

## The Just Transition Workforce and Retraining Working Group

### Member Biographies (As of 5/31/2024)

**Name:** The Honorable Dawn Gile

**Organization:** Maryland State Senate

**Title:** Maryland State Senator, Democrat, District 33, Anne Arundel County

**Seat:** Two members of the State Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate

**Personal Background:** Senator Dawn Gile has represented District 33 since 2023. She is a member of the Finance Committee, Joint Committee on Federal Relations, Maryland Veterans Caucus, Women Legislators of Maryland, co-chair of the Protocol Committee, chair of the Anne Arundel County Delegation and Veterans & Military Families Committee, and associate member of the Maryland Legislative Jewish Caucus. Dawn is also a member of the Opioid Restitution Fund Advisory Council and Maryland State Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. In addition to her work in the Senate, Senator Gile is an accomplished attorney, nonprofit leader, and an award-winning military family advocate.

**Organizational Background:** The Maryland State Senate is the upper house of the General Assembly, the state legislature of the U.S. state of Maryland. There are 47 senators, one from each of Maryland's legislative districts. The Senate Chamber is in the Maryland State House on State Circle in Annapolis.

**Name:** The Honorable John F. Mautz

**Organization:** Maryland State Senate

**Title:** Maryland State Senator, Republican, District 37, Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, and Wicomico Counties

**Seat:** Two members of the State Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate

**Personal Background:** Senator John (Johnny) Mautz has represented District 37 since 2023. He is a member of the Finance Committee, Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review, Joint Committee on Unemployment Insurance Oversight, co-chair of the Protocol Committee, and chair of the Talbot County Delegation. He is also a member of the Maryland Veterans Caucus and associate member of the Maryland Legislative Jewish Caucus. Prior to his seat in the Maryland Senate, Senator Mautz was a Member of House of Delegates, representing District 37B from 2015 to 2023.

**Organizational Background:** The Maryland State Senate is the upper house of the General Assembly, the state legislature of the U.S. state of Maryland. There are 47 senators, one from each of Maryland's legislative districts. The Senate Chamber is in the Maryland State House on State Circle in Annapolis.

**Name:** The Honorable Regina Boyce

**Organization:** Maryland House of Delegates

**Title:** Maryland State Delegate, Democrat, District 43A, Baltimore City

**Seat:** Two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House

**Personal Background:** Regina T. Boyce is a Maryland State Delegate representing the 43rd District. After being sworn into office in 2019, she was assigned to the House Environment and Transportation Committee, serving on both the Environment and Motor Vehicle and Transportation Subcommittees, initially beginning on the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Open Spaces

Subcommittee. Regina is also a member of the Baltimore City Delegation serving as 2nd Vice Chair as of 2021 and sits on the Transportation and Alcohol Subcommittee's. Regina is a member of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, the Women's Caucus, the Transit Caucus, and is an Associate Member of the Latino Caucus. Regina was re-elected in 2022 in the redistricted 43rd District, now District 43A. During the 445th Legislative Session, 2023, Regina was appointed as Chair of the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Open Spaces Subcommittee and as the Speaker of the Houses' Chief Deputy Majority Whip. Following the end of the Legislative Session, Regina was appointed Vice Chair of the Environment & Transportation Committee. She has served on the taskforce on Reconciliation and Equity 2020; the Redevelopment of State Historic Government Complexes Workgroup (2020) making recommendations of how to best redevelopment and preserve historic government complexes in Maryland; The Maryland State Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities 2020 - Present; The State Park Investment Commission 2021; Baltimore City Sustainability Commission 2020 & 2021, and the first in the country Baltimore City's Trauma - Informed Care Task Force 2020 - Present.

**Organizational Background:** The Maryland House of Delegates is the lower house of the legislature of the U.S. state of Maryland. It consists of 141 delegates elected from 47 districts. The House of Delegates Chamber is in the Maryland State House on State Circle in Annapolis.

