



ENERGY TRANSITION ACADEMY: Community Resilience Solutions for Policymakers

SPEAKER BIOS Energy Transition Academy 2020

November 10, 2020 – Bipartisan Collaboration and Coal Community Challenges

GOVERNOR BILL RITTER, JR.

Director, Center for the New Energy Economy

Bill Ritter, Jr., is the founder and director of the Center for the New Energy Economy (CNEE) at Colorado State University which launched on February 1, 2011. Ritter authored a book that was published in 2016 entitled *Powering Forward – What Everyone Should Know About America’s Energy Revolution*. Ritter was elected as Colorado’s 41st governor in 2006, and built consensus to tackle some of the state’s biggest challenges. During his four-year term, Ritter established Colorado as a national and international leader in clean energy, by building a new energy economy. He signed 57 new energy bills into law, including a 30% Renewable Portfolio Standard and a Clean Air Clean Jobs Act that replaced nearly a gigawatt of coal-fired generation with natural gas.

In total, the Colorado new energy economy created thousands of new jobs. Governor Ritter was formerly the chair of the Board of Directors of the Energy Foundation and currently serves on the Regis University Board of Trustees. Governor Ritter is a member of Blackhorn Venture Capital and serves as an advisor to Green Alpha and Millennium Bridge, among others. Ritter earned his bachelor’s degree in political science from Colorado State University (1978) and his law degree from the University of Colorado (1981).

SUZANNE TEGEN

Assistant Director, Center for the New Energy Economy

Suzanne Tegen has expertise in energy economics, policy, and workforce, and a Ph.D. in Energy Policy from the University of Colorado. Her current work includes research on the equitable transition from fossil fuel across America. Suzanne came to CNEE from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) where she spent 14 years as an energy analyst, researcher, and manager of the Technology, Engineering, and Deployment group for wind and water power.

She has authored or co-authored over 50 reports focused on domestic renewable energy jobs, stakeholder engagement, and the levelized cost of wind energy. She received the Clean Energy Ministerial’s C3E Mid-career award in 2016. She represents the United States in the International Energy Agency’s wind energy social science task. Before graduate school, Tegen worked for the U.S. Antarctic Program at the South Pole and McMurdo stations and for the Center for Resource Solutions in San Francisco. She is a founding member of Women of Renewable Industries and Sustainable Energy (WRISE) and served on their Executive Committee for 9 years.

JON ANDERSON

Partner, Western Way

Jon Anderson is a Partner at Western Way, a group supporting conservative stewards of the western environment. He also currently works as a lawyer with the Maven Law Group out of Denver, CO.

TOM PLANT

Senior Policy Advisor, Center for the New Energy Economy

Tom Plant served as director of the Governor's Energy Office in the Ritter administration, with principal responsibility for developing and implementing the Governor's policies for a new energy economy. He served as state representative in Colorado from 1998 through 2006, including two years as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and one year as Chairman of the Joint Budget Committee.

Plant was named Legislator of the Year by such organizations as the University of Colorado and the Sierra Club of Colorado. He received Green Sense Award for Environmental Leadership from Colorado Conservation Voters and the Champion of the Family Farmer Award from the Rocky Mountain Farmers' Union.

SEAN HOVORKA

Drill and Blast Supervisor and Engineer, Trapper Mining Inc., Craig, Colorado

Sean is the Drill and Blast Supervisor and Engineer at Trapper Mine, a small coal mine located 7 miles south of Craig, Colorado. He has 6 years of mining experience, primarily in coal, and is currently working on a Masters in Mine Management from Colorado School of Mines. He has an 8-year-old son Isaiah who lives with his mother in El Paso, Texas. When not working or studying, he can be found remodeling a triplex he owns in Craig or helping his girlfriend with her house or wine bar.

SAL PACE

Former County Commissioner, Pueblo County, Colorado

Sal Pace is a politician, cannabis advocate & consultant. He has served in the Colorado House of Representatives and was the Colorado House minority leader. He went on to serve as the County Commissioner of Pueblo County, Colorado. During his time as the county commissioner, Sal navigated the county through Xcel's plan to retire 2 coal-fired plants and switch to renewable energy. Sal led Pueblo County in directly negotiating Xcel which ensured protection of local jobs and the community's tax base.

