

Speakers & Moderators



*This speaker list will be updated as we receive additional presenter biographies.



Randy Albelda

Professor of Economics and Senior Research Fellow at Center for Social Policy
[University of Massachusetts Boston](#)

Randy Albelda is a professor of economics, graduate program director of MA in Applied Economics, and senior research fellow at the Center for Social Policy at University of Massachusetts Boston. Her research and teaching covers a broad range of economic policies affecting women's economic status, with a particular focus on ways in which low-wage mother's package earnings and government supports. Most recently, she co-developed a paid family and medical leave simulator that she and her co-author used in their report [It's About Time: Costs and Coverage of Paid Family and Medical Leave in Massachusetts](#), published by the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy and the Center for Social Policy at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She is coauthor of the books *Glass Ceilings and Bottomless Pits: Women's Work, Women's Poverty; Unlevel Playing Fields: Understanding Wage Inequality and Wage Discrimination*; and *The War on the Poor: A Defense Manual*.



Jill E. Ashton

Director
[Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women](#)

Jill Ashton has dedicated her career to the advancement of equal rights and the mentorship of young women. As director of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, she has worked with commission members and allies throughout the commonwealth on a variety of causes, most recently a groundbreaking pay equity bill that unanimously passed the Massachusetts Senate and House and was signed into law in August by Governor Charlie Baker. In addition, she serves as vice president of the National Association of Commissions for Women, as a board member for the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts–Boston, and was co-president of the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Organization for Women for six years. She received her undergraduate degree from William Smith College and graduated with honors from the Gender Leadership and Public Policy program at UMass–Boston.



Catherine Bailey

Legal and Public Policy Director
[Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund](#)

Catherine Bailey is the Legal and Public Policy Director at the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF), a nonprofit organization that empowers women and girls to achieve opportunities in their personal and professional lives. She oversees CWEALF's Legal Education Program, which provides women and low-income individuals with access to legal information, advocacy, and resources. She also spearheads its policy agenda, and leads the Campaign for Paid Family Leave, the Family Law Working Group, and the Campaign for a Working Connecticut. In 2013, she served as a member of Governor Malloy's Wage Gap Task Force. After Catherine earned a B.A. from Boston College and a J.D. from Suffolk University Law School, she held several positions in Massachusetts state government, including Deputy Legal Counsel to Massachusetts Governor Deval L. Patrick.

Mollie Baldwin

CEO

[Home Care for Maine](#)

Mollie Baldwin currently serves as CEO for a Statewide Agency that provides personal care services to disabled and elderly adult consumers receiving long term care in their own homes. Home Care for Maine recently became licensed as a Home Health Agency to enable Home Care for Maine to provide RN services to these same consumers. Mollie’s career has a long history of advocating for community based services and strong belief in the care provided by unlicensed direct care personnel and their value and importance to the health care of those who choose to remain at home. She has been very active in advocating for increased wages and benefits at the Legislative level and her extensive background in policy and rulemaking while at Maine’s Human Services has been an asset in her advocacy work on behalf of direct care workers.



Elizabeth Barajas-Román

CEO

[Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts](#)

Elizabeth has been a leader in progressive movements including advocating at the national level for the health and rights of immigrant women and their families. Most recently she was a manager at The Pew Charitable Trusts where she directed a portfolio of partners that campaigned for state and federal policy change to improve government performance. Previously, as the Director of Policy at National Latina Institute, Elizabeth directed the organization's Washington, D.C.-based office where she was instrumental in expanding the visibility of the organization on the national stage.

She was recently honored by Massachusetts-based *Business West Magazine* as a 40 under 40 awardee, and by *Western Mass. Women Magazine* as one of their Top 25 Women to Watch. She is a certified Project Manager Professional (PMP), a graduate of Oberlin College, and received her master's degree in international policy from Harvard University.



