel started Belonger Corporation in her basement with one employee and four customers. Seven years later, Belonger Corporation is Wisconsin's only woman-owned and American Indian-owned mechanical contracting company employing over 30 employees. Unprecedented growth has been a hallmark of Jean Marie Thiel's tenure as president of Belonger Corp. Despite increasing costs due to factors such as health care premiums, gas prices and wage requirements, Belonger's overall growth has been more than twice what was originally expected. From meager beginnings of four customers to currently 70+, the diversity and flexibility of the company has allowed a national presence to be established.

Aina Vilumsons, President/Executive Director, Wisconsin Procurement Institute

Aina Vilumsons, President / Executive Director, Wisconsin Procurement Institute – An APEX ACCELERATOR – APEX Accelerators mission is to serve as the axis for existing and new business to strengthen the defense and government industrial base by accelerating innovation, fostering ingenuity, and establishing resilient and diverse supply chains. WPI is celebrating 35 years of service – each year WPI services to all 72 Wisconsin counties, provides technical support to over 1200 businesses and hosts / supports over 100 education / training / conference opportunities.

Michail Walker, Business Consultant & Outreach Specialist, Small Business Development Center at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse

Mike's areas of expertise include developing, promoting and providing business counseling services, with a special emphasis on business and financial planning. He also specialized in business and operation management, financial forecasting and evaluation of financial statements and business modeling. Mike also enjoys planning, promoting and coordinating business education and event outreach activities. Mike's experience involves ten years in purchasing and contract administration, including an active duty enlistment with the Air Force as a contract administrator. Mike also has manufacturing planning experience within a Fortune 500 company. He has a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Management from Park University, as well as an Associate of Science in Contracts Management from the Community College of the Air Force.

Andy Weins, Owner, Green Up Solutions LLC and Camo Crew LLC

Andy Weins is a fourth-generation entrepreneur, Veteran of the U.S. Army, and Cardinal Stritch University graduate. His ventures include Green Up Solutions – environmental consulting , Camo

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Crew Junk Removal – solid waste removal, and Young Guns – a community of entrepreneurs dedicated to advancing their skills. Through consulting, teaching, podcasting, and writing, he is a passionate supporter of Veterans, entrepreneurs, community engagement, individual empowerment and the environment. Weins' 18 years of military service includes service during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and continuing service as a U.S. Army Reserve Career Counselor. He has won numerous awards through the years, most recently being named a 2023 Waste360 "40 Under 40" member, which honors the next generation of leaders who are shaping the future of the waste and recycling industry, and a 2022 Outstanding Business of the Year – Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business award at the Wisconsin Governor's annual Conference on Diverse Business Development.

May 4, Day 3:

**Brian Alves, Digital Marketing & Events Committee Chair, Certified Mentor, SCORE Mentors
SE WI**

**Mark Borowicz, Director of Workforce & Community Development, Blackhawk Technical
College**

Mark Borowicz is the Director of Workforce & Community Development at Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville, WI. Mark has been the director for the last 4 years and he and his team provide workforce solutions to industry and community partners in the Blackhawk district serving Rock and Green counties. Mark has been engaged in workforce solution strategies, training and partnership development for over 20 years in Wisconsin and Illinois. He is passionate in identifying opportunities where the education and business sectors interest creating new avenues to address talent development strategies and solutions for an organization.



**Baltazar De Anda Santana, Co-Founder and Executive
Director, Latino Academy of Workforce Development, Inc.**

Baltazar De Anda Santana, originally from Mexico and a graduate of UW whitewater. Baltazar just recently became a USA citizen. Baltazar is co-founder and Executive Director of the Latino Academy of Workforce Development which strengthens our diverse communities by providing linguistically and culturally competent adult education programming that advances opportunities to ensure that individuals and families thrive socially, economically, and civically. Baltazar has 12 years of experience in the non-profit sector. Baltazar has led the creation and development of successful programs at the Latino Academy of Workforce Development which include the Bilingual Construction Training, Commercial Drivers License program, Manufacturing Training and the Bilingual Customer Service program, among others. Baltazar's vision is to create a world where social and economic

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equity guarantees everyone will reach their full potential. Baltazar is a former Director of Community and Volunteer Engagement at the United Way of Dane County. He also served as an ambassador for the Share and Be Aware program of the Wisconsin Bike Federation. Currently Baltazar serves as a board member of the following organizations: Destination Madison, Downtown Madison Incorporated and Free Bikes 4 Kidz. Baltazar is a member of the city of Madison Transportation Policy and Planning Board. Baltazar is the Director of Orgullo Latinx LGBT+ of Dane County. Baltazar lives in Madison with his husband Mark. Baltazar became a triathlete, finishing his first Ironman in 2019. In his spare time, Baltazar is training for his fourth Ironman on September 11, 2022. Baltazar is also a two-times Marathon finisher.

