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John E. Barnes

Founder and President
The Barnes Global Advisors

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John Barnes is President of The Barnes Global Advisors and Founder & CEO of Metal Powder Works, with more than 30 years of experience in aerospace, defense, and advanced manufacturing. He has founded two successful companies, including one that merged and is now part of a publicly listed organization, and has led teams to achieve multiple industry firsts.

A recognized leader in additive manufacturing, John and his team qualified the first commercial use of AM with Airbus on the A350 and have implemented and qualified advanced-manufactured components for platforms such as the F-22 and C-130. His work spans technology development, process engineering, qualification, and process economics, always with a focus on building credible business cases for adopting new manufacturing technologies.

John was named Purdue University's Materials Engineer of the Year in 2014, has served as an AM Ambassador to America Makes, and earned a Silver Medal in the RSO Additive Manufacturing Olympics. He is also an adjunct professor at Carnegie Mellon University and RMIT University, where he helps bridge industrial practice and academic research for the next generation of engineers and manufacturing leaders.

Steve Blanco

President and Chief Executive Officer
MSA Safety
(Chair, Federal Relations Committee)

[LinkedIn](#)



Steve Blanco serves as President and Chief Executive Officer where he is responsible for overseeing MSA Safety's global portfolio and the implementation of the company's strategic initiatives. He most recently served as President of the company's Americas business segment from 2017 to 2022.

As President of MSA Americas, revenue in the segment grew by more than 40%. During his tenure with the company, Steve also helped oversee the acquisitions and integrations of Bacharach, Globe Manufacturing and Sierra Monitor.

Prior to joining MSA Safety, Steve worked for Eaton Corporation, serving as Vice President of Manufacturing for the company's Electrical Sector, and worked for Ford Motor Company and Visteon. He joined MSA Safety in 2012. In February of 2024, the Board of Directors elected Steve as the company's next Chief Executive Officer, effective May 10, 2024, following the company's annual shareholders' meeting. Steve also serves as a Director on MSA's Board of Directors.

Brent Bobsein

Vice President of Sustainable Development
CNX

[LinkedIn](#)



Brent Bobsein is a Vice President at CNX Resources. CNX Resources Corporation (“CNX”) is a premier, low-carbon intensive natural gas development, production, midstream, and technology company. CNX employs over 400 personnel and supports over 2,000 jobs in the Appalachian basin.

In his role, he is responsible for developing and commercializing emerging technology and expanding dispatchable energy solutions for growing demand. Brent leads technical and commercial development of CNX’s remediated mine gas business unit through engagement with US DOE, US EPA, and UNECE.

Mr. Bobsein graduated Cum Laude with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from Case Western Reserve University.

Adele Borne

U.S. Government Affairs and Policy
GE Vernova

[LinkedIn](#)



Adele Borne is Director of U.S. Government Affairs and Policy at GE Vernova. In this role, Adele supports the company's policy and advocacy function, including by leading the grid and electrification systems portfolio. Before joining GE Vernova, Adele worked on energy, environment, agriculture, and natural resources policy at the U.S. House of Representatives for almost 6 years, including for the House Committee on Agriculture and the Select Committee on Climate.

Josh Brittingham

Senior General Manager of EMD, EMS Division
Curtiss-Wright

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As Vice President and Senior General Manager, Josh Brittingham oversees operations at Curtiss-Wright's Cheswick, Pennsylvania facility—a major hub within the company's Electro-Mechanical Systems division, which spans seven businesses across ten operating locations in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. In this role, he leads an organization generating over \$350 million in annual sales and directs a workforce of more than 800 employees, including a represented labor force across two unions.

Currently driving a period of significant scale and modernization, Josh is spearheading major business growth and capacity expansion backed by approximately \$250 million in planned site investments over the next five years. To support this momentum, he developed and implemented targeted workforce strategies to recruit, hire, and onboard roughly 10% of the site's workforce each year. Simultaneously, he is steering the facility's digital transformation and operational execution initiatives, continually upgrading capacity, efficiency, quality, and overall performance.

