

Mid-Session Summit Speaker Bios

Southeast Conference



Wednesday, February 9th

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Markos Scheer *President, Southeast Conference; President, Seagrove Kelp*

Markos moved to Southeast Alaska in 1982. Over the next several decades, he lived in Thorne Bay, Hollis, Klawock, and Ketchikan, including graduating from Ketchikan High School in 1986. Markos spent more than a dozen years working for Silver Lining and NorQuest Seafoods before attending law school and practicing fisheries business and maritime law for nearly 20 years. Now, Markos returns to his roots by pursuing kelp and oyster farming in Southeast Alaska. The pull of being part of the growth of a sustainable, environmentally friendly, and non-extraction based business was too great. Kelp and oyster farming also provides a new opportunity for sustainable, environmentally friendly, and renewable industries supporting economic growth for coastal Alaskans.

Markos is the current President and has been a board member of the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation since 2007. AFDF promoted the Alaska Mariculture Initiative which resulted in the creation of the Alaska Mariculture Task Force.

Richard Peterson *President, Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*

Richard Peterson is Tlingit from the Kaagwaantaan clan. He grew up in Kasaan, Alaska and is a life long Alaska Native resident of Southeast Alaska. Prior to being elected as President of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska in 2014,

Richard served as Chief Executive Officer of Prince of Wales Tribal Enterprise Consortium, LLC (POWTEC), President of the Organized Village of Kasaan (OVK), Mayor/City Council Member for the City of Kasaan, and member of the Southeast Island School District Board of Education.

Economic Development. Partnership. Tribal Sovereignty. Community Sustainability. These are all words that describe Richard's mission as President of the largest regional tribe in Alaska. His ability to bring culture and business values together through collaborative and proactive partnerships with federal, state, tribal, and municipal governments has gained him national recognition.

Randy Ruaro- *Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Dunleavy*

Legislative Crystal Ball

Larry Persily *Former Department of Revenue Deputy Commissioner*

Larry Persily celebrates a 25-year journalism career in Alaska followed by 20 years in public policy work at federal, state and municipal levels, and now a return to journalism with the purchase of The Skagway News. His Alaska journalism work includes ownership of two weekly newspapers -- the Wrangell Sentinel, and The Paper, in Juneau -- reporting stints with the Anchorage Times, Anchorage Daily News, The Associated Press and Petroleum News, and time as managing editor at the Juneau Empire and editorial page editor at the Anchorage Daily News. Currently, he is an oil-and-gas columnist for the Alaska Journal of Commerce.

Southeast Population and Economic Updates

Meilani Schijvens *Rain Coast Data*

A lifelong Juneauite, Meilani has 20 years of professional and academic experience with Southeast Alaska's economic, transportation and natural resource issues. Meilani is a past Executive Director of Southeast Conference, and has previously worked at the Juneau Economic Development Council, Sheinberg Associates, and the McDowell Group. Additionally, she has taught a course on Alaska natural resource history at the University of Oregon, worked as an environmental technician at the Greens Creek Mine, and was a staffer in Washington DC for the US Senate Minority Leader. She holds a master's degree in Natural Resource Policy from the University of Oregon and a B.A. in history from Colby College. Her company, Rain Coast Data, allows her to be a serious "data-nerd", which is an asset to many agencies in SE AK.

Industry Forecast Roundtable

Deantha Skibinski *Executive Director, Alaska Miners Association*

Deantha Skibinski is the Executive Director of the Alaska Miners Association, which advocates for and promotes responsible mineral development in the state of Alaska. She was born and raised in Alaska and came to AMA from the Resource Development Council, where she led issues and policy for the mining and tourism industries for seven years.

Tessa Axelson *Executive Director, Alaska Forest Association*

Ms. Axelson is a life-long Alaskan with over 18 years of executive management, community planning, program and project administration, and facilitation experience. She spent 15 years with the Denali Commission, a federal agency focused on rural infrastructure development in Alaska. Ms. Axelson was

responsible for the annual development and implementation of the agency's \$100+ million program budget for transportation, energy, health facilities, solid waste, housing, training, and economic development. Ms. Axelson is highly skilled in project and program management, funding strategies, federal contracting, facilitation and planning, project scoping, data gathering, technical writing, and working with communities to identify needs, create goals, and implement vision and value strategies.