**Name:** The Honorable David Fraser-Hildago

**Organization:** Maryland House of Delegates

**Title:** Maryland State Delegate, Democrat, District 15, Montgomery County

**Seat:** TWO members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House

**Personal Background:** Delegate Fraser-Hildago has represented District 15 in the House of Delegates since 2013. He is a member of the Environment and Transportation Committee and is the Chair of the Motor Vehicle and Transportation Subcommittee. He also serves as the Chair of the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus. David has a proven track-record as an advocate for the environment in his 9-year career as a delegate. He has been named a "Green Champion" by the Maryland League of Conservation Voters every year since 2017 for supporting and sponsoring priority environmental legislation.

**Organizational Background:** The Maryland House of Delegates is the lower house of the legislature of the U.S. state of Maryland. It consists of 141 delegates elected from 47 districts. The House of Delegates Chamber is in the Maryland State House on State Circle in Annapolis.

**Name:** Cindy Osorto

**Organization:** Maryland Department of the Environment

**Title:** Policy Analyst

**Seat:** The MDE Secretary, or the Secretary's designee (designee)

**Personal Background:** Cindy Osorto has over eight years of experience in project coordination, legislative affairs, and environmental policy. She is a Policy Analyst in the Climate Change Program at the Maryland Department of the Environment. In this role, she has supported various initiatives and projects, including: the Building Energy Transition Implementation Task Force in 2023; the Buildings Ad Hoc Group in 2021 under the Mitigation Working Group of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change, and the Commission on Sustainable Communities and Environmental Justice in 2020. Cindy is also a steering committee member of the Project Green Classrooms Initiative, which aims to promote environmental education, through environmental literacy programs, and to ensure that Maryland youth experience, understand, and learn to conserve the natural environment. Prior to her role at MDE, Cindy worked with the Maryland Energy Administration as an Energy Policy Manager and with the Bureau of Land Management as an Environmental Planner. Cindy holds a B.A.

in Economics from the Florida International University and a M.S. in Environmental Sciences and Policy from Johns Hopkins University.

**Organizational Background:** The mission of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is to protect and restore the environment for the health and well-being of all Marylanders. The vision of the agency is to support healthy, vibrant and sustainable communities and ecosystems in Maryland.

**Name:** Chanel Viator

**Organization:** Maryland Department of Labor

**Title:** Special Grants Program Manager

**Seat:** The Secretary of Labor, or the Secretary's designee (designee)

**Personal Background:** Chanel Viator serves as the Special Grants Program Manager for the Maryland Department of Labor's Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning. She is responsible for implementing Labor's Maryland Works for Wind (MWW) initiative. MWW is a \$23M investment from the U.S. Department of Commerce to skill thousands of workers to support the offshore wind industry. Prior to Labor, she worked many years in grant management within higher education. Chanel holds an M.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies in Management Specialization from the University of Maryland Global Campus.

**Organizational Background:** The mission of the Maryland Department of Labor is to connect Marylanders to good jobs, protect workers, consumers, and the public, as well as support Maryland businesses and foster economic growth and competitiveness.

**Name:** Allison Breitenother

**Organization:** Maryland Department of Transportation

**Title:** Program Manager for Climate Risk Mitigation

**Seat:** The Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee (designee)

**Personal Background:** The Office of Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation at MDOT, where Allison's role resides, works to provide a cohesive, proactive, and coordinated response to the impacts of climate change across transportation systems, including workforce needs and initiatives. Allison is the Program Manager for Climate Risk Mitigation and works with partners throughout all the modal administrations at MDOT as well as partners across the state to move climate initiatives forward. Allison leverages her educational background in environmental and public health, with over eight years in climate change programming at the state level to identify best practices, facilitate progress, and implement actionable strategies that move our agency forward on climate resilience and emissions reductions initiatives. Allison has served on two other MCCC working groups in the past, the ECO working group while at the Maryland Department of Health, and now serves as the MDOT representative on the Adaptation and Resiliency Working Group (ARWG). Allison was also the staff coordinator for ARWG and the Coast Smart Council from 2019 - 2022. These roles have all provided Allison with invaluable experience with, and a deep understanding of how state level working groups, particularly within the MCCC, operate, how to identify actions, and support progress. The prioritization of workforce development and ensuring a just transition, through the establishment of this working group, is a critical step, and Allison is looking forward to being a part of this initiative, and providing subject matter expertise, network connections to inform decisions, and an open communication channel with our agency.