JOHN DOYLE

Water Quality Director and Project Investigator, Little Big Horn College, Crow Tribe

CHARLENE YARLOTT JOHNSON

Executive Director, Plenty Doors Community Development Corporation, Crow Agency

Charlene Yarlott Johnson is a member of the Apsaálooke (Crow) Tribe and the founder and executive director for Plenty Doors Community Development Corporation. She has lived on or near the Crow Reservation for most of her life. She obtained her education at Montana State University – Bozeman and the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. Prior to Plenty Doors CDC, Charlene worked with the Indian Health Service for almost 25 years.

November 17, 2020 – Economic Transitions and Keeping Dollars Local

MARK HAGGERTY

Economist, Headwaters Economics

Mark leads the Headwaters team's research in tax policy, rural economic development, and community planning around energy and economic transitions. He holds a B.A. in Economics and Master's degree in Geography from the University of Colorado.

KATHARINE FERGUSON

Member, Colorado Just Transition Advisory Committee

Katharine Ferguson is interested in the practical challenges of civic engagement, institution building, systems change, and governance. Katharine has worked with the Aspen Institute, served in the Obama White House, and at USDA Rural Development. She has also worked as staff to multiple U.S. Senators on topics ranging from community economic development and economic mobility to conservation, agriculture, food, public health, and nutrition. Katharine lives and works in Denver, Colorado.

SUPERVISOR LENA FOWLER

County Supervisor, Coconino County, AZ

Lena is Navajo of the Bitterwater clan and is born for the Zuni Edgewater clan and lives on the Navajo Nation in Tuba City, Arizona. Her unique perspectives as an elected indigenous woman allow her to communicate with and gain support from all stakeholders. Lena is a passionate public servant committed to equity and solving problems through public policy. Lena is serving her third term as County Supervisor for Coconino County, a county with 143,476 citizens.

JUDY LaPAN

Former Health Department Administrator, Richland County, Montana

Judy recently retired from the Richland County Health Department in Sidney, Montana where she served as the department's administrator since 1997. Her work included creating a collaboration of various cross-sector partners to address community challenges. Through collaborative leadership and regular assessment of community needs they increased public health funding to over \$1 million annually for Richland County and the surrounding areas. Judy is the vice-Chair of the Montana Health Care Foundation.

December 1, 2020 – Inclusion is Intentional: Understanding What Communities Need

CINDY WINLAND

Senior Fellow, Just Transition Fund

Cindy is a Senior Fellow at the Just Transition Fund. She provides consulting assistance to the Fund, focusing on technical assistance and planning in communities impacted by the transition away from coal assets. Cindy's work is focused in the Midwest in Illinois, Ohio, and Minnesota and has also done work in Montana in locations that pose unique opportunities to promote successful transitions. Winland is an urban planner with over thirty years of experience in the Great Lakes region, working with urban and rural municipalities, nonprofits, professional organizations, and the academic community.

Winland’s background includes solid waste and brownfield management in the public sector, alternative energy development in the private sector, and assistance to legacy cities as part of a nonprofit. Before joining the Just Transition Fund and Delta, she owned a consulting firm based in Midland, MI, where she led efforts around brownfield redevelopment, industrial transition, alternative energy planning, and sustainable master planning. She earned a Master of Urban Planning and a BA in Economics at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

REPRESENTATIVE ANGELICA RUBIO

State Representative for New Mexico

Representative Rubio was born and raised in rural southeastern New Mexico and is the youngest daughter of Mexican immigrants. Angelica grew up with a deep working knowledge of the power found in numbers, as well as a flair for making her case. Representative Rubio returned to New Mexico over a decade ago to organize in the Permian Basin, and later settled in the border community of Las Cruces, where she now serves as a state representative, and as Vice-Chair of the Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

SABRINA NEIMAN

AFL-CIO of Montana and POWER Grant Administrator, Colstrip Community Impact Advisory Group and Colstrip Community Fund.

Sabrina Neiman is a staff member of the MT AFL-CIO working in Colstrip, Montana, as the POWER Grant Coordinator. She has her bachelor’s degree in Business from Montana State University and her MBA from The University of Montana. She has a background working in Finance, Marketing, and Operations Management. She lives on a farm outside of Colstrip with her husband and their four children where they are choosing to stay and raise their children despite the challenges the community is facing.

KIRSTIE McPHERSON

Behavioral Economist, Edeveco

Kirstie McPherson is a Behavioral Economist based in Craig, Colorado, whose research has focused on economic development throughout her career. Working with dozens of communities across the US, Kirstie has identified key practices to enhance economic development and answer the most common problems our communities are faced with today: workforce attraction, business expansion, and community interest.