Kara Moriarty *President/CEO, Alaska Oil and Gas Association*

Kara came to Alaska from her home state of South Dakota to teach elementary school in Atkasuk, an Inupiaq village in the North Slope Borough. After working in Washington, DC for then South Dakota Congressman, now U.S. Senator John Thune, she moved back to Alaska and lived in Fairbanks for seven years. She has served as legislative staff in Juneau to Senator Gary Wilken and was the President/CEO of the Fairbanks Chamber for four years. She joined the AOGA staff in April 2005 and has been the head of the association since 2012.

Trey Acteson *CEO, SEAPA and President of the Alaska Power Association*

Trey Acteson is a Senior Executive with a diverse electric utility experience. He is a results-driven professional with a successful history of building cohesive work groups, streamlining processes, and strategic business plan execution. He is politically astute, with demonstrated ability to unify stakeholders on difficult issues. Trey is truly a proven leader with exceptional utility management skills and business acumen. Trey has expertise in energy, visioning, strategy, financial, risk mgmt., policy, negotiations, stakeholder engagement, project mgmt., human resources, and contracts.

Sarah Leonard *President and CEO, Alaska Travel Industry Association* Sarah Leonard is the President and CEO of the Alaska Travel Industry Association; she took the position in 2012 after twenty years of working in Alaska in roles ranging from wildlife viewing coordinator to various fundraising positions. She is an experienced Chief Executive Officer with a demonstrated history of working in the non-profit organization management industry. She is skilled in nonprofit organizations, negotiation, budgeting, business planning, and hospitality industry. Strong business development professional with a Master's degree focused in Natural Resource Recreation and Tourism from Arizona State University.

Howard Sherman *Executive Vice President, Revenue Management, Norwegian Cruise Lines*

Sealaska Update

Anthony Mallott *CEO, Sealaska*

Anthony Mallott was named Sealaska president and CEO in May 2014. He came to Sealaska in 2006 to serve as Sealaska's chief investment officer and treasurer. He is also a passionate advocate for community and works closely with organizations and partners throughout the region to bring people together for the benefit of all Southeast Alaska.

P2P Winners Announcement

Spruce Root is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that was founded in February 2012 with \$500,000 of seed money from Sealaska Corporation through Haa Aani Economic Development. Today the fund has grown to \$3 million, which is possible thanks to grant, benefactor, and partner funds.

Getting Through to '22

Kaitlyn Jared *Executive Director, Skagway Development Corporation, SEC Chair*

Ms. Jared was born and raised in Skagway. She received her BA in Business with a minor in Economics from UAA in 2016 and then an Associates in Accounting in 2018 from UAA. She began working for the Skagway Development Corporation in 2018. As the executive director, she supports economic and community develop in Skagway by pursuing goals of Skagway's 2020 Comprehensive plan and assisting in community projects and programs.

Meilani Schijvens *Rain Coast Data*

A lifelong Juneauite, Meilani has 20 years of professional and academic experience with Southeast Alaska's economic, transportation and natural resource issues. Meilani is a past Executive Director of Southeast Conference, and has previously worked at the Juneau Economic Development Council, Sheinberg Associates, and the McDowell Group. Additionally, she has taught a course on Alaska natural resource history at the University of Oregon, worked as an environmental technician at the Greens Creek Mine, and was a staffer in Washington DC for the US Senate Minority Leader. She holds a master's degree in Natural Resource Policy from the University of Oregon and a B.A. in history from Colby College. Her company, Rain Coast Data, allows her to be a serious "data-nerd", which is an asset to many agencies in SE AK.

Katherine Bell *Economic Resiliency Fellow*

Katherine Bell comes to Southeast Conference from North Carolina as part of the Alaska Fellows program. Her bachelor's degree is in Environmental Studies with minors in German and Chinese from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and she has a Master's degree from Duke University in Management. She has a passion for the intersection of sustainability and economic development and has been delighted to explore this field with SEC. Her hobbies include reading, painting, and playing with as many animals that she can find in Juneau!