**Organization Background:** The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is composed of five business units and one Authority. They are: The Secretary's Office, State Highway Administration, Maryland Transit Administration, Motor Vehicle Administration, MDOT Maryland Port Administration, Maryland Aviation Administration and the Maryland Transportation Authority.

This unique approach provides the state's leadership with the ability to develop a coordinated and balanced approach to transportation.

**Name:** Richard Strong

**Organization:** IBEW Local 1900

**Title:** Recording Secretary

**Seat:** An electrical worker, selected by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

**Personal Background:** Richard Strong is an electrical worker and the Recording Secretary for the IBEW Local 1900.

**Organizational Background:** The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) represents approximately 820,000 active members and retirees who work in a wide variety of fields, including utilities, construction, telecommunications, broadcasting, manufacturing, railroads and government. The IBEW has members in both the United States and Canada and stands out among the American unions in the AFL-CIO because it is among the largest and has members in so many skilled occupations. As union members, we bargain collectively with our employers over wages, benefits, and rights. The Local 1900 chapter is based in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

**Name:** Donna S. Edwards

**Organization:** Maryland State & DC AFL-CIO

**Title:** President of the Maryland State & DC AFL-CIO

**Seat:** Three labor representatives selected by MD AFL-CIO

**Personal Background:** Donna S. Edwards has been a trailblazer and pioneer for women during her forty one years of union and community activism. She is the first woman to be elected President of the Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO, and was the first woman elected as Secretary-Treasurer of the State Federation – in 2001 – where she ultimately served fifteen years. During her tenure as Secretary-Treasurer she has driven the legislative program of the State Federation, pushing several successful legislative campaigns, and passing numerous bills that have been beneficial to workers and unions. Donna is the President of the Northeast Council of the AFL-CIO; Vice-President of the Metropolitan Baltimore Council of AFL-CIO Unions; Maryland Commissioner to the 21st Century School Construction Commission; Vice-President Central Maryland Community Services; Maryland Commissioner on the Pay Equity Commission; Vice-President of Maryland Film Industry Coalition; and she serves on numerous Governors' Committees and Task Forces and Legislative Commissions.

**Organizational Background:** Maryland State & DC AFL-CIO are one of nearly 500 state and local labor councils of the AFL-CIO and are the heart of the labor movement. They are democratically elected bodies dedicated to represent the interests of working people at the state and local level. They mobilize their members and community partners to advocate for social and economic justice and strive to vanquish oppression and make their communities better for all people, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, or ethnic or national origin.

**Name:** Gerald W. Jackson

**Organization:** Maryland State & DC AFL-CIO

**Title:** Secretary Treasurer

**Seat:** Three labor representatives selected by MD AFL-CIO

**Personal Background:** Gerald W. Jackson is the Secretary Treasurer at the Maryland State & DC AFL-CIO.

**Organizational Background:** Maryland State & DC AFL-CIO are one of nearly 500 state and local labor councils of the AFL-CIO and are the heart of the labor movement. They are democratically elected bodies dedicated to represent the interests of working people at the state and local level.

They mobilize their members and community partners to advocate for social and economic justice and strive daily to vanquish oppression and make their communities better for all people, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, or ethnic or national origin.