Sarah Barkhouse

Administration & Hiring Coordinator

[W.S. Badger Company, Inc.](#)

Sarah Barkhouse is the Administration & Hiring Coordinator for W.S. Badger Company, a certified B Corp and the maker of certified organic and 100% natural body care products. In her role as community cultivator, Sarah helps ensure the values, mission, and principles of Badger remain relevant and resilient as the company grows. The mother of two young children, Sarah and her family benefit from the company's family-supportive policies including Babies at Work, flexible time-off, wellness days, and subsidized high-quality childcare. Outside of Badger, Sarah and her partner run a small, organic cut-flower farm and design business. Sarah has a BA in Communication from Keene State College and an AS in Horticulture from UMass Stockbridge. She lives with her family in Southwestern New Hampshire.



Irene E. Bassock, Esq.

Assistance Vice President and Senior Counsel, Law Department

[The Hartford](#)

Irene has worked for The Hartford as an attorney in its Employment Law Unit since 2002. In this role, she handles a variety of employment law issues, including overseeing investigations and litigation involving discrimination, harassment, and retaliation; counseling on hiring practices; providing guidance on internal reorganizations; and negotiating employment-related provisions in commercial transactions. Irene also manages the company's domestic and international immigration and works on developing equitable and compliant workplace policies and practices. She currently serves as co-lead for the Professional Development & Networking pillar of The Hartford's Professional Women's Network and is an active member of the Women's Leadership Council for the United Way. Prior to joining The Hartford, Irene worked with law firms in Boston and Hartford. She is a graduate of Gettysburg College and Boston University School of Law. She is an avid skier and runner and often spends her free time with family and friends at her log cabin in Vermont.



Ann Bookman, PhD

Director

[Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at University of Massachusetts Boston](#)

Ann Bookman, a nationally known researcher and policy expert on women's issues, work-family balance and community engagement, is Director of the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy at University of Massachusetts Boston. The center, housed at the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, works to advance women's public leadership at all levels of government and in the nonprofit sector. Through educational programs and research, the center addresses the needs of a diverse cross-section of women, particularly in the public policy making process.

Bookman earned her PhD from Harvard University and a bachelor's degree from Barnard College. Bookman lives in Boston and is a Board member of several community-based organizations in the city, including Nurtury, an innovative early care and education agency serving low-income children and their families in a number of Boston neighborhoods.



Clare Bresnahan

Executive Director

[She Should Run](#)

Clare Bresnahan works and lives in Washington, DC, where she has dedicated her career to increasing women and girls' representation through advocacy, political engagement, and social change efforts. Clare joined She Should Run in 2012 as the Programs Director responsible for directing organization's research and programs expanding the pipeline of America's future women elected leaders. Her passion for sparking women's political careers drives her commitment to She Should Run's mission.

She recently graduated magna cum laude with a Masters in Public Management at Johns Hopkins University and graduated in 2008 from American University with a B.A. in Communications, Law, Economics, and Government. She also teaches political entrepreneurship for the nonpartisan organization, New Leaders Council, and has served as the New Leaders Council DC Chapter Co-Director. While Clare loves the national work she leads in DC, she is a proud Midwest native, who hails from the Queen City - Cincinnati, Ohio.



Ruby Bright

Executive Director and Chief Administrative Officer

[Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis \(WFGM\)](#)

Ruby Bright is the Executive Director and Chief Administrative Officer of the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis (WFGM). Since 2004, WFGM has been a backbone organization for Memphis to leverage \$120 million in federal HOPE VI grants by raising nearly \$8 million to support Urban Strategies Memphis HOPE (USMH) for comprehensive case management and wraparound services. WFGM recently launched the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan which focuses on reducing poverty by 5% over 5 years in zip code 38126.

Widely recognized for her expertise in strategic leadership, community relations, operational management, marketing and fund development. Bright has received many leadership awards, including the 2014 Memphis Business Journal Super Women in Business, 2013 Memphis Theological Seminary Henry Logan Starks Award, and 2011 International Changing the Face of Philanthropy Award presented by the Women's Funding Network. She has been named a Power Player by Memphis Business Quarterly Magazine for six consecutive years.