Neil Churman

President and Chief Executive Officer
Woolpert

[LinkedIn](#)



Committed to global growth, innovation, and building a world-class culture, Neil carries forward Woolpert's century-long legacy of supporting critical programs for its clients. Prior to becoming CEO, he led the company's business operations and mergers and acquisitions program as Woolpert's president. Neil initially served as the company's first chief corporate development officer.

With a background in driving strategic growth and operational excellence, Neil has led Woolpert through multiple strategic acquisitions, expanding the company's capabilities across the U.S., Europe, and APAC region. In 2024, under his operational leadership as president, Woolpert delivered the strongest financial performance in its 114-year history.

Prior to Woolpert, Neil held roles at TRC Companies, 7 Mile Advisors, Morrissey Goodale, and Michael Baker International. He is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business, where he earned a Master of Business Administration, and the University of Pittsburgh's Swanson School of Engineering, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in civil and environmental engineering.

Kolt Codner

Chief Operating Officer

Allegheny Conference on Community Development

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Kolt Codner is an experienced executive and economic development leader who currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development. Throughout his career, he has focused on driving regional growth, strategic initiatives, corporate engagement, and major philanthropic investments.

His past leadership roles include serving as the Executive Director of the Corporate Engagement Center at Case Western Reserve University, Chief Operations Officer at the Community College of Beaver County, and Director of Corporate Relations at Kent State University. Earlier in his career, he worked with the City of Youngstown to secure critical funding for infrastructure and economic projects.

Kolt holds both a Bachelor of Business Administration and an MBA from Youngstown State University.

Margaret Cosentino

Executive Vice President, External Affairs
Westinghouse

[LinkedIn](#)



Margaret Cosentino is Executive Vice President, External Affairs at Westinghouse Electric Company. In this role, she is responsible for Westinghouse's strategic approach to global government relations, public policy, communications, sustainability, as well as the company's government solutions business.

Ms. Cosentino brings 20 years of experience in global government affairs, international business development and strategy for aerospace, defense and industrial companies. Most recently, Ms. Cosentino was Corporate Director for Policy at Northrop Grumman where she led the execution of the company's public policy and regulatory portfolios. Ms. Cosentino was previously Vice President, Global Government Affairs for Arconic where she was responsible for advancing the company's public affairs interests across its international operations and leading its defense business. She has held senior roles at The Cohen Group, a strategic global consultancy, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a leading bi-partisan, non-profit think tank in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Cosentino earned a bachelor's degree in international politics from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service (SFS) and a master's in international economics and strategic studies from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

Dante Cutrona

Chief of Staff

Rep. John Joyce (R- PA)

[LinkedIn](#)



Michael D’Orazio

Chief of Staff

Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R- PA)

[LinkedIn](#)



Mike D’Orazio is the Chief of Staff for U.S. Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (PA-14). He joined the office in 2019 and previously served as the Legislative Director covering the House Appropriations and Rules Committees.

Before joining U.S. Rep. Reschenthaler’s office, he was a staff member for former U.S. Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA) and former U.S. Rep. Tim Murphy (PA-18). Mike graduated from Duquesne University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History (2016). In 2023, he graduated from the U.S. Naval War College receiving a master’s degree in Defense and Strategic Studies.

In 2021 and 2022, he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and was awarded a Joint Service Commendation Medal with combat device. He currently is a Navy Reservist SEAL TEAM EIGHTEEN in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Mike was born and raised in Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

Tara Murphy Dougherty

Chief Executive Officer

Air

[LinkedIn](#)



Tara Murphy Dougherty is the CEO of Air, the leader in Enterprise Readiness. Under her leadership, Air has established a wide-ranging customer base across the federal government and every military service. Surpassing unicorn status in 2025, the company has consistently achieved 100% year-over-year growth in revenue through a unique and innovative go-to-market strategy that focuses on mission, product, and delivering customer value. Air was recently named #18 on the 2026NatSec100 list, achieving the largest upward advancement of any company in the 2026 index, an annual list of top venture-backed companies driving innovation in defense and dual use technology.