**Name:** Jerry R. Williford Jr.

**Organization:** IBEW Local Union 1900

**Title:** President, Business Manager, Financial Secretary

**Seat:** Three labor representatives selected by MD AFL-CIO

**Personal Background:** Jerry R. Williford Jr. is the President, Business Manager, Financial Secretary of IBEW Local Union 1900.

**Organizational Background:** The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) represents approximately 820,000 active members and retirees who work in a wide variety of fields, including utilities, construction, telecommunications, broadcasting, manufacturing, railroads and government. The IBEW has members in both the United States and Canada and stands out among the American unions in the AFL-CIO because it is among the largest and has members in so many skilled occupations. As union members, we bargain collectively with our employers over wages, benefits, and rights. The Local 1900 chapter is based in Upper Marlboro, MD.

**Name:** Sean Straser

**Organization:** Steamfitters UA Local #602.

**Title:** Assistant Business Manager

**Seat:** A labor representative selected by Mid-Atlantic Pipe and Trades Association

**Personal Background:** Sean Straser is a Assistant Business Manager at Steamfitters UA Local #602.

**Organizational Background:** Steamfitters UA Local #602 represents over 5,000 Journeymen, Apprentices and Helpers, who work for roughly 200 Mechanical Construction and Service Contractors, in the Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Process Piping Industry throughout the Washington, DC Metropolitan area.

**Name:** Casey Ross

**Organization:** Lorax Partnerships

**Title:** PE, LEED AP, GGP, BEMP, Director of Energy Services

**Seat:** A representative of the energy efficiency industry, selected by the MDE Secretary

**Personal Background:** Casey Ross has a professional background in mechanical engineering design with over twenty years of experience in the building construction industry, including energy analysis. Casey has been leading the way at Lorax to inform staff and clients on the details relating to the Maryland Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, as well as other energy-related programs in different jurisdictions. Casey is thrilled to be a representative on the Just Transition Working Group and hopes to bring experience working on construction projects to great use in helping pivot the labor force in an equitable manner through this major change in the world energy economy. Casey is also eager to work with the group in ensuring that all levels of society benefit equitably during the energy transition. A sustainable future is a just future.

**Organizational Background:** Lorax Partnerships is a sustainability consulting firm specializing in high-performance and healthy building services. Since 2003, we have guided developers, designers, builders, owners, operators, and occupants through the increasingly complex process of saving the planet, one building at a time.

**Name:** Ryan Trauley

**Organization:** Civic Works

**Title:** Business Development Specialist

**Seat:** Two representatives of environmental organizations, selected by the Governor

**Personal Background:** Ryan Trauley serves as a Business Development Specialist at Civic Works. In his role, Ryan leads program development for Civic Works' Energy Programs team, which focuses on creating healthier, safer, and more energy-efficient homes in Baltimore City and Central Maryland through a suite of energy efficiency, weatherization, and decarbonization services. With a background in small business management and the creative arts, Ryan brings a unique perspective to his work. He has spearheaded noteworthy projects, including leading electrification pilot programs to replace gas stoves with electric induction stoves in low-income homes in Baltimore City and Howard County. Additionally, he played a key role in the development and launch of a roofing installation job training program within Civic Works' Center for Sustainable Careers, seamlessly integrating this new training track into the organization's existing model. Beyond project management, Ryan plays a crucial role in enhancing program capacity by refining policies and procedures, implementing operational systems, and supporting recruitment efforts. Ryan is proud to contribute to Civic Works' impactful and meaningful work in Baltimore and Central Maryland.

**Organizational Background:** Civic Works is dedicated to strengthening communities and promoting equity through education, skills development, and community service. Since 2003, the combination of meaningful employment, a living wage, and marketable trade skills has proven powerfully successful. Civic Works' Center for Sustainable Careers offers multiple training programs. Our programs provide training for unemployed and underemployed Baltimore residents in utility infrastructure, brownfields remediation, solar energy installation, home energy efficiency, and stormwater management. Participants earn industry-recognized certifications and receive job placement assistance upon successful completion of the program.