State Senator Beth Bye

Senator

[CT General Assembly](#)

Beth was first elected to the West Hartford School Board in 2001 and to the Legislature in 2006. She was elected to the State Senate in 2010. She currently serves as Chair of the Appropriations Committee. Beth is particularly proud of her efforts to increase preschool quality and access through School Readiness and the Smart Start Program. She initiated and passed the first ban on BPA in children's products in the nation. As Chair of Higher Education, she passed Bioscience CT and Remedial Education reforms. Beth has her BA and MA in Child Development from the University of New Hampshire. She has a long career in early childhood beginning at the Durham Infant Center. She has directed two campus early childhood programs and developed two public preschool programs while working at Capitol Region Education Council. Beth and her wife were the first gay couple to be married in CT and have 5 children.



David W. Cash, Ph.D.

Dean

[John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies](#)

David Cash has spent his career trying to understand and better harness knowledge to solve pressing policy challenges. He earned a PhD in public policy from Harvard University, concentrating in environment and natural resources. He also completed an MAT in science education from Lewis & Clark College and a BS in biology from Yale.

Spending the past decade in Massachusetts state government in catalytic roles, Cash helped to transform the commonwealth's energy and environmental policy and regulatory landscape. His job history includes senior positions at the Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Public Utilities, and Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. In these roles, he helped develop and implement nation-leading science-based environmental, climate, clean energy, water and waste management regulatory programs; innovative renewable energy and grid modernization efforts; and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative—the nation's first CO2 cap-and-trade program.

Dean Cash joined the McCormack Graduate School in July 2015.



Rebecca Copans

Business Liaison

[Let's Grow Kids](#)

Rebecca Copans joined Let's Grow Kids and the Permanent Fund for Vermont's Children in January, 2015. Previously, Rebecca worked in governmental affairs and public relations. She made the difficult choice to leave a career she loved when her first child was born; working as a realtor allowed her to rely on child care only part-time, while juggling those extra days with the help of grandparents, babysitters and a lot of luck. A graduate of the University of Vermont and Dartmouth College, Rebecca holds degrees as Bachelor and Master of Arts. Her Master thesis concentration was the history and societal use of language and its effect on early cognitive development, helping her to think critically about how to give children the very best chances to succeed. Her thesis work led her and her husband to adopt their eldest daughter. Rebecca lives in Montpelier, Vermont with her husband and three children.



Susan R. Crandall, PhD

Director & Clinical Professor

[Center for Social Policy](#) & [Public Policy and Public Affairs](#)

Susan R. Crandall, PhD, is the director of the Center for Social Policy at University of Massachusetts Boston. The Center for Social Policy explores the combined impact of public policies and employment practices to enhance economic well-being. Dr. Crandall's experience includes serving as the director of workforce innovation at Keystone Research Center, where she spearheaded the evaluation for the Pennsylvania's nationally recognized Industry Partnerships and led an evaluation of a hospital talent management initiative.

Previously, she was the director of research and innovation at EMPATH, where her research served as the cornerstone for their program, research, and advocacy strategy. Her experience includes 10 years in the private sector where she championed leadership and career development initiatives at Fortune 500 companies including Microsoft and Boeing. Dr. Crandall served on the boards of National Skills Coalition Leadership Council, the Massachusetts Workforce Alliance, and the American Independent Business Association (AMIBA).



Brian Doherty

General Agent/Secretary Treasurer

[Building and Construction Trades Council of the Metropolitan District](#)

Brian Doherty is the General Agent/Secretary Treasurer of the Building and Construction Trades Council of the Metropolitan District. Born to Irish-immigrant parents, Brian is a lifelong resident of Dorchester—a diverse, working-class neighborhood in Boston. He started his career in Laborers Local Union 223 in Boston, where he learned the importance of fairness for all workers in a diverse, supportive environment.