Nolan Klouda *Executive Director, UAA Center for Economic Development*

As Executive Director, Nolan provides overall leadership for the University of Alaska Center for Economic Development, as well as support for other programs of the UAA Business Enterprise Institute. Prior to taking his current role in 2014, Nolan served as Associate Director. He has been a strategic advisor to tribal governments, municipal governments, non-profits, Alaska Native Corporations and private business groups, assisting them in realizing their economic goals. Nolan's areas of professional interest include feasibility analysis, rural economic development, entrepreneurship and innovation policy, and engagement between the public and private sectors. He is a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) through the International Economic Development Council, is a board member for the University Economic Development Association, and serves on the Municipality of Anchorage Budget Advisory Commission. Nolan was named to Alaska's "Top 40 Under 40" in 2015. He holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Kansas and a Bachelor of Arts, History and Political Science from Gustavus Adolphus College.

[Alaska Senate Panel](#)

Senators Stedman, Kiehl, von Imhof, Micciche (invited)

Wednesday, February 10th

[Welcome Back](#)

Jon Bittner *Executive Director, Alaska Small Business Development Center*

Jon Bittner oversees seven/eight regional centers to ensure that the Alaska SBDC provides accessible, high-quality business assistance services to individuals and existing businesses. In his role, he provides program management, advocacy, and fundraising in addition to serving as the Lead Investigator for the various grant programs that are run through Alaska SBDC. He formerly served as vice president of

Anchorage Economic Development Center (AEDC). Jon also served as the Deputy Commissioner for the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

Federal Update

Don Young *Congressman*

Congressman Don Young is currently serving his 25th term as Alaska's only Representative to the United States House of Representatives. He has been in politics since 1964 when he was elected Mayor of Fort Yukon. He was first sworn to the 93rd US Congress in 1973. Today, Congressman Young is the Dean of the House and the longest serving member of the current Congress. He is the Republican Party's longest-serving member of the U.S. House of Representatives in history.

Alaska House of Representatives Panel

Representatives Ortiz, Kreiss-Tomkins, Hannan, Story, Stutes, Thompson

Healthcare

Kevin Benson *CFO, Bartlett Hospital*

Kevin Benson joined the Bartlett Senior Leadership team in October, 2018. Prior to moving to Juneau, he was Chief Financial Officer at Ortonville Area Health Services in Ortonville, Minnesota for six years. Mr. Benson has been working in healthcare finance for more than 30 years, mainly in Minnesota and North Dakota. An outdoor enthusiast, he looks forward to warmer winters and snowboarding at Eaglecrest. Mr. Benson holds a Bachelors degree in Business Administration from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota.

Dori Stevens *CAO, Peacehealth, Ketchikan*

Dori Stevens, MBA, BSN, joined PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center in April 2020. She has more than 30 years' experience in healthcare leadership, most recently as the chief executive officer at Sutter Delta Medical Center in Antioch, California. She was with Sutter Delta for fifteen years, also serving as director of nursing and certified nursing educator. Dori began her career in healthcare as a registered nurse, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from California State University. She later went on to earn her Master of Business Administration from University of Phoenix. In addition, Dori furthered her professional development with courses in Bioethics from the University of Washington and the completion of Lean Training.

Dr. Anne Zink *State Medical Officer*

Dr. Zink has 13 years of experience in emergency medicine and joins DHSS from the Mat-Su Regional Medical Center, where she served as the Emergency Department medical director (2010-18) and also on the Board of Trustees (2012-18). In addition, she helped create the High-Utilizer Mat-Su (HUMS) (2017-18) program that aims to improve patient health and cost savings for some of the state's most vulnerable patients.

Dr. Zink is a practicing emergency room physician who is passionate about helping to shape and transform our current health care system. In all the work she does, she strives to create work environments, policies, and practices that are data-driven, foster collaboration and build system efficiencies that put patients first. Her priorities as CMO include building stronger partnerships between DHSS and Alaska's health care providers and providing support statewide in locally relevant ways to help establish healthier communities across Alaska. Dr. Zink received her medical degree from Stanford University School of Medicine and completed her residency at the University of Utah.

Disaster Preparedness

Douglas Olerud *Haines Borough Mayor*

Mayor Olerud was born and raised in Haines. The 51-year old left town for a couple of years to attend University of Washington, studying history. He moved to Minnesota to work in freight with an uncle, then back to Washington state for a management training program with a national sports chain. He returned to Haines in the mid-90s to run the family stores with his sister. Olerud sat on the Haines Borough Assembly for nine years and spent a year on the Planning Commission. He served for nearly a decade on the board of a nationwide business organization, including a couple of years as its chair. He says he'd like to bring the management lessons he learned on that board to the local government-like having well defined roles for management and office holders.