Prior to Air, Murphy Dougherty held leadership positions across the technology and government sectors, including at Palantir Technologies and at the Pentagon in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. She is a highly sought-after expert in defense innovation, acquisition transformation, and the role of technology in U.S. national security and an experienced speaker, often sharing the stage with senior military leaders and U.S. and international government officials at premier defense and technology events around the world.

Tara Murphy Dougherty serves on the Board of Directors for the National Defense Industrial Association and the National Defense University Foundation and on the Board of Advisors of the Reagan Institute's National Security Innovation Base Program. She holds a bachelor's degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a master's degree from Georgetown University.

Scott Dunn

Chairman
Fayette County Board of Commissioners

[LinkedIn](#)



Commissioner Scott Dunn is a lifelong resident of Fayette County. He grew up in Uniontown and graduated a Red Raider in 1983. An alumnus of Robert Morris College, he has a myriad of business experience, spanning the realms of banking, steel, and transportation. Scott owned and operated a small Courier business, contracting with a larger Fortune 500 company.

Having served one 4-year term as Fayette County Commissioner and 8-years on Dunbar Borough Council, serving as Council President 6 of those years, Scott brings small government experience and leadership to the position of Commissioner. This dedication to his community is matched by his work ethic.

As County Commissioner, Scott has been appointed to several Boards including the EMS in Crisis Taskforce of CCAP; Human Services & Education Steering Committee of NaCO; and Board of Directors of Fayette County Community Action among others.

Mike Embrescia

Chief Development Officer
Carnegie Robotics

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Mike Embrescia is Chief Development Officer of Carnegie Robotics, where he serves on the executive leadership team and leads the company's growth strategy through strategic partnerships, business development, government relations, and sales. Recognized for building trusted relationships across the defense, government, and commercial sectors, Mike helps translate those partnerships into new market opportunities and long-term growth for the company.

Since joining Carnegie Robotics in 2020, he has helped expand the company's business with the U.S. Department of Defense, leading defense contractors, and global industrial OEMs.

Most recently, Mike served on Allegheny County Council and prior to Carnegie Robotics, held executive leadership roles in technology, commercial real estate, and public affairs. He previously served as Executive Director of BOMA Pittsburgh, founded a technology startup, and managed a successful Pennsylvania State Senate campaign.

A native of Erie, Pennsylvania, Mike earned a bachelor's degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from Duquesne University. He remains active in civic and nonprofit leadership throughout the Pittsburgh region.

Rich Fitzgerald

Executive Director
Southwestern PA Commission

[LinkedIn](#)



Rich Fitzgerald joined the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) as Executive Director in January 2024. As Executive Director, Rich leads a team of 50 staff members that perform the organization's planning and development work in the areas of transportation, infrastructure, and economic and workforce development. Specifically, he oversees the organization's strategic efforts to support our local counties and municipalities access an estimated \$39 billion in state and federal transportation and economic development funding that has been allocated to the region through 2045.

Prior to leading SPC, Rich most recently served as Allegheny County Executive for three consecutive terms for a total of 12 years. During his tenure as County Executive, Rich was focused on growing, diversifying, and modernizing the economy, retaining and attracting younger workers, investing in transportation and infrastructure, and improving the county's public services.