From 2011-2013, Brian was the Coordinator of the Building Pathways Pre-Apprenticeship Program, which provides career pathways for low-income residents to family-sustaining careers in union construction, designed to increase diversity in the trades for women and people of color. It is part of a larger effort to intentionally resource initiatives focused on gender equity and racial equality. Brian was the Coordinator of the All Dorchester Sports League—a local nonprofit which provides academic, athletic, fitness and nutrition support to youth in and around Dorchester while working full-time in construction.

Helene Figueroa

Child Care Organizer

[CSEA/SEIU Local 2001](#)

Helene Figueroa has championed quality, affordable early care and education for more than 25 years. She directed a nationally accredited child center, developed programs for messaging child care issues across the country, and played a key role in expanding funding for child care in Connecticut. In addition to employment with Trinity College, the Child Care Action Campaign and the Connecticut Association for Human Services, Ms. Figueroa has over six years of consulting experience in community organizing, organizational management and advocacy around early care and education issues. She is currently a child care organizer with CSEA/SEIU Local 2001.

**Deirdre Fitzgerald**

Marketing & Public Relations Manager

[W.S. Badger Company](#)

Deirdre Fitzgerald is the Marketing & Public Relations Manager for W.S. Badger, a certified B Corp and the maker of certified organic and 100% natural body care products. Family owned and family friendly since 1995, Badger believes in creating a healthy work-life balance through innovative family-centered programs such as Babies at Work, subsidized childcare for the children of Badger employees, extended paid parental leave, and free organic lunches served daily during a paid 30-minute break—and that’s just for starters!

Prior to joining Badger, Deirdre was the director of communications at the Student Conservation Association, a non-profit group dedicated to building the next generation of conservation leaders. She has spent nearly 20 years as a public relations professional helping socially minded and mission-driven companies ensure a sustainable future. Deirdre holds a BFA in Art History from Syracuse University and lives in Southern New Hampshire with her family.

**Laura Fortman**

Deputy Administrator

[Wage and Hour Division/US Department of Labor](#)

Laura Fortman is the Deputy Administrator for the Wage and Hour Division (WHD) at the U.S. Department of Labor. WHD enforces laws establishing our nation’s most fundamental labor standards, protecting over 135 million workers in more than 7.3 million establishments throughout the US and its territories. As Deputy Administrator, she provides critical leadership in the development and implementation of policies and regulations including:

- WHD’s final rule updating overtime regulations, which will extend overtime pay protections to over 4 million workers.
- WHD’s final rule that extended the Family and Medical Leave Act’s definition of spouse to same-sex married couples regardless of where they reside.
- WHD’s final rule extending minimum wage and overtime protections to nearly 2 million of the nation’s direct care workers.



Robyn Freedner-Maguire

Campaign Director

[Let's Grow Kids](#)

Robyn Freedner-Maguire was named campaign director for Let's Grow Kids in December after serving as coordinator for Vermont's Early Childhood Alliance. She has extensive experience coordinating and engaging diverse community groups to achieve positive change on a variety of initiatives. She worked previously at the Vermont State Employees' Association (VSEA). Before joining VSEA, Robyn worked as the field director of the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force where she oversaw the field campaign that gained marriage rights for same-sex couples. Robyn and her partner of 10 years, Naomi, are parents to three amazing children, Neko (8) and the twins, Luca and Aldin (4).

Queen Freelove

President

Family Child Care Council, [CSEA/SEIU Local 2001](#)

Queen Freelove has been caring for children in her home for over 25 years. She is an entrepreneur and an astute business woman who owns several rental properties and a nursing home, the combination of which has allowed her to pursue her first love, family child care. Her personal organizing efforts over six years resulted in the establishment of the Family Child Care Union with CSEA/SEIU in Connecticut. She helped negotiate their first collective bargaining agreement, which included the first raises in child care subsidy rates in 13 years for home-based providers. She now serves as President of the CSEA Family Child Care Council.



Amy Regan Gallant

Advocacy Director

[AARP Maine](#)

Regan Gallant is AARP Maine's Advocacy Director. Prior to joining AARP Maine she worked as the Advocacy Coordinator at Preble Street and the Community Organizer with Preble Street Homeless Voices for Justice.