Jason Wilson *Incident Commander, Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes*

Jason is Eagle/Killer Whale. He was raised in Juneau, graduated from Juneau-Douglas High School, and attended the University of New Mexico. Jason first joined Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) in 2002 as a youth advocate. In 2009, he was promoted to Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program coordinator and then to manager of the Public Safety department in 2011. In the Juneau community, Jason has served as the head swim coach for Thunder Mountain High School (TMHS) for the past six years as well as the assistant coach for the TMHS softball team.

Paul Nelson *Director, Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*

Abner Hoage *Incident Commander, Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center*

Chief Hoage is the Incident Commander and Unified Command Spokesperson for the Ketchikan EOC COVID-19 Response; and has over 30 years of experience in the fire service and emergency management. He began his career in the Fire Service in 1990 as a Junior/Volunteer Firefighter with Thurston County Fire District #11 in Littlerock, WA. In 1992 he joined the United States Air Force as a Fire Protection Specialist where he held every rank from Firefighter through Fire Chief. In 2012 Chief Hoage retired from the Air Force after 20 years of service and was hired to be the Fire Chief for Unalaska Fire & EMS. In 2014 he was hired by the City of Ketchikan where he currently serves as Fire Chief and Emergency Manager for the City of Ketchikan and Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

Chief Hoage holds a Master of Management/Public Administration Degree from the University of Phoenix, a Bachelor of Science in Business/E-Business Degree from the University of Phoenix and an Associate in Applied Science/Fire Science degree from the Community College of the Air Force. In addition, he holds IFSAC certifications as a Fire Officer III, Fire Inspector III and Fire Instructor II and a broad range of FEMA certifications related to Emergency Management.

Thursday, February 11th

Welcome Back

Beth Weldon *CBJ Mayor*

Beth is a lifelong Juneauite and fourth generation Douglasite on her mother's side. Beth is a graduate of Juneau Douglas High School and the University of Washington. For seven years she owned and operated the gillnetter F/V Seven Seas. She started with Capital City Fire/Rescue as a volunteer in Douglas and became part of the paid staff in 1992. Beth was the first female officer in the department and retired as a Division Chief. During her career, she received seven awards for service. Beth and her husband Greg and currently co-own Capitol Motor Supply/Glacier Auto Parts and are the proud parents of two very successful sons.

Federal Updates

Lisa Murkowski *Senator*

Lisa Murkowski, Alaska's senior U.S. Senator, is a third generation Alaskan proudly serving as the first Alaskan born senator. Murkowski was born in Ketchikan and raised in towns across the state, including Wrangell, Juneau, Fairbanks, and Anchorage. She is married to Verne Martell and they have two grown sons. Lisa loves spending time in the Alaska outdoors. She's an avid skier, has hiked on glaciers, enjoys fall duck hunts, and has a pretty impressive King Salmon mounted on her office wall.

Since joining the Senate in 2002, Senator Murkowski has worked tirelessly for Alaskans and earned a reputation in the Senate for her ability to work collaboratively and across the aisle to reach common

sense solutions. Murkowski is well-known for her love and dedication to her state, which means putting Alaska first.

A leader on energy and public lands issues, Senator Murkowski recognizes that sound national policy will promote not only job creation and economic growth, but also higher standards of living and greater global stability. She supports the safe and efficient production and use of all forms of domestic energy, as well as research to help develop emerging technologies. Senator Murkowski continues to pursue policies to advance renewable energy, increase energy efficiency, and make America's energy cleaner, more affordable, and more reliable.

Senator Murkowski has long-advocated for the Arctic as a national priority and continues to push the United States to invest in the infrastructure and assets critical to supporting an Arctic strategy. She is leading the charge to recapitalize and expand America's fleet of icebreakers and has introduced legislation to raise the nation's presence in the Arctic through two bills that support responsible research and development as well as giving those who live in the region a greater voice on policy and research.