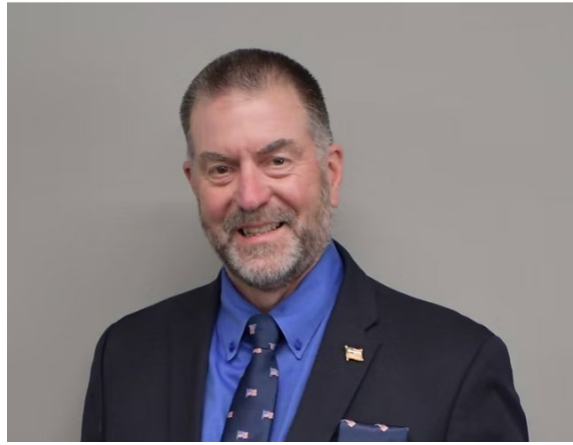
Prior to serving as County Executive, Rich served on county council for 12 years. Before entering public service, Rich spent many years working in the private sector. He founded and ran his own business, a water treatment services and equipment company. He grew up in Pittsburgh's Bloomfield-Garfield neighborhood and attended Carnegie Mellon University. There, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in business.

Brian Hoover

President

North American Forgemasters

[LinkedIn](#)



Brian is President of North American Forgemasters, a 50-50 joint venture between Scot Forge and Ellwood. As an open die forge facility, NAF produces billet stock, solid and hollow preforms and custom forged shapes in sizes up to 440,000 lbs. Located in western Pennsylvania in New Castle, NAF serves as the only fully integrated manufacturer of open die forgings in the Western Hemisphere. From steelmaking to finish machining, NAF represents American manufacturing at its finest.

Brian holds a BS degree in business management from Saint Leo University and an MBA from Purdue University. He spent 20 years at Howmet, beginning his career with Howmet Aerospace in 1985 as a nondestructive testing operator, moving through the ranks to become a business center manager.

Brian Kennedy

Senior Vice President Operations and Government Affairs
Pittsburgh Technology Council

[LinkedIn](#)



Brian Kennedy is Senior Vice President for Operations and Government Affairs at the Pittsburgh Technology Council, where he has served on the executive team for more than 25 years. He leads the Council's public policy, government relations, and economic growth initiatives, advocating for Southwestern Pennsylvania's technology and innovation sectors.

Kennedy has spearheaded efforts to position the region as a hub for data centers, AI infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, and defense technology – most notably through the Defense Robotics and Innovation Coalition, which connects local companies with Department of Defense opportunities.

Previously, he served as Director of Community and Economic Development for the U.S. Senate and as a board member and treasurer of the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority. He is a past chair of the Local Government Academy and has mentored emerging leaders through the German Marshall Fund's Young Transatlantic Innovative Leaders Initiative.

Matthew Koos

Chief of Staff

Rep. Chris Deluzio (D – PA)

[LinkedIn](#)



Matthew Koos has served as Chief of Staff for Congressman Chris Deluzio (PA-17), who represents Western Pennsylvania, since 2023. Prior to that, he served as the campaign manager for Congressman Deluzio's 2022 campaign. Previously, he worked on numerous campaigns across the country, managing races at every level – from town council to U.S. Senate. He is a graduate of Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania.

Sam Matias

Executive Director of Integrated Infrastructure
NextEra Energy Resources

[LinkedIn](#)



Sam Matias is executive director of integrated infrastructure at NextEra Energy Resources, the largest energy infrastructure developer in the U.S. In this role, Mr. Matias leads the development of energy and infrastructure solutions for large-scale customers and projects. His responsibilities span commercial strategy, project development and investment, bringing together the company's broad capabilities across power generation and infrastructure to deliver reliable, cost-effective energy and support economic and industrial growth.

Previously, Mr. Matias served in several corporate finance roles at NextEra Energy, including strategic financial initiatives at NextEra Energy Resources and corporate development. In these roles, he was responsible for mergers and acquisitions, strategic investments and other initiatives across the company's regulated and competitive energy businesses.

Prior to joining NextEra Energy, Mr. Matias was an investment banker in the Global Natural Resources Group at Goldman Sachs, where he advised companies across the power, energy and natural resources sectors on mergers and acquisitions and capital markets transactions.