Amy has expertise in domestic and international poverty, including issues of hunger, homelessness, conflict and humanitarian crises. Through a research fellowship she produced a movie about girls' access to education in rural Kenya.

Amy is a Maine native and an alumna of Catherine McAuley High School. She has a B.A. in Politics from Saint Anselm College and a M.S. in Global Affairs from New York University. Amy is a board member of the Maine Council on Aging and a Commissioner on the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women in Maine.



Mary Stuart Gile, Ed.D

NH Representative

[NH Legislature](#)

Representative Mary Stuart Gile is a 10th term State Representative from Merrimack District 27, and currently Ranking Democrat of the NH House Committee on Education. Rep. Gile has sponsored bills related to child protection, early learning, family support, the environment, human trafficking and is leading the way in sponsoring legislation on family-responsive benefits including paid sick leave and paid family leave. Gile has been honored with leadership appointments by NH Governors and is the recipient of several distinguished leadership awards. Rep. Gile is a graduate of McGill University, received a M.Ed from UNH, and a doctorate of education from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn. Rep. Gile is married to Robert H. Gile, Dartmouth'56, USN-R. They have four adult children, two grandchildren and one great-grandson.



Gayle Goldin

State Senator & Advisor to Family Values @ Work
[RI General Assembly](#) & [Family Values @ Work](#)

Senator Gayle Goldin represents Providence (District 3). Newly elected, she championed the passage of Temporary Caregiver Insurance, making Rhode Island the third state to create paid family leave and the first to do so with job protection. Senator Goldin is also an outspoken advocate for protecting reproductive rights, expanding the middle class, and creating an equitable, welcoming country for everyone. She is a member of two senate committees and the Commission on Women and Girls, and has authored several opinion pieces, including [Paid Family Leave Should be for Everyone](#). Senator Goldin also serves as FMLI Campaign Advisor to Family Values @Work, a national network of 24 state-based coalitions helping spur the growing movement for family-friendly workplace policies such as paid sick days and family leave insurance. She holds a BA from McGill University and an MA from Tufts University.



Pronita Gupta

Deputy Director of the Women's Bureau
[Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor](#)

Pronita Gupta joined the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, in May 2014, and serves as the Deputy Director. At the Women's Bureau, she works closely with the Director, senior managers and staff to advance and improve standards, practices and opportunities for women in the labor force.

Ms. Gupta previously served as the Senior Director of Programs for the philanthropic organization the Women Donors Network (WDN) where she was responsible for designing, planning and implementing WDN's national and regional programs. Prior to working for WDN, she was the Research Director for Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy and worked to increase investments in AAPI communities.

Ms. Gupta has extensive experience in community and labor organizing. She served as the Research Director for SCOPE, a nationally recognized organizing and progressive movement building organization in Los Angeles, where she helped develop their health care jobs campaign.

Ms. Gupta holds an MPA from Columbia University and a BA in Government from Clark University.



Lisa Gurgone

Executive Director
[Home Care Aide Council/Foundation](#)

Lisa Gurgone is the Executive Director of the Home Care Aide Council. Through her position, Lisa develops and maintains the Council's Standards of Best Practice for home care aide services. Lisa has served on numerous committees and advisory boards where she educates policymakers and the public on the needs of the home care aide workforce. She was a lead partner on the Massachusetts Personal and Home Care Aide State Training Initiative funded through the Affordable Care Act. Prior to joining the Council, Lisa held positions within the Massachusetts Legislature, the Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy, and the Office of Attorney General. Lisa completed her graduate studies at UMASS Boston, earning both a graduate certificate in Women in Politics and Public Policy and a Master of Science in Public Affairs. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Human Services from Lesley University.