Dan Sullivan *Senator*

Dan Sullivan was sworn in as Alaska's eighth United States Senator on January 6, 2015. Sullivan serves on four Senate committees vital to Alaska: the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee; the Armed Services Committee; the Environment and Public Works Committee; and the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Prior to his election to the U.S. Senate, Sullivan served as Alaska's Attorney General and Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. As Alaska's Attorney General, Sullivan's number one priority was protecting Alaskans, their physical safety, financial well-being, and individual rights – particularly Alaska's most vulnerable. During his tenure he spearheaded a comprehensive statewide strategy – the “Choose Respect” campaign – to combat Alaska's high rates of domestic violence and sexual assault. Under Sullivan's leadership, the Department of Law also undertook an aggressive strategy of initiating and intervening in litigation aimed at halting federal government overreach into the lives of Alaskans and their economy.

As Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Sullivan managed one of the largest portfolios of oil, gas, minerals, renewable energy, timber, land, and water in the world. Working closely with Alaska's Governor and state legislature, Sullivan developed numerous strategies that spurred responsible resource development, energy security, and a dramatic increase in good-paying jobs across a number of critical sectors in the Alaska economy. He also developed a comprehensive plan to streamline and reform the state's regulatory and permitting system.

Sullivan is one of a select number of Alaskan attorneys who has held judicial clerkships on both the highest federal and state courts in Alaska. He served as a judicial law clerk for Judge Andrew Kleinfeld of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in Fairbanks, Alaska and for Chief Justice

Warren Matthews of the Alaska Supreme Court in Anchorage, Alaska. Sullivan also served as a judicial law clerk/intern for Judge James L. Buckley on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Sullivan has a distinguished record of military and national security service. He is currently a Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. Since 1993, Sullivan has served in a variety of command and staff billets on active duty and in the reserves, including: TRAP Force Commander and 81mm mortar Platoon Commander, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable); Weapons Company Executive Officer, Second Battalion, Fifth Marines; Commanding Officer, Delta Company, Anti-Terrorism Battalion; Executive Officer, Echo Company, Fourth Reconnaissance Battalion; and Commanding Officer, 6th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO). In 2004, Sullivan was recalled to active duty for a year and a half to serve as a staff officer to the Commander of U.S. Central Command, General John Abizaid, spending substantial time deployed in the Middle East, the Horn of Africa, and Central Asia. In July 2013, Sullivan was recalled to active duty to serve with a Joint Task Force in Afghanistan focusing on dismantling terrorist networks and criminalizing the Taliban insurgency.

Sullivan served in the Administration of President George W. Bush as the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy, and Business under Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. He focused on fighting terrorist financing, and implementing policies relating to international energy, economic, trade, finance, transportation, telecommunications, and Arctic issues. Sullivan also served as a Director in the International Economics Directorate of the National Security Council staff at the White House.

Sullivan earned a B.A. in Economics from Harvard University in 1987 and a joint law and Masters of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University in 1993. Dan and his wife Julie Fate Sullivan were married over 20 years ago in Julie's hometown of Fairbanks, Alaska. They have three teenage daughters: Meghan, Isabella and Laurel.

[Tourism](#)

Patti Mackey *President and CEO of Ketchikan Visitor's Bureau*

Patti Mackey is the President and CEO of the Ketchikan Visitors Bureau, and has directed the organization's operations and destination marketing strategies for 22 years. Mackey is past chair and one of three Southeast Alaska representatives to the Alaska Travel Industry Association board and past president of the Southeast Alaska Tourism Council. She chaired the ATIA Marketing committee- predating the Alaska Tourism Marketing Board, to which she was appointed in 2014 by Governor Sean Parnell. In March 2017, Patti was appointed to the tourism seat of the Marine Transportation Advisory. Patti was born in Ketchikan, and has lived in the community for 35 years. Patti and her husband Charles have raised two sons, both of whom live and work in Alaska.

Josh Carroll *VP, Destination Development, Royal Caribbean*

Josh leads Royal Caribbean Group's Destination Development function and Royal Caribbean International's Deployment planning organization. This group plans and executes the sustainable and responsible development of master plans, marine and guest experience infrastructure, local business

partnership and community engagement to accommodate passenger growth. Participating in dozens of public, private, and community partnerships worldwide, the Royal Caribbean Destination Development group has successfully partnered on more cruise port projects than any developer in the industry. With his role leading Deployment, Josh and his team plan where Royal's fleet will operate and the itineraries and destinations guests will visit. Josh first joined Royal Caribbean in 2016, previously holding leadership roles in Marketing Strategy, Revenue Strategy and Deployment Strategy. Prior to joining RCL, Josh spent several years at Carnival Cruise Lines and Bacardi in various financial, strategy, and commercial roles. Josh holds a degree in Biology from Union College and an MBA from Florida Atlantic University.

