



OCT. 23-24, 2023

WISCONSIN ECONOMIC SUMMIT

WISCONSIN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AGENDA | DAY 1

TIME	TOPIC
10-11:45 a.m.	“Setting the Stage” Keynote Address by Jeff Yabuki, Chairman, Motive Partners, and Former CEO, Fiserv State of the Economy, John Koskinen, Chief Economist, Wisconsin Department of Revenue
11:45-Noon	Break
Noon-1:15 p.m.	Welcome luncheon Address by Amy Pechacek, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
1:30-3 p.m.	“Community Infrastructure” Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Child Care: Quality Counts· Getting People to Work: New Transportation Solutions
3-3:30 p.m.	Break
3:30-5 p.m.	“Educating Tomorrow’s Workers” <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Comments from Chirs Baichoo, CEO, WMEP Manufacturing Solutions· Opportunities for Formerly Justice-involved People· Networking; Meet Wisconsin’s Workforce Innovation Grant Program Leads and The Great Career Tryout!
5-6:30 p.m.	Networking
6-8:30 p.m.	Banquet Program Wisconsin Stories by Bestselling Author and Humorist Michael Perry

AGENDA | DAY 2

TIME	TOPIC
8-8:45 a.m.	“Innovation in Wisconsin” (breakfast session)
9-10:30 a.m.	“Innovative Sustainability and Energy Solutions” <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comments from Kristina Costa, Deputy Assistant to the President for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation• Wisconsin’s Roadmap to Net Zero by 2050• Commercial Models for Innovative Sustainability and Energy Solutions
10:30-11 a.m.	Break
11 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	“Financial Stability” <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public/Private Partnerships for Community Success• Creating Opportunity through Entrepreneurship
12:15-1:30 p.m.	Lunch available

MENUS | DAY 1

Fall-themed lunch

- » Pumpkin soup
- » Rosemary turkey breast
- » Squash blend
- » Roasted Yukon potatoes
- » Rolls and butter (including GF option)
- » Coffee, tea, iced tea
- » Vegetarian: Pumpkin soup, eggplant Napoleon (fresh golden-brown eggplant layered with fresh mozzarella cheese and tomatoes; finished with marinara sauce)

Featuring Wisconsin grown and produced products from Sassy Cow Creamery, Grassland Dairy Products, and pumpkins grown in Sullivan.

Break

- » Assorted freshly baked gourmet cookies
- » Sprecher Root Beer & flavored soda
- » Valley Popcorn
- » Wisconsin candies

Featuring Wisconsin grown and produced products from Manderfield's Home Bakery, Valley Popcorn Company, and Baraboo Candy Company.

Reception

- » Seasonal locally sourced vegetable platter
- » Wisconsin cheese and locally sourced sausage with assorted crackers
- » Honey BBQ chicken kabobs (GF)
- » Usinger's brat coins with assorted mustards
- » Local salmon dip with crackers
- » Hummus and chips

Featuring Wisconsin grown and produced products from Hooks Cheese Company, Clock Shadow Creamery, and Usingers.

Dinner

- » Bourguignon braised beef tips with red wine, mushrooms, pearl onions, and demi-glace
- » Mixed greens salad with goat cheese, pears, and pecans
- » Garlic mashed potatoes
- » Chef's blend vegetable with broccoli, carrots, green beans, and bell peppers
- » Rolls and butter (including GF option)
- » Coffee and tea
- » Vegetarian: Mushroom ravioli, buttermilk blue bechamel, candied walnuts, roasted gala apple herb trio

Dessert

- » Apple pie
- » Chocolate flourless torte (GF)

Featuring Wisconsin grown and produced products from Wisconsin Meadows and Manderfield's Home Bakery.

MENUS | DAY 2

The Wisconsin Breakfast Buffet

- » Chilled orange juice and cranberry juice
- » Fresh fruit
- » Danish pastries and breakfast breads (including GF option)
- » Scrambled eggs
- » Turkey sausage links
- » Applewood smoked bacon
- » Roasted herb potatoes
- » French toast with maple syrup
- » Coffee and tea

Featuring Wisconsin grown and produced products from Ocean Spray and Nueske's.