Rachel Jolly
Director of Women's Programs
[Vermont Works for Women](#)

Rachel Jolly is the Director of Women's Programs at VT Works for Women (VWW) where she oversees a variety of quality programming that helps women recognize their potential and work toward economic independence. She was part of the formation, design and implementation of VWW's Step In to Work program, helping women transitioning from incarceration or off of state assistance into the workforce. She has overseen the creation and delivery of new adult training programs for women in non-traditional career sectors helping women enter growing, high-wage jobs in Vermont.

Rachel has worked for over twenty years in experiential education. She has led extended wilderness trips in Maine and has taught a variety of environmental education programs in Vermont, Maine and Israel. Rachel earned her MEd in Environmental Education from Rhodes University in South Africa and her BS in Environmental Studies from the University of Vermont.



Patricia M. Kelleher
Executive Director
[Home Care Alliance of Ma](#)

Pat Kelleher, is the Executive Director of the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts, a trade association of 175 home health and home care agencies and more than 70 associated businesses. In her tenure at the HCA of MA, Pat has advocated for expansion of community-based care in Massachusetts, attention to long term care workforce needs and development, and expansion of home health's competencies in areas as chronic care management, palliative and pediatric care, medication reconciliation and care transitions.

Under Pat's direction, the Alliance added an Accreditation Program for private home care agencies and expanded direct outreach to home care consumers through the Alliance's website and directories. Pat has represented home health on numerous committees and Task Forces, including as a member of the Advisory Committee to the state Health Policy Council and as an officer of the National Association for Home Care's State Forum.



Gail Kinney
Workforce Development & Public Policy Consultant & Member
Unions and Labor Federations & [National Writers Union/UAW #1981](#)

Gail Kinney is a long-time labor activist; a current member and former national officer of the National Writers Union/UAW #1981; and a consultant to multiple unions and labor federations with a focus on member mobilization and high-road workforce and economic development policy and practice. She previously worked in a similar capacity with the AFL-CIO Working for America Institute, and currently serves as a Workforce Development and Labor-Management Consultant with Connecticut's John J. Driscoll United Labor Agency, the charitable arm of the CT AFL-CIO. Gail is also a pastor within the United Church of Christ through which she focuses, primarily within New Hampshire, on faith/labor coalition-building and on bringing the voice of faith to worker struggles and worker rights advocacy.



Ivy Latimer

Director, Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action & Strategic Diversity Mgmt.
[CVS Health](#)

Ivy Latimer is Director, Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action and Strategic Diversity Management for CVS Health. Her responsibilities are to lead EEO compliance programs and provide leadership and direction across CVS Health in the areas of federal, state and local employment legislation.

Prior to her current role at CVS Health, she was the Global Equal Opportunity Compliance Officer for Johnson & Johnson responsible for leading the company's global EO and D&I practices.

Ivy serves on the National Industry Liaison Group Board, which is the premier, association supporting Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action. In October 2011, Hispanic Business Magazine named Ivy as one of the Top 100 Influential Hispanics in business.

She holds a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Political Science and Economics from New York University, and a Master's of Science degree in Human Resource Management.



Ruthie Liberman

Vice President for Public Policy
[Economic Mobility Pathways \(EMPath\)](#)

Ruthie Liberman is the Vice President for Public Policy at Economic Mobility Pathways (formerly known as Crittenton Women's Union) an organization whose mission is to help people move out of poverty and to provide the tools for other organizations to systematically do the same. Ruthie has a Bachelor's Degree from Pomona College in government and public policy as well a Master's Degree in public administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. With 25 years of experience in nonprofit strategy, policy and program management, Ruthie previously worked in major hospital settings such as Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Brigham and Women's Hospital. She also ran a Pediatric and Family AIDS program at Dimock Community Health Center. Prior to moving to Massachusetts, Ruthie served as a Fellow in the California Legislature and as the Public Policy Director for Planned Parenthood Los Angeles.