MAYOR MIKE KOURIANOS

Mayor, Price City, Utah; Coal Plant Worker

Price City Mayor Mike Kourianos was born and raised in eastern Utah and currently supervises operations at the Huntington coal-fired power plant. He recently told a group of out-of-state investors: “For decades our community prospered because of the abundant natural resources, but I recognize the world is changing. Coal and coal-powered electricity have a limited life. ... Our economy must diversify if we are to survive.” Mayor Kourianos co-chairs the Utah Coal Country Strike team with a vision to diversify, invest, and secure a bright future.

December 3, 2020 – Policies to Facilitate an Equitable Transition at the State Level – Examples and Implications

PAM EATON

Founder, Green West Strategies

Pam is founder of Green West Strategies where she works with clients on energy and economic transition policy. She has served as a Commissioner on the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and on the Western Electricity Coordinating Council's Scenario Planning Steering Group. During her career at The Wilderness Society, she led programs to manage energy development on public lands and protect wildlands and wildlife.

PROFESSOR ROB GODBY

Director for Energy Economics & Public Policies Center; Associate Professor at University of Wyoming

Rob currently serves as the Associate Dean of the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming. In addition to his academic duties, he was appointed to serve on the State of Wyoming's Consensus Revenue Estimating Group in 2019. His research areas include natural resource, energy and environmental economics, industrial organization, and macroeconomic policy, and he is often interviewed by the national and international media on energy and macroeconomic issues.

MAX BACKLUND

Senior Research Associate, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, University of Wyoming

Max is a Senior Research Associate at the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, where he specializes in economic development. He began his career at the Economic Development Corporation of Utah where he founded the Community Strategy Department, which serves more than 70 Utah cities and counties. He also developed Utah Community Builders, a foundation housed at the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce that focuses on social issues with a connection to the business community.

CHRIS MARKUSON

Director of Colorado and State Economic Transition Policy, BlueGreen Alliance

Chris Markuson is the Director of Colorado and State Economic Transition Policy for the BlueGreen Alliance (BGA). He leads BGA's Colorado efforts to identify and implement policies and projects that will help build the clean energy economy, reduce emissions, create quality, family-sustaining jobs, and support a just transition for Colorado workers and communities. He also leads BGA's development and implementation of state economic transition policies.

AMANDA ORMOND

Director, Western Grid Group

Amanda Ormond is a Director for Western Grid Group and a consultant specializing in advancing policies and technologies that will transition Western U.S. energy generation and the grid to a low-carbon electric system. She has worked in energy and public policy for more than 30 years in Arizona and the West. She is a former state energy office director in Arizona and has been a consultant working on clean energy issues since 2001.

December 10, 2020 – Policies and Frameworks to Facilitate a Successful Transition at the Local Level

BEN ALEXANDER

Senior Program Advisor, Resources Legacy Fund

Ben Alexander is responsible for providing coordination, research, strategic direction, and leadership for conservation programs at Resources Legacy Fund (RLF). Before RLF, he served as Chief Program Officer at the LOR Foundation, was co-founder and co-director of Headwaters Economics, and was a Director at the Sonoran Institute. He holds a BA in history from Tufts University and an MA and MPhil in American Studies from Yale University. He is based in Bozeman, Montana.

NICOLE HORSEHERDER

Founder and Director, Tó Nizhóní Ání

Nicole is Diné and lives on Black Mesa in the Navajo Nation. She leads Tó Nizhóní Ání whose mission is to preserve and protect the environment, land, water, sky and people and advocate for the wise and responsible use of the natural resources of the Black Mesa region (Dził Yijiin).

SECRETARY BILL McCAMLEY

Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions

Bill McCamley is the Secretary of the NM Department of Workforce Solutions. The Department handles Unemployment, Workforce Services, AmeriCorps, Apprenticeships, Wage Theft, and Human Rights issues for the State of NM.

ROBIN COOLEY

Director, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services

In March 2019, Governor Gordon appointed Robin Cooley as Director of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services. Ms. Cooley also served on the Wyoming State Board of Equalization (2015-2017) deciding mineral and property tax disputes, and on the Wyoming Public Service Commission (2017-2019), as a public utility regulator. Prior to that, Ms. Cooley enjoyed an 18-year career with the Wyoming Attorney General's Office.