Luncheon

- » Boxed lunches - Assorted sandwiches with potato salad, chips, cookie, and fruit

SPEAKERS

and Panelist Biographies



TOYA WASHINGTON

FORMER ANCHOR AT WISN-TV

Toya Washington is a former anchor/reporter at Milwaukee's ABC affiliate. During her 20 years at WISN 12, she co-anchored everything from 12 News this Morning to the 10 p.m. newscast. She has won two Emmy awards and is a four-time nominee. Toya is also a member of the Board of Visitors for UW-Madison's School of Journalism and Mass Communications, served as board VP for Hope Street in Milwaukee, and has been named among Wisconsin's Most Influential Black Leaders. While her intentions were to graduate from UW-Madison and immediately move to another state, Wisconsin did what Wisconsin does and roped her in.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies



JEFF YABUKI

CHAIRMAN, MOTIVE PARTNERS

Jeff Yabuki is chairman and founding partner of Motive Partners, a specialist private equity firm on the forefront of global financial technology. Previously, Jeff served as CEO of Fiserv, Inc., for nearly 15 years where the company nearly tripled revenue and delivered a 969% shareholder return through 2019 by evolving the organization from a traditional holding company into a unified, global leader in fintech and payments. Under Jeff's leadership, Fiserv was named a World's Most Admired Company by FORTUNE 12 times including his last 11 years in a row, and also acquired the naming rights for Fiserv Forum, the home of the 2021 NBA world champion Milwaukee Bucks. Jeff sits on the board of public companies and non-profits including serving as the chair of the Milwaukee Art Museum. As part of a passion to help others realize their full potential, Jeff founded the Yabuki Family Foundation in 1999 to support innovative initiatives that tackle some of the world's toughest problems, with a particular focus on mental and emotional health, family, education, arts, and social justice. Jeff is also an executive in residence at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, teaching graduate classes in the Lubar School of Business.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies



JOHN KOSKINEN

CHIEF ECONOMIST,
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

John Koskinen is an expert on Wisconsin's economy and a highly respected economic analyst, both statewide and nationally. Before joining the Department of Revenue, he served as staff economist for the Governor's Budget Office from 1979 to 2007, after starting his career in state government at the Legislative Fiscal Bureau. Koskinen has been quoted by media around the country, and he has made presentations on the state's economy to diverse audiences, including ratings agencies, investor groups, trade associations and economic development organizations. Koskinen earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from Marquette University, and has done graduate studies in economics at Northwestern University and in computer science at the University of Wisconsin. Vistage Inc. recognized John as one of its top presenters nationally in 2021.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies



AMY PECHACEK

SECRETARY, WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development Secretary Amy Pechacek has focused her career on public service, with an emphasis on government administration strategy, and crisis and risk management. Before joining DWD in September 2020, she served as Deputy Secretary for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections and previously directed numerous public programs for Milwaukee County.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

Changing the Child Care Model



DARIA HALL

**POLICY INITIATIVES ADVISOR, WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

Daria Hall serves as the policy initiatives advisor for the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families Division of Early Care and Education. She works with Department leadership, staff, and stakeholders to develop and implement policies that impact Wisconsin's early care and education system and family support initiatives.

Previously, Daria served as the early childhood education director for Milwaukee Succeeds, where she led the MKE ECE Coalition in its work to improve access to quality, affordable early childhood education for Milwaukee's families. And she served in senior leadership roles with the Education Trust, a national advocacy organization dedicated to advancing educational achievement and opportunity for low-income students and students of color.

She holds a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison La Follette School of Public Affairs and a bachelor's degree from Rice University in Houston.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

Changing the Child Care Model



TAMARA JOHNSON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MALAIKA EARLY
LEARNING CENTER

Tamara is the executive director of Malaika Early Learning Center. As the executive director, she has the pleasure of leading a state-of-the-art facility that focuses on children birth through age eight in its early childhood and elementary school programs.