Jennifer Lockwood-Shabat

President and CEO
[Washington Area Women's Foundation](#)

Jennifer Lockwood-Shabat is the President and CEO of Washington Area Women's Foundation, a public foundation dedicated to mobilizing the community to ensure that economically vulnerable women and girls in the Washington, DC metropolitan region have the resources they need to thrive. Jennifer has devoted her entire career to improving the lives of low-income and underserved women and girls. Jennifer joined the Foundation in 2008, providing strategic guidance while leading the program, development, and communications functions. In the last three years, she has been named a "Community Champion" by Capital One and the Washington Mystics, a "Woman Who Means Business" and "Power 100" honoree by the Washington Business Journal, and an "Outstanding Diversity Leader" by the Washington, DC chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Additionally, The Women's Foundation received Leadership Greater Washington's "2016 Outstanding Community Partner" award. She resides in Northern Virginia with her husband and two daughters.



Latifa Lyles
Director
[Women's Bureau](#)

Latifa Lyles is the Director of the Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor where she works to advance and improve standards, practices and opportunities for women in the labor force. In this position, she developed the agency's research agenda and significantly increased the number of policy and research initiatives, including women in high-growth occupations; older workers; and non-traditional jobs. Last year, she oversaw the White House Summit on Working Families in coordination with the White House Council on Women and Girls and Center for American Progress. Before serving as Director, she served as Deputy Director of the Bureau. As Deputy Director, she oversaw all regional office operations and managed the National Dialogue on Workplace Flexibility, a collaborative nationwide event series planned in collaboration with the White House Council on Women and Girls and national advocacy groups and experts.



Susan Coghlin Mailman
Owner and President
[Coghlin Electrical Contractors, Inc](#)

Sue Mailman is the Owner and President of Coghlin Electrical Contractors, Inc and Coghlin Network Services, Inc. in Worcester, Massachusetts. The companies provide electrical contracting and networking services in New England and New York. Coghlin's is a fourth generation family owned business and WBE certified.

Serving as the Central Massachusetts Chapter President of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), she is a management representative for IBEW Local 96 Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC). Sue serves as a Council Member on the Massachusetts Apprenticeship Advisory Council and serves as a member of the board of the Associated Subcontractors of Central Massachusetts.

Sue believes in the sponsorship of the city of Worcester, as noted in her community commitments. Presently, she serves as a Trustee on the board of Reliant Medical Group. Sue chairs the General Advisory Committee of the Worcester Technical High School and is currently Chair of the Board of Trustees for Quinsigamond Community College.



Helen Mederer
Professor of Sociology and Labor Research
[University of Rhode Island](#)

Helen Mederer is a Professor of Sociology and Labor Research at the University of Rhode Island. She works with Dr. Barb Silver through URI's Schmidt Labor Research Center to study RI's Temporary Caregiver Insurance Program. With funding from the US Department of Labor and RI's Department of Labor and Training, they have documented the effectiveness of program rollout and some early impacts of the program. Professor Mederer also teaches courses in Work & Family and Gender Inequality at URI. With Dr. Silver, they co-chair URI's Work-Life Committee that has brought family friendly policies to URI as well as more awareness of work-life issues facing faculty, staff, and students. In 2015-16, Dr. Mederer also served as a Fellow in the RI Women's Fund's Women's Policy Institute.



Susan Moir ScD

Director of Research, Labor Resource Center, UMass Boston

[Co-convenor of the Policy Group on Tradeswomen's Issues \(PGTI\)](#)

Susan Moir, ScD, is the Director of Research at the Labor Resource Center at UMass Boston. She has researched diversity in the construction industry for over two decades. With Liz Skidmore of the New England Regional Council of Carpenters, she co-founded the Policy Group on Tradeswomen's Issues (PGTI) in 2008. PGTI is a regional collaboration of over 75 construction industry stakeholders, including tradeswomen, building trades unions, contractors, government representatives, community organizations and researchers. PGTI has met bi-monthly since 2008 to address the persistent policy failure to open up good jobs in the construction trades to women, especially low wage women and women of color. Moir staffs PGTI as the project's participatory researcher and is responsible for documenting and disseminating strategies, actions and outcomes.