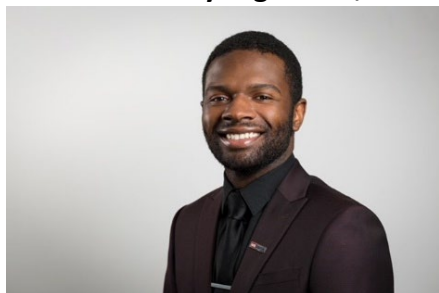
Kaitlin Ferrick, Grants Initiatives Advisor, Division of Early Care and Education, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families



Kaitlin Ferrick is the Grants Initiatives Advisor at the Division of Early Care and Education in the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. In this role, she provides strategic leadership for the division's grant-funded programs, including the Preschool Development Grant and Head Start State Collaboration Office. Prior to joining the department, Kaitlin provided technical assistance and consulting services in the early childhood and mental health systems. She also served as the Head Start State Collaboration Office Director at the Michigan Department of

Education, and worked as a Head Start teacher in Los Angeles. Kaitlin holds a JD from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Cory Highshaw, AVP Business Banking Relationship Manager, U.S. Bank



Cory Highshaw has worked for US Bank since 2012. Most recently, he was a Business Banking Development Consultant in Milwaukee, WI before becoming a Business Banking Relationship Manager in August 2022. During his time at US Bank, he has focused on providing excellent customer experiences, increasing the use of digital platforms to achieve sales, and supporting development and training for all employees. His guiding principles for effective

leadership include leveraging branch partners to provide additional value to clients from financial and regulatory standpoints, using his vast knowledge of the financial industry to provide guidance through these unusual times of COVID19, and leading by example. Cory is an advocate for providing financial literacy and lessening the wealth gap for minority-owned business owners.

Madalena Maestri, DBE Program Chief, Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Madalena Maestri, Ed.D, grew up in a family-owned, small business in rural Wisconsin. Her work has focused on cultivating small businesses and fostering educational opportunities throughout her career. While at Taliesin, the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture, Madalena was the Director of Academic Affairs for the M.Arch degree program. In private consulting, she provided guidance to small businesses in identifying vision and mission for their companies, creating strategic plans, and improving communication processes. As the DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) Program Chief for WisDOT, Madalena leads a dedicated team committed to helping historically underrepresented small business owners to participate in WisDOT transportation infrastructure contracts. The DBE central office, located in Madison, provides certification services and DBE participation review. The DBE Support Services Office, located in Milwaukee, provides business development services to DBE certified firms, and firms interested in certification. Madalena has a BA in Sociology from UW-Madison, an MA in Organizational Development from Alverno College, and an Ed.D from Edgewood College.

Jona Moore, Vice President, African American Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin



Jona Moore has been Vice President of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin since 2021. She was previously the Program Manager which she joined as in 2019. A native of Milwaukee, Moore graduated from Rufus King High School before earning a bachelor of science degree at Jackson State University in Mississippi. She returned to her hometown and served several roles of rising importance at the Pearls for Teen Girls, a dynamic Milwaukee nonprofit organization, before joining the AACCW. Moore also graduated from the African American Leadership Alliance Milwaukee (AALAM) Leadership Development Program. The African American

Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin champions the growth and sustainability of African American-owned businesses by providing access to capital, education and advocacy through capacity building and strategic partnerships.

Alison Prange, Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor, MKE 2024 Host Committee

Alison Prange is a non-profit executive, public speaker, public policy strategist and 3-time Ironman athlete. She is a leader who thrives on bringing the best out of her teams, building organizations, and working to make the world around her a better place. Her career has been built at the intersection of politics and nonprofit leadership, where she brings her strategic vision and expertise together with insight drawn from her 20 plus year career on the front lines at national non-profit organizations, and working on and around Capitol Hill. Her career started on political campaigns in her native Miami, Florida. Since then, she has led major public policy initiatives on behalf of the American Cancer Society, served as President of the Henry Vilas Zoological Society, and most recently served as the Vice President for External Relations at

Ballotpedia. Today, she serves as Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor for the Milwaukee 2024 Host Committee for the Republican National Convention. Alison's interest in politics and policy and love of the American way were sparked during her formative years spent growing up in the shadow of the Berlin Wall in West Berlin, Germany. Alison serves as a board member for two organizations, the Institute for Reforming Government, and shark research organization, OCEARCH. When she's not working, she can often be found doing something active outdoors - no matter the season. She resides in the Milwaukee area with her husband Phil, daughter Alexandra and their dog, Patton.

Marjorie Rucker, Chair, Ethnic & Diverse Business Coalition

Marjorie Rucker is Executive Director of The Business Council, Inc. She is also the Chair of the Ethnic and Diverse Business Coalition (EDBC), which consists of 18 ethnic and diverse chambers of commerce and community development financial institutions. Marjorie earned her bachelor's degree in History from Mount Mary University in 2000 and her juris doctorate degree from Vermont Law School in 2003.

Aina Vilumsons, President/Executive Director, Wisconsin Procurement Institute

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May 5, Day 4

[Click here](#) for Bios of Speakers

Marthia Bell, Owner, Living Made Easy Homes, LLC

James Bloodsaw, Owner, Just Veggies

Natalie Chesebro, CEO, Your Personal Gardener & Arborist

Yolanda Coleman, Owner, Plush Clothing

Lu Holter, Owner, Croix Valley Foods

Steven Potter, President, Arctic Compressor LLC

Greta Smith, President, Great Lakes Power Vac

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