She has held director positions at Milwaukee Public Schools (District Parent Involvement) and COA Youth and Family Centers (HIPPIE/HIP). She has an associate degree in child development, a bachelor's degree in human services, and a master's degree in early childhood administration. Additionally, she has earned certifications such as a Certificate in Early Childhood Leadership and many others.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

Changing the Child Care Model



MARI KAY-NABOZNY
CEO, NORTHWEST WISCONSIN WORKFORCE
INVESTMENT BOARD

Mari Kay-Nabozny is a workforce development professional who collaborates with non-profit organizations, municipalities, and other entities to grow the regional economy and connect employers to workers and vice-versa. After spending seven years working as the chief information officer for the Wisconsin Workforce Development Association, Mari knows the hard work and creativity necessary to successfully implement local workforce board solutions across Wisconsin. Mari has served as the CEO of the Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board since 2012 and continues to pursue innovation and inspiration in every aspect of the board's work. With child care and family-centered employment at the heart of the board strategic plan, she has been working in communities to find unique solutions for families and communities for the past five years.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

Getting People to Work: New Transportation Solutions



KELLIE DIEDRICK
VICE PRESIDENT, THEDACARE
MEDICAL CENTERS

Kellie Diedrick is the vice president of critical access hospital operations for ThedaCare. In her role, she has oversight of ThedaCare New London, Waupaca, and Shawano hospitals. During her 20 years in health care, she has worked for multiple health care organizations, always with a focus to improve the health and well-being of people in the local communities. Kellie has been in Wisconsin her entire career, graduating from UW-Madison with a BS in clinical lab science. She has an MBA from Lakeland College and is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

Getting People to Work: New Transportation Solutions



VALERIE LEFLER

FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
FEONIX - MOBILITY RISING

Valerie Lefler is the founder and executive director of Feonix - Mobility Rising. Ms. Lefler is an international expert in rural transportation, accessibility, and mobility as a service. In just its first five years, Feonix has launched programs in nine states with notable partners, including the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center, Easterseals, the AARP Office of Driver Safety, Toyota North America, Centene Corporation, and the Michigan Department of Transportation. Ms. Lefler was featured by Smithsonian Magazine as one of the “Top 9 Innovators to Watch” and has also been highlighted in the New York Times, NPR, and the Christian Science Monitor. Ms. Lefler graduated with distinction from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in business administration after studying international economics abroad at the University of Oxford. She also received her master’s degree with honors in public administration with an emphasis in public management from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. She and her husband, Joe, now reside with their two children in a small town outside of Lincoln, Nebraska.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

Getting People to Work: New Transportation Solutions



AMANDA PAYNE

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, PUBLIC POLICY
WAUKESHA COUNTY BUSINESS ALLIANCE

Amanda Payne leads the Alliance's advocacy work, getting local business leaders engaged in the public policy process and ensuring the voice of business is heard on critical issues. She manages the Manufacturing Alliance of Southeastern Wisconsin, as well as the Alliance's Policy Board and policy committees. Amanda has been with the Alliance since 2013 and has prior experience in public affairs and public relations. A Waukesha native, Amanda is a Milwaukee Business Journal 2017 "40 Under 40" recipient.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

Getting People to Work: New Transportation Solutions



DAVE STEELE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MOBILISE

Dave Steele has served as executive director of Mobilise, a nonprofit convener and transportation advocacy organization, since 2018. Prior to Mobilise he served as President of PAVE, an education advocacy organization that worked to increase access to quality schools for Milwaukee families. He's a lifelong Milwaukeean and holds a masters degree in urban planning from UW-Milwaukee and a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies



CHRIS BAICHOO

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO, WMEP
MANUFACTURING SOLUTIONS

Executive Director/CEO Chris Baichoo is an innovative and resilient leader who is ideally equipped to help small and midsize manufacturers thrive in today's highly competitive, international marketplace. He brings a powerful combination of an engineering mindset, people-centered change management expertise, exceptional interpersonal skills, and extensive experience opening global markets in the United States, Canada and Asia.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

Opportunities for Formerly Justice-Involved People



BILL HARRIGAN

FOUNDER & CEO, HARRIGAN SOLUTIONS

Bill Harrigan is CEO of Harrigan Solutions, a business he founded more than 40 years ago, which provides lean sanitation in food plants, preventive maintenance on production equipment, and site work at construction sites.

Harrigan Solutions is in the business of building people and the communities they live in. As a for-profit company, we ask our crew members to continuously improve our profitability which allows us to provide family supporting wages, full benefits, and a pathway for them to achieve their personal vision of success. A crew member's gateway experience centers on their personal vision of success, the strengths that God endowed them with, and a roadmap that takes them directly to and through the obstacles to their success; trauma generated mental models, understanding workplace culture, and an education. Our goal is to raise individuals that struggle up and the communities they reside in by helping them into meaningful work.