Liz Perry *President and CEO, Travel Juneau*

Rorie Watt *CBJ Manager, Southeast Cruise Port Communities*

Rorie Watt was named City Manager in April 2016. Prior to his appointment, he worked for the CBJ for over twenty years. He began his municipal career as a seasonal construction inspector in 1993 and worked his way up to become the Director of the Engineering and Public Work Departments. He enjoys trying to solve difficult problems.

Rick Erickson *Vice President, Cruiseline Agency of Alaska*

Rick was born and raised in Ketchikan and holds a degree from Western Washington University. Rick began as a pilot boat driver for AMAK Towing and has been with the Company for 27 years. Rick oversees day-to-day operations of Cruise Line Agencies throughout the state.

Transportation

Admiral Barrett *Red Sky at Morning, Moving AMHS Forward*

As the former President of Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Barrett focuses on building a high-performance culture. He previously served as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Dept. of Transportation and the first Administrator of the U.S. Pipeline Hazardous Material Safety Administration. He also spent 35 years in the U.S. Coast Guard where he commanded operations in Alaska and the North Pacific. Barrett chairs the board's Compliance Committee.

Rob Carpenter *Deputy Commissioner, AK Department of Transportation*

Carpenter was appointed as deputy commissioner in early 2020. For the past 20 years, Carpenter has worked as a senior fiscal analyst with the Legislative Finance Division. In this role he focused on transportation operating and capital budgets. Rob has extensive experience with legislative finance and a keen understanding of transportation issues and our complex budget. Carpenter has a degree in

business administration, finance from the University of Oregon and an AA from the University of Alaska Southeast.

Captain Falvey *General Manager, Alaska Marine Highway*

Ron Curtis *General Manager, Inter-Island Ferry Authority*

Ron Curtis is an operational leader with over 30 years of progressive responsibilities. He has well rounded leadership skills with expertise in metrics based management, lean operations, team development, strategic planning, facilities management, maintenance management, supply chain management and food facility management.

Beneficial Electrification

Alec Mesdag *AEL&P*

Alec Mesdag grew up in Juneau and holds a degree in environmental science from Oregon State University. Prior to returning to Juneau in 2012, he worked as a project manager for a large electrical contractor in Portland, OR, managing healthcare, high tech, and solar construction projects, as well as developing non-regulated energy projects for tax equity investors. As vice president and director of energy services at AEL&P, Alec works to influence how customers consume energy in order to maximize the value of electric infrastructure.

Bob Deering *Alaska Heat Smart*

Bob Deering is an environmental and mechanical engineer who recently completed a 32-year civil service career with the Federal Government. He worked on hydropower, renewable energy, and energy efficiency projects across the country during assignments to the Army Corps of Engineers, United States Coast Guard, and the U.S. Forest Service. He was educated at the Universities of Wisconsin and Washington. He is currently working with Alaska Heat Smart, a Juneau, Alaska nonprofit promoting the conversion of residential heating to heat pumps.

Michelle Wilber *Alaska Center for Energy and Power*

Michelle Wilber is a research engineer at the Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP) working on projects ranging from bringing more rooftop solar to Anchorage to investigating the adoption of heat pumps in Kake. She is also the technical facilitator of the Alaska Electric Vehicle Working Group. She has a BS in Astronomy from Caltech and an MS in Mechanical Engineering from UAA. She has worked as an engineering geologist, an organic gardening coordinator, in energy efficiency outreach, and as a park ranger in Katmai. All of it comes together in solving problems of finding sustainable energy sources in Alaska, with the challenges of unstable permafrost for infrastructure foundations, finding the energy to grow food and provide fresh water, and other linkages between energy and the environment.

Michelle grew up in Alaska and is happy to be raising her son here as well. They like to take the dog hiking, camping, ice skating and skiing, but also enjoy a lot of cozy indoor time as well. She is thrilled to be doing work that she hopes will continue to make Alaska a great place to live for her family and all Alaskans.