**Name:** Stephanie Johnson

**Organization:** CHESSA

**Title:** Executive Director

**Seat:** A representative of the solar energy industry, selected by the Maryland-D.C.-Delaware-Virginia Solar Energy Industries Chesapeake Solar and Storage Association

**Personal Background:** Stephanie has an extensive policy and advocacy background. She worked for the Association of Corporate Counsel for several years, where she oversaw international, federal, and state advocacy initiatives and developed policy strategies related to corporate compliance issues. In addition, she served as the Director of Advocacy and Public Policy for TESOL International Association, heading the association's federal policy and communications departments. She is currently the Executive Director of the Chesapeake Solar and Storage Association, where she leads legislative and regulatory campaigns related to state-level solar energy in Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. She has a M.A. in American Studies from Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg and a B.A. in English and Political Science from Indiana University.

**Organizational Background:** CHESSA members are involved in every facet of the solar industry. Their members design, sell, integrate, install, maintain, and finance solar energy equipment for residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional customers throughout the region. Among their ranks are the accountants, attorneys, builders, architects, electricians, plumbers, developers and consultants who together form the foundation of solar. CHESSA represents sole proprietors and publicly traded companies alike, and drives value to the residential, commercial, industrial, community and utility scale sectors.

**Name:** Moira Cyphers

**Organization:** American Clean Power Association

**Title:** Director, Eastern State Affairs

**Seat:** A representative of the wind energy industry, selected by the Clean Power Association

**Personal Background:** Moira brings a decade and a half of lobbying, policy, and advocacy expertise to American Clean Power. For the past 8 years, Moira was a lobbyist in the Mid-Atlantic known for leading grassroots and multi-organizational coalition policy issues, including legislation to require 50% of Maryland’s energy from renewable sources, and working to pass the 100% renewable standard in Washington, DC. Moira has worked on renewable energy projects at the most local levels, such as changing zoning text amendments to get projects built, all the way up to working with ACP (and prior to that, AWEA) to build a national engagement strategy to educate state-level legislators through conferences and national policy committee work.

**Organizational Background:** The American Clean Power Association (ACP) is the leading voice of today’s multi-tech clean energy industry, representing over 800 energy storage, wind, utility-scale solar, clean hydrogen and transmission companies. ACP is committed to meeting America’s national security, economic and climate goals with fast-growing, low-cost, and reliable domestic power.

**Name:** Erin Appel

**Organization:** UnitedHealth Group

**Title:** Vice President, External Affairs - DC, MD & VA

**Seat:** A representative of the geothermal energy industry selected by the Maryland Geothermal Association

**Personal Background:** Erin Appel is the Vice President of External Affairs for DC, MD & VA at UnitedHealth Group. Erin holds a B.A. in Political Science and Government from the University of Maryland Baltimore County and a J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law.

**Organizational Background:** UnitedHealth Group is a multinational health care and well-being company with a mission to help people live healthier lives and help make the health system work better for everyone. UnitedHealth Group has team members in two distinct and complementary businesses — Optum and UnitedHealthcare — working to help build a modern, high-performing health system.

**Name:** Brad Philips

**Organization:** Maryland Council of Community College Presidents

**Title:** Executive Director

**Seat:** A community college representative, selected by the Maryland Association of Community Colleges

**Personal Background:** Brad Phillips, Ed.D. is the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC). In his role at MACC, he works with the Presidents at each Maryland community college and their senior leadership teams on policy proposals, strategy, and legislative priorities. Dr. Phillips was named to the Maryland Daily Record’s 2023 Higher Education Power List. Dr. Phillips also represents MACC during the Maryland General Assembly and testifies on legislative issues, serves on several different policy advisory committees and statewide boards.

**Organizational Background:** The Maryland Council of Community College Presidents (MCCCP) was voluntarily created by community college presidents to identify statewide issues of concern and develop a strategic plan for the long term success of the community colleges.