Harrigan Solutions has been honored for its systemized approach in developing marginal workers into trustworthy teams that thrive at work, at home, and in their neighborhoods. Here are some awards the company has won around hiring and healing justice-involved people:

- Infinitely Beyond Award
- Wisconsin Job Honors Award
- Eisenberg Award
- Diversity in Business Award

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

Opportunities for Formerly Justice-Involved People



EDWARD LEE

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT & CHIEF
OPERATING OFFICER, URBAN LEAGUE
OF GREATER MADISON

Ed Lee has served on the Urban League of Greater Madison team in various roles for over 25 years. He has supported the organization's development of programming and partnerships in the areas of adult workforce development, youth development, housing development, business and economic development, and a broad range of other community engagement and civil rights programming aimed at addressing racial disparities in access to opportunity. Among these is a free legal clinic program launched in 2018 to help community members address barriers to employment, housing, and other resources due to past criminal records.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

Opportunities for Formerly Justice-Involved People



PETER MORENO

DIRECTOR, ODYSSEY BEYOND BARS,
UW ODYSSEY PROJECT

Peter Moreno, Odyssey Beyond Bars director, is an attorney and former clinical law professor at the University of Wisconsin and University of Washington, where he represented incarcerated clients in wrongful conviction cases. He created the Odyssey Beyond Bars credit-bearing course program in 2018 and is thrilled to introduce students in prison to the transformative power of Odyssey courses.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies



MICHAEL PERRY

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
AND HUMORIST

Michael Perry is an accidental New York Times bestselling author, humorist, singer/songwriter, amateur snowplow driver, and playwright from New Auburn, Wisconsin. Perry's bestselling memoirs include *Population: 485* (subsequently adapted for the stage), *Truck: A Love Story*, *Coop*, *Visiting Tom*, and *Montaigne in Barn Boots*.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

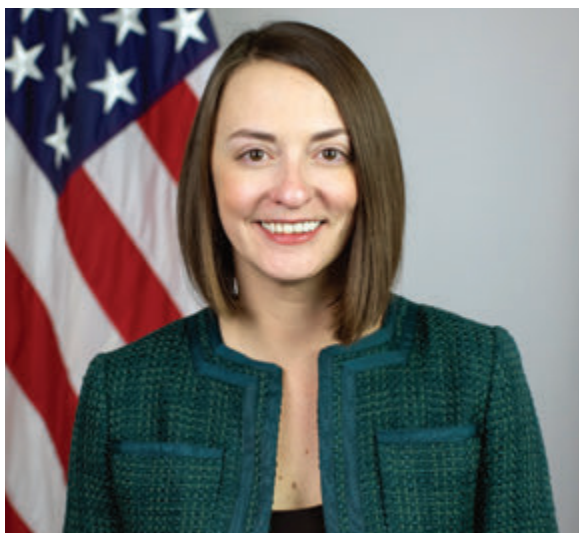


WILLIE SMITH

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORTHWEST
SIDE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

Willie Smith serves as executive director of Milwaukee's Northwest Side Community Development Corporation. Previously, he served as director of lending, managing the organization's business lending program and leading workforce development efforts. His experience with banking and economic development initiatives assists NWSCDC in developing its long-term strategy for Milwaukee's northwest side. Mr. Smith is a certified Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP) through the National Development Council.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies



KRISTINA COSTA

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT,
CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION AND
IMPLEMENTATION

Kristina Costa is deputy assistant to the President and deputy for clean energy innovation and implementation at the White House, where she works chiefly on implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act's clean energy and climate provisions. She joined the White House in September 2022 from the State Department, where she was senior advisor to deputy secretary of state Wendy Sherman. Kristina previously served in the Obama White House as advisor to the counselor to the president, working primarily on climate action plan implementation; as legislative assistant for energy and environment to Senate Democratic Leader Charles Schumer; as a policy advisor to Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign; and as the domestic policy writer for the 2020 Democratic Party platform. She was also a principal at Fenway Strategies and a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress. She earned her BA from Wellesley College and a master's degree from the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University, where she was a McCourt Scholar.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