Mr. Matias is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Yale University, as well as a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Environmental Management from Duke University.

Stefani Pashman

Chief Executive Officer

Allegheny Conference on Community Development

[LinkedIn](#)



Stefani Pashman is the chief executive officer of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and its affiliates. For nearly 80 years, the Conference, one of the United States' foremost civic leadership organizations, has been bringing together public and private sector leaders to improve the economic future and quality of life in the 10-county Pittsburgh region. Since she assumed the role on October 2, 2017, Stefani has repositioned and restructured the organization to advance the creation of a next generation economy for all.

Before joining the Conference, Stefani served as CEO of Partner4Work and its predecessor, the Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board (3RWIB). She also spent many years in healthcare, in both policy and strategy roles, serving in Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell's administration for almost seven years at the PA Department of Human Services as director of policy and as special assistant to the secretary. Stefani also worked in private consulting at Avalere Health and Navigant and as an analyst in the White House Office of Management and Budget. She holds an MBA and a master's in health administration from the University of Michigan and a B.A. from Washington University in St. Louis.

Lindsay Ries

Vice President of Government Affairs and Strategic Markets
Eos Energy Enterprises

[LinkedIn](#)



Lindsay Ries is Vice President of Government Affairs & Strategic Markets at Eos Energy Enterprises, the Pittsburgh-based manufacturer of American-made, zinc-based, long-duration energy storage systems. She brings nearly two decades of experience across Capitol Hill and government affairs consulting to the company's policy and legislative strategy and works alongside the commercial team to translate that strategy into markets. Her work spans federal policymakers, state governments, and RTOs including PJM, where capacity prices, interconnection reform, and surging data center demand are reshaping how storage is valued. Most recently, Lindsay led the government affairs effort that secured Eos a Golden Dome for America contract with the Department of War, delivering mission-assured power for the nation's defense shield. A Penn State graduate, Lindsay lives in Pittsburgh.

Matt Smith

Chief Growth Officer

Allegheny Conference on Community Development

[LinkedIn](#)



Matt Smith serves as Chief Growth Officer of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, a position he assumed on January 1, 2023. In this role, Matt leads the Conference's economic development efforts with a focus on growth of the regional economy through the attraction and retention of business investment and talent. He is also responsible for the organization's local, state and federal policy and advocacy efforts, which are strategically oriented toward increasing economic competitiveness and accelerating growth opportunities regionwide.

He has previously served as president of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce and represented the 37th Senatorial District serving in the Pennsylvania State Senate. Matt served three terms in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Prior to serving in elected office, he worked as an attorney for the law firm of Babst Calland in Pittsburgh, where he specialized in employment law

Matt earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, and holds a law degree from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he was a member of the Duquesne Law Review.

Ashlee Rich Stephenson

Senior Political Strategist and Head of Political Affairs and Issue Advocacy Division
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

[LinkedIn](#)



Ashlee Rich Stephenson is a nationally respected strategist, pollster, and public speaker with nearly 20 years of experience shaping high-stakes political, policy, and corporate advocacy efforts. She is a trusted advisor to executives, trade associations, and policymakers, leveraging deep expertise at the intersection of business and government.

As President of AxAdvocacy, she oversees the firm's practice areas of government relations, public affairs, and strategic communications, delivering high-impact solutions for clients navigating complex political and policy environments.

In her role as senior political strategist and consultant for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, she directs the Chamber's political program, PAC and advocacy campaigns, playing a key role in advancing pro-business policies. She also manages the Chamber's Political Advocacy Committee, a high-level board of senior government affairs officials and CEOs from state and metro chambers.

She serves on the Board of Directors of Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions, a conservative clean energy association, and was previously on the Board of Advisors for the George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management.