**Name:** Lynn Nash

**Organization:** Maryland Military Coalition | Maryland Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America

**Title:** Director and Communications lead for the Maryland Military Coalition and Legislative Director of the Maryland Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America.

**Seat:** A representative who is a veteran, selected by the Maryland Military Coalition

**Personal Background:** In addition to serving in the Vermont National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve, CAPT (Ret.) Lynn A. Nash completed 30 years of active-duty service in the U.S. Army and then the U.S. Public Health Service. She served in a variety of positions, most notably as the Senior Public Health Advisor to the Secretary of the newly established Department of Homeland Security and then the Department of Transportation. Since her retirement, Lynn has continued serving others as a Director and Communications lead for the Maryland Military Coalition and Legislative Director of the Maryland Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America. She is a lifetime member of the Reserve Organization of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Commissioned Officers of the U.S. Public Health Service, and the Military Officers Association of America, her local Montgomery County MOAA chapter and the MOAA Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter, the Maryland Response Corps and she earned a 2021 Environmental award from her city as a “Weed Warrior”.

**Organizational Background:** MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of uniformed service officers and their surviving spouses. We are an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. The MOAA Maryland Council mission is to represent and advocate for all Maryland MOAA members as well as all Maryland uniformed service members, active, past and retired. We Never Stop Serving!

**Name:** Kimberly Haven

**Organization:** JustLeadershipUSA

**Title:** Movement and Capacity Building Specialist

**Seat:** A representative who is a formerly incarcerated individual, selected by the Legal Action Center Nation 4 H.I.R.E. Networks

**Personal Background:** Kimberly Haven is not just a participant in the social justice movement; she is a dynamic force driving change. As a recognized subject matter expert, Kimberly is in high demand as a speaker, addressing crucial topics like Women in Prison, Women’s Reproductive Justice, Voting Rights and Democracy, Collateral Consequences, Conditions of Confinement, Mass Incarceration and Re-Entry, Pre-Trial and Parole and Probation reforms, and Higher Education in Prison. Beyond the microphone, Kimberly is a go-to expert for legislative testimonies and media commentary on a wide range of criminal justice reform and advocacy matters. She routinely consults with and collaborates with state and local elected officials and executives, sharing her invaluable insights on criminal justice issues. What truly distinguishes her is her unprecedented achievement as the only formerly incarcerated individual in Maryland who has authored and successfully ushered several pieces of legislation into law — two of which were first in the nation and now serve as model legislation for replication across the country.

**Organizational Background:** JustLeadershipUSA’s (JLUSA) mission is to amplify the power of people directly impacted by the criminal justice system to self-organize and dismantle oppressive systems in their communities. Guided by the principle that “those closest to the problem are closest to the solution but farthest from resources and power to do anything about it,” JLUSA invests in the leadership of directly impacted people by educating, empowering, and elevating their voices so they have the tools and resources to advocate for themselves, their families, and their communities.

**Name:** Jennifer Walsh, Esq.

**Organization:** Frostburg State University | Greater Cumberland Committee



**Title:** Associate Vice President of Regional Initiatives, Office of Regional Development and Engagement | Executive Director

**Seat:** Two at-large representatives who are women working in an affected industry, selected by the Governor

**Personal Background:** Born and raised in New Mexico, Walsh graduated with honors from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2001. She served as a law clerk for Justice Joseph Baca at the New Mexico Supreme Court in Santa Fe and then for Judge Hiram Puig-Lugo at the District of Columbia Superior Court in Washington. Walsh also worked as a legislative assistant for former U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman before moving to Cumberland in 2003. Walsh has been practicing law in Cumberland since 2004 and will continue practicing law part time. She is a member of the Allegany County Bar Association and has served on numerous boards of directors, including the Allegany Law Foundation, Beginnings Montessori School and the Cumberland Cultural Foundation, C. William Gilchrist Museum of the Arts.