Wisconsin's Roadmap to Net Zero by 2050



SAM DUNAISKI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RENEW WISCONSIN

Sam Dunaiski is executive director of RENEW Wisconsin. Before joining RENEW in 2018, he worked as a meteorologist making forecasts for utilities, radio stations, farming groups, and other clients across the central U.S. His work led him to become very passionate about climate change, and when he and his family moved from the Twin Cities back to Madison, he decided to make a career change. Dunaiski grew up outside Duluth, MN, on a 42.5-acre Christmas tree farm that his parents still live on. He attended University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he earned a bachelor's degree in atmospheric and oceanic sciences.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

Commercial Models for Innovative Sustainability and Energy Solutions



MIKE KOEL PRESIDENT, U.S. ENERGY

Mike Koel is the president of U.S. Energy—responsible for the company’s growth and expansion into new markets and technologies. During his tenure, he’s led the trading of refined products and renewables, overseen terminal operations, and diversified the company’s involvement in alternative fuels and environmental credits through new products and services, acquisitions, and capital improvements. Mike serves on many boards, including United Way Fox Cities, One Wrightstown, and U.S. Venture Schmidt Family Foundation.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

Commercial Models for Innovative Sustainability and Energy Solutions



TRINA MCCORMICK

**DIRECTOR OF R&E, ADULT & FEMININE CARE
KIMBERLY CLARK**

Trina McCormick is the research and engineering director for the Adult and Feminine Care Product Team in North America. In this role, Trina leads a department of about 60 individuals with accountability for delivering innovation pipelines across the adult care and feminine categories for the Depend®, Poise®, and UbK® brands. Responsibilities include developing consumer insights, creating business propositions with the brand teams, commercial implementation of technology, and product and supply chain solutions.

Trina graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology with a degree in chemical engineering and Xavier University of Louisiana with a degree in physics in 1995 as part of a dual-degree program. Upon graduation, Trina worked in the semiconductor industry for Advanced Micro Devices as a project engineer prior to joining Kimberly-Clark, Corp in 2000 as a process engineer at one of the diaper manufacturing plants.

Trina then worked in a variety of roles across several consumer business units at Kimberly-Clark (baby care, child care, adult & feminine care, family care and as well as new business ventures). She also worked across multiple functions (research & engineering, operations, quality, product supply) to build out her experience base.

In addition, throughout her time at Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Trina has served in numerous leadership roles for the African American Employee Network, which is an employee resource group aimed at retaining and developing African-American employees. Outside of Kimberly-Clark, Trina has served on the Appleton African-American Mayor's Advisory Council and the New North Attract & Retain Diverse Talent committee. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Trina has an eleven-year-old son, Riley, and lives in Appleton, WI.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

Commercial Models for Innovative Sustainability and Energy Solutions



TJ SEMANCHIN OWNER AND PRESIDENT, WONDERSTATE COFFEE

In 1999, TJ Semanchin embarked on a journey that would lead him to the world of coffee through his work in Latin America. Convinced that fair trade and organic coffee held the key to empowering smallholder farmers in the region, TJ returned to the United States, dedicating himself to catalyzing social change through the coffee industry. In 2006, he co-founded Wonderstate Coffee (formerly known as Kickapoo Coffee), a company that would soon earn recognition as an industry pioneer, championing sustainability and social impact initiatives. This commitment included the complete transition to 100% solar generated electricity at the company's roastery, the introduction of an industry-leading minimum price guarantee for farmer partners, and a comprehensive rebranding effort to honor the Kickapoo people and indigenous communities served by Wonderstate. The coffee industry took notice, with Wonderstate Coffee being named Roast Magazine's Roaster of the Year in 2010 and receiving multiple Good Food awards. Today, Wonderstate Coffee operates a wholesale roastery and three cafes in Viroqua, Bayfield, and Madison, Wisconsin. TJ Semanchin continues to lead Wonderstate Coffee and calls Viroqua, Wisconsin, home alongside his wife, Denise, and their two children.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

Commercial Models for Innovative
Sustainability and Energy Solutions



RAINER SHOOTER

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, MENOMINEE
TRIBAL ENTERPRISES

Rainer Shooter attained his bachelor of science in fire science and ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2019 and then went on to earn his master of forest resources in forest business and accounting from the University of Georgia in 2021. Rainer has been with Menominee Tribal Enterprises since January 2022, first as the log value manager, caring for all inbound logs and the selling of high value logs known as veneer. He now has taken on the title of chief operating officer, overseeing operations from harvesting our forest resource, maintaining forest roads, plant wide maintenance, and lastly production/quality control. Rainer explains that working at MTE is a “family tradition” as he has numerous family members working in all different departments at MTE, his grandmother being the longest tenured employee of the family. Before retiring she had given 30 years to the company. He considers it an honor and a privilege to work towards continuing and improving the legacy that is Menominee Tribal Enterprises.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