A graduate of Allegheny College and native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Stephenson resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

Kimberly Sullivan

Co-Managing Director, Principal
Gensler

[LinkedIn](#)



A Principal and Co-Managing Director of Gensler's Washington, D.C. office, Kim leads teams of architects, designers, and planners in delivering outstanding results to clients across a spectrum of industries.

The convergence of Kim's design and business thinking provides a unique perspective and leadership style, and delivers outcomes that align a client's vision, operations, and work environment. Kim's portfolio spans decades of experience in the commercial, hospitality, and workplace sectors, providing a broad understanding of the distinctive business challenges facing multiple industries.

Kim is a member of Leadership Greater Washington's Signature Program Class of 2024 and a frequent panelist at industry events and conferences discussing the future of the workplace. She received her bachelor's in interior design from Virginia Tech and her MBA from the University of Maryland Smith School of Business.

Sola M Talabi, Ph.D.

President

Pittsburgh Technical Consultants

[LinkedIn](#)



Dr. Sola Talabi is the President of Pittsburgh Technical, LLC. He has 26 years of experience in the nuclear energy industry, including 14 years with Westinghouse, where he served as Risk Manager for several AP1000 nuclear power plant projects in Sanmen and Haiyan in China, and the V.C. Summer and Vogtle plants in the US.

Dr. Talabi has dedicated his career to addressing complex safety and technical challenges within the nuclear industry. His research portfolio spans advanced reactor development, nuclear safety and risk analysis, project controls, manufacturing, and workforce development. Notable research includes safety analysis to reduce the size of nuclear emergency planning zones, which has enabled the planned deployment of up to 16 microreactors at the Piketon site in Ohio.

He leads the Small Modular and Advanced Reactor Training or SMART initiative, a multistate effort preparing workers and communities for the deployment of advanced nuclear technologies, currently being deployed across NY, PA, TN, WV, NC, MD, KY, VA, and OH. In Ohio, he is working with the University of Toledo on a \$38 million U.S. Department of Energy-funded nuclear workforce development project.

Dr. Talabi's public service includes membership on a National Academies of Engineering committee as well as service on the Pennsylvania Nuclear Energy Task Force. Dr. Talabi also serves as an adjunct professor of nuclear engineering at the University of Michigan, where he teaches reactor risk and safety.

He received his B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh, and his MBA, M.Sc. and PhD degrees from Carnegie Mellon University.

Kevin Walker

President and Chief Executive Officer
Duquesne Light Company

[LinkedIn](#)



Kevin Walker, president and CEO of Duquesne Light Holdings Inc. (DLH), is playing a leading role in the Pittsburgh region's clean energy transition. With more than 30 years of experience in various roles at multiple utilities across the country, Walker is strategically positioning DLH, which includes Duquesne Light Company (DLC) and The Efficiency Network, to serve as a trusted partner for all.

Prior to joining DLC as chief operating officer (COO) in April 2020, Walker served various executive appointments including senior vice president of Customer and Operations Services and Nuclear Decommissioning at Southern California Edison, and COO posts at Iberdrola and American Electric Power.

Walker is also a proud veteran of the U.S. Army, and holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from West Point Academy and an MBA from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.

Briggs White

President
Keystone Ascent

[LinkedIn](#)



Briggs White, Ph.D. is the founder and president of Keystone Ascent LLC, a strategic advisory practice that helps institutions navigate public funding ecosystems to structure investments that deliver lasting economic and environmental returns. He brings 17 years of federal energy experience, most recently as Deputy Director of the Energy Communities Interagency Working Group at the U.S. Department of Energy, where he led decarbonization and economic revitalization efforts for coal and power plant communities. His current work spans the full energy transition including the repurposing of fossil energy assets, energy policy and business investment strategy for economic development leaders, nuclear workforce development, regional energy supply chain buildout, and community revitalization. Based in Pittsburgh, Briggs works with economic development organizations, universities, regional and national non-profits, and CDFIs across Appalachia to turn programs and projects into durable place-based investments.