**Organizational Background:** The Division of Regional Development & Engagement at Frostburg State University is focused on strategically connecting the assets, resources, and intellectual capital at FSU with the tri-state region to advance initiatives that will help create thriving communities. The Greater Cumberland Committee is a regional economic development organization representing the tri-state region of mountain Maryland, northeastern West Virginia & south central Pennsylvania. The Committee focuses on projects of regional relevance in the areas of transportation infrastructure, workforce & business development, outdoor recreation economy, energy & natural resources and next generation leadership.

**Name:** Dr. Suzanne K. McCoskey

**Organization:** Frostburg State University

**Title:** Associate Professor, Department of Economics

**Seat:** Two at-large representatives who are women working in an affected industry, selected by the Governor

**Personal Background:** Dr. Suzanne K. McCoskey is currently an Associate Professor of Economics at Frostburg State University. She holds a PhD in economics and MS in Applied Statistics from Syracuse University (1997) and an MS Law (Crisis Management and Homeland Security) from the Maryland Carey School of Law (2021). She has taught economics and quantitative methods at the US Naval Academy, Johns Hopkins University, George Washington University, American University, and the US State Department's Foreign Service Institute. She has also taught overseas in the PRC (Yunnan University), Germany (Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg) and South Africa (University of Pretoria). In her free time, she is a volunteer French translator for Kiva.org, an online micro-lending organization that has facilitated over \$1.6 billion in micro-loans, mostly awarded to entrepreneurs in the developing world.

**Organizational Background:** Frostburg State University is a comprehensive, student-centered institution dedicated to providing a quality education that leads to real-world success. We put a focus on experiential learning and student individuality, helping each student discover and realize his or her unique goals. Our programs prepare future leaders to meet the challenges of a complex and changing global society. FSU works towards regional and statewide economic and workforce development. We draw students from all counties in Maryland, as well as other states and foreign countries. Our programs promote cultural enrichment, civic responsibility and sustainability in the Frostburg community, the Western Maryland region and beyond. FSU is an institution of the University System of Maryland, accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. It is the only four-year institution of USM west of the Baltimore-Washington corridor.

**Name:** Reverend Kobi Little

**Organization:** NAACP Maryland State Conference (MSC)

**Title:** President

**Seat:** Two representatives selected by the Maryland State Chapter of the NAACP

**Personal Background:** The Reverend Kobi Little is a global citizen, strategic adviser, public policy advocate, and faith leader. He is the dean of Justice Chapel. Little serves as president of the Baltimore NAACP and vice president and political action chairman of the Maryland State Conference of the NAACP. He also serves on the advisory council for Strong Future Maryland.

**Organizational Background:** The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons. The Maryland State Conference (MSC) is composed of 25 County Branches.

**Name:** Tifani Fisher

**Organization:** NAACP Maryland State Conference (MSC)

**Title:** Vice President and ECJ lead, Allegany County NAACP President

**Seat:** Two representatives selected by the Maryland State Chapter of the NAACP

**Personal Background:** Tifani Fisher was born and raised in Frostburg and can trace her lineage back five generations in Western Maryland. Tifani is also a member of the Allegany County Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission; Vice-Chair of the Maryland Health Equity Alliance, a statewide committee to address health issues in the black community; and the founder of Western Maryland United.

**Organizational Background:** The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons. The Maryland State Conference (MSC) is composed of 25 County Branches.

**Name:** Larry Shiflett

**Organization:** Burch Oil and Propane Company

**Title:** Marketing Director

**Seat:** A heating oil or propane distributor in the state, selected by the MDE Secretary

**Personal Background:** Larry is a member of the Association of Convenience Stores and Energy Distributors (MAPDA) and was nominated to serve by MAPDA. Larry has a professional background in sales and management, as well as licenses in low voltage electrical, life and health, securities, and property and casualty. In his current role with Birch Oil and Propane, he leads training efforts of new sales and customer service representatives, manages social media campaigns, and coordinates company events.