Public/Private Partnerships for Community Success



TIM CASEY

DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT,
CITY OF KENOSHA

Tim Casey is director of city development for the City of Kenosha. He leads a team responsible for the city's planning and development efforts in the Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood (former AMC/Chrysler site), the Uptown area, and the Downtown, as well as more than 3,000 acres of prime sites in the Interstate 94 Corridor.

He previously served as director of economic development for the Waukesha County Center for Growth, a county-wide 501 (c) 3 economic development corporation; economic development administrator for the City of Brookfield; director of economic development for Milwaukee County; headed the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation in Oshkosh; and served as economic development specialist in Eau Claire.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

Public/Private Partnerships for Community Success



TINA CRAVE

PRESIDENT & CEO, GREATER WATERTOWN
COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION

Tina Crave is the president and CEO of the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation. A catalyst for collaboration and innovation that measurably enhances community wellbeing, Crave's team facilitates Every Child Thrives, a partnership of 50+ agencies serving Dodge and Jefferson counties. Every Child Thrives network priorities include access to housing, access to early care and education, and mental health. Crave serves on the boards of Thrive Economic Development, Rainbow Hospice, and an executive committee for the Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health. Crave earned her bachelor of science degree in physical therapy from UW-La Crosse and her master's degree in business administration from Cardinal Stritch University.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

Public/Private Partnerships for Community Success



PAUL SCHARFMAN

PRESIDENT, SPECIALTY CHEESE COMPANY

Paul Scharfman is president of Specialty Cheese Company. The firm produces Just the Cheese brand crunchy baked cheese snacks and frying cheeses, Bharatma brand Indian cheeses, La VacaRica brand Hispanic cheeses, Rich Cow brand Arabic cheeses, and other specialty cheeses. The firm has 290 employees in one manufacturing plant. He is also founder of the Rural Revitalization Fund, which secured bi-partisan support and passage of “Access to Rural Capital” legislation November 2019.

Previously, he served as president of Getting Better, LLC. The firm’s mission is to teach people who suffer from chronic illness and obesity the skills to enjoy getting better. The firm’s protocol is in clinical trials with regional hospitals and health providers. Earlier in his career, he served in roles for General Foods, Oscar Mayer Foods, and Louis Kemp Seafood Company.

He earned bachelor of arts and master of business administration degrees from Harvard University.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

Creating Opportunity Through Entrepreneurship



MAIA DONOHUE

DIRECTOR, IDEA HUB ACCELERATOR

Jeremiah “Maia” Donohue is the inaugural leader of the Innovation Driving Entrepreneurship Accelerator Hub, known as the IDEA Hub, created by the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, in partnership with the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

Donohue joined UW-Platteville after nearly a decade of experience with 3 Day Startup in Austin, Texas. Over the years, he has worked with many of the world’s top universities in helping them develop their startup ecosystems, including University of Texas, Old Dominion University, University of Oxford, University of Iowa and more.

SPEAKERS and Panelist Biographies

Creating Opportunity Through Entrepreneurship



NADIYAH JOHNSON FOUNDER, JET CONSTELLATIONS

Nadiyah Johnson is CEO and founder of Jet Constellations. She graduated from Marquette University with a master's in computational science and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. with a focus on computational science and mental health. Her research is predominantly geared toward mobile health (mHealth). Nadiyah's research has granted her recognition at several conferences around the globe.

Nadiyah's passion for diversity in STEM led her to launch her startup business, Jet Constellations. Jet Constellations is a local software company that functions to promote STEM education in Milwaukee, consult tech-oriented startups, and build a nurturing ecosystem of techies and entrepreneurs. As the founder, Nadiyah aims to rebrand Milwaukee as "The Milky Way" – a tech hub representative of Milwaukee's diverse population.

Nadiyah enjoys painting and teaching computer science in her free time. She currently sells her art in pop-up shops at local art fairs. When Nadiyah isn't painting or working in the community, she is spending quality time with her family.



OCT. 23-24, 2023

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