Jason Custer *Vice President, Business Development, AP&T*

Tim Leach *Lead Facilitator, Alaska Electric Vehicle Working Group: Principal, Sparkbox LLC*

Tim Leach has promoted clean energy in Alaska through education, advocacy, policy, and projects for the past fourteen years. Tim runs his own energy consulting firm, SparkBox, through which he assists the Alaska Energy Authority as the lead facilitator for the Alaska Electric Vehicle Working Group. He also conducts energy planning and project development for rural communities, primarily through the Calista Energy Management Assistance Initiative (CEMAI). In addition to his consulting work, Tim is an adjunct faculty member for the Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP) where he works on projects related to electric vehicles, utility emissions reduction strategy, and energy policy. Tim graduated from the Vermont Law School in 2019 where he achieved a master's degree with distinction in Energy Regulation and Law. During his schooling he focused on innovative energy policy and utility programming, electric vehicles, and climate law. He applies this academic training and his experience as a non-profit consumer advocate and a state energy specialist to his current initiatives. Outside his efforts in the energy space, Tim spent fifteen years leading courses with the National Outdoor Leadership School, teaching college students, business executives, and Naval Academy Midshipmen leadership and mountaineering skills.

Fisheries and Mariculture Forecast

Jeremy Woodrow *Executive Director, Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute*

As executive director, Woodrow administers all ASMI programs and operations out of its global headquarters, located in Juneau. Raised in Juneau in a commercial fishing family, Woodrow first worked with ASMI as a communications program intern, then as a staff member of the PR agency Schiedermayer and Associates Alaska, which contracted with ASMI. Woodrow also worked for the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities as its communications officer. Woodrow has bachelor's degrees in public relations and advertising from Northern Arizona University.

Meta Mesdag *President, Alaska Shellfish Growers Association*

Meta Mesdag is a mom of three in Juneau, Alaska. Wanting to be available to her kids, Meta has opened two successful small businesses out of her home. Although both ventures have kept her super busy, Meta decided earlier this year to start a family "mariculture" business -- an ocean farm where she, her husband and kids will grow (and then sell) oysters, all of them working together. She was served as President of ASGA (Alaska Shellfish Growers Association) in 2020.

Riley Smith *Development Director, Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation*

Riley recently began working for AFDF in 2018 as the Development Director. He has a degree from the University of Washington in Environmental Studies, Environmental Science and Resource Management. He is responsible for support in areas of communications, MSC and RFM Client Groups and certification, grant procurement and grant management. Additionally, Riley was the contractor on AFDF's project, *Socially Responsible Practices on Commercial Fishing Vessels*.

University of Alaska – Southeast

Karen Carey Ph.D. *UAS Chancellor*

Dr. Carey earned her Ph.D. in school psychology from University of Cincinnati, and came to UAS from the California State University Channel Islands, in Ventura, California, where she served as the dean of Arts & Sciences. Prior to taking the job as Interim Chancellor, Dr. Carey served as University provost for the past 4 years. She also serves as the academic liaison with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and University to maintain UAS' accreditation, and is responsible for ensuring compliance with applicable standards and reporting expectations. Dr. Carey is based at the UAS Juneau Campus.

Pat Pitney *UA Interim President*

Ms. Pitney was appointed to the position of University of Alaska Interim President on August 1, 2020. Previously, she served as the state's Director of the Division of Legislative Finance. She was the former Vice Chancellor of Administration, University of Alaska Fairbanks and worked at UA Statewide for 17 years. In all, Pitney spent 23 years with the University of Alaska. She brings a fresh perspective on engaging UA's faculty and staff on strategies to increase enrollment and student success, while managing within budget realities. Pitney is a 1984 Olympic Gold Medalist in Rifle.

CEDS Workshop

Brett Schwartz *NADO Associate Director*

Brett Schwartz serves as the Associate Director for the NADO Research Foundation's sustainable communities capacity building and training program for rural communities and small towns. Brett supports this work by organizing trainings, peer exchanges, and workshops and by developing webinars, publications, and other resources covering regional planning, asset-based economic development, entrepreneurship, community engagement, and other areas. Brett is a graduate of the University of Baltimore School of Law where he focused on land use issues. He also holds degrees from Georgetown University and Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.

Shirley Kelly *Alaska Economic Development Representative*

The agency's Economic Development Representative to Alaska. Prior work at US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration Pre US DCEDA Tribal and City Administrator Community of Egegik.