**Organizational Background:** Burch Oil has been serving the home comfort needs of customers throughout Southern Maryland for more than 90 years. Burch Oil has served and delivered home heating oil to customers and strives to be the best service and oil delivery company for years to come. Burch Oil has been looking after friends and neighbors since 1928 when S. Bernard Burch founded the company. Today, four generations later, the company is still family owned and operated.

**Name:** John Hines

**Organization:** Easton Utilities

**Title:** Manager of Electric Department

**Seat:** A representative of municipal electric utilities, selected by the Public Service Commission

**Personal Background:** John Hines is an industry leader with 30 years of experience in power generation, transmission, and distribution. He maintains expertise in rate making, energy procurement, PJM markets and legislative affairs at the state level. John has over ten years in the Maryland Net Meter working group and over a decade of experience in developing the next generation of energy industry professionals.

**Organizational Background:** Founded in 1914, Easton Utilities strives to enhance the quality of life in our community by providing reliable, competitively priced utility and communication services through skilled, safety-oriented and customer-focused employees.

**Name:** Tanya Jones Terrell

**Organization:** Baltimore Gas and Electric

**Title:** Director of Corporate Community Impact

**Seat:** A representative of investor-owned utilities, selected by the Public Service Commission

**Personal Background:** Tanya Jones Terrell is the Director of Corporate Community Impact at BGE, responsible for overseeing the company's workforce development and corporate relations efforts throughout Central Maryland. She works with the team to establish key external partnerships, such as those with community organizations, historically Black colleges and universities, cultural organizations and other anchor institutions and works closely with Governmental & External Affairs and across BGE to ensure that BGE's community impact strategy closely aligns with the needs and concerns of the communities in BGE's service territory.

**Organizational Background:** BGE, headquartered in Baltimore, is Maryland's largest gas and electric utility, delivering power to more than 1.3 million electric customers and more than 700,000 natural gas customers in Central Maryland. BGE is a subsidiary of the Exelon Corporation.

**Name:** Jason Ascher

**Organization:** Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

**Title:** Political Director

**Seat:** A representative of the building and construction trade industry, selected by the Baltimore-D.C. Metro Building and Construction Trades Council

**Personal Background:** Jason Ascher is the Political Director for the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association. He works with the Local Unions of the United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters across Maryland, DC, and Virginia to coordinate election activities and advocacy on public policy. Jason joined the union after almost 20 years as a campaign manager, fundraiser, and field director on the political campaign.

**Organizational Background:** : The Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association is a collaboration of seven Local Unions, 400 Union contractors, and over 10,000 skilled tradesmen who live and work in MD, DC, and VA. This workforce is part of the United Association (UA) and performs the following types of work: plumbing, Pipe fitting, Sprinkler fitting, Pipe Welding, HVACR, service work, and other related services.

**Name:** Rico Albacarys

**Organization:** IBEW Local 24

**Title:** Political Director

**Seat:** A representative of the building and construction trade industry, selected by the Baltimore-D.C. Metro Building and Construction Trades Council

**Personal Background:** Rico Albacarys serves as the Political Director for IBEW Local 24, where he helps to write and advocate for legislation that benefits working families. Recently he worked on the

network geothermal WARMTH Act, and the POWER Act, Maryland's landmark offshore wind bill. He has served as an apprenticeship instructor, an Examining Board member, and is currently an Executive Board member for his local union. Beyond his work with the IBEW, Rico sits as a board member on the Susquehanna Workforce Network and the Harford County Democratic Central Committee. He is a licensed Journey level electrician and obtained his AA in Business Administration.

**Organizational Background:** The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 24 represents more than 2,300 electrical workers from Frederick to Ocean City. They pride themselves on being the best-trained and most-qualified inside electricians, maintenance electricians, sign workers, test technicians and voice-data-video technicians in the region.