Evelyn F. Murphy

President

[The WAGE Project, Inc.](#)

Evelyn Murphy is President, The WAGE Project, dedicated to eliminating the gender wage gap. For 10 years, WAGE delivered salary negotiation workshops to working and campus women in 49 states. WAGE advises the Office of Women's Advancement delivering these workshops to 85,000 working women in Boston; and co-chairs the Mayor Walsh's Boston Women's Workforce Council.

Dr. Murphy is Director, Citizens Energy Corporation, SBLI USA Life Insurance, Commonwealth Institute; Trustee, Economic Empowerment Trust Fund; Advisory Board, Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, UMass Boston, Center for Women and Work, UMass Lowell.

She earned a BA, Duke University; MA, Columbia University; PhD Duke; recipient of eleven honorary degrees, and Distinguished Alumnae Award, Duke Graduate School; and author of [Getting Even: Why Women Don't Get Paid Like Men and What To Do About It.](#)



Jessica Nordhaus

Consultant, Strategy & Partnerships

[Change The Story VT](#)

Jessica Nordhaus is the owner of Gear Shift Consulting, LLC, a Vermont-based consulting firm with a focus on transforming education, politics and policy. Currently, she consults on strategy and partnerships for Change The Story VT, an initiative of VT Commission on Women, VT Women's Fund, and VT Works for Women focused on advancing women's economic status in the state. Past projects include directing the design phase of the Burlington Early Learning Initiative for Mayor Miro Weinberger and supporting transformation at the Laura Mann Center for Integrative Health. Jessica was the founder and CEO of Horny Toad Activewear (now Toad & Co) and taught high school English earlier in her career. She currently serves on the Fletcher Free Library Commission and the Emerge VT Advisory Board, and is a managing partner at a mid-size, rapidly growing family firm in Burlington that specializes in big dinners, bad jokes and lots of laundry.



Amy O'Leary

Early Education for All Campaign Director

[Strategies for Children](#)

Amy O'Leary is director of Early Education for All, a campaign of Strategies for Children, an advocacy and policy organization that works to ensure that Massachusetts invests the resources needed for all children, from birth to age five, to access high-quality early education programs that prepare them for success in school and life. Prior to joining SFC in 2002, Amy worked as a preschool teacher and program director at Ellis Memorial in Boston. In 2011, Amy was elected to a four year term on the governing board of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. She serves on the adjunct faculty at Wheelock College in Boston and Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester. Amy earned a Master in Public Administration degree from the Sawyer School of Management at Suffolk University. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and early education from Skidmore College.



Nicholas Oliver

Executive Director

[Rhode Island Partnership for Home Care](#)

In 2013, Nicholas Oliver became the fourth Executive Director of the Rhode Island Partnership for Home Care since its founding in 1990. His career spans almost 20 years in government affairs, public relations and nonprofit management. He previously worked for the American Heart Association, Massachusetts Association for 766 Approved Private Schools, Sierra Club, and The Partnership to Reduce Cancer in Rhode Island. He also has experience working in state government on health and environmental policy and has worked on multiple Presidential races and state office election campaigns. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Economics with a minor in Public Relations from the University of Hartford and a Master of Public Affairs from the John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston. He is also a Certified Association Executive by the American Society of Association Executives.



Marcy L. Reed

President, Massachusetts

[National Grid](#)

Marcy L. Reed is President of National Grid in Massachusetts where she is responsible for the gas and electric business and manages relationships with regulators, government officials and the communities National Grid serves. Marcy joined National Grid over 25 years ago and has held various positions in finance, merger integration, and corporate affairs. She also spent 3 years living in London as the National Grid Head of Investor Relations.

Marcy sits on the Boards of Blue Cross Blue Shield Massachusetts, Northeastern University, the Massachusetts Business Roundtable, the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, The Partnership, and the New England Council. She is the global executive sponsor for National Grid's Women in Networks employee affinity group.

Marcy is a graduate of Dartmouth College and holds a Masters degree from Northeastern University. Married with two children, she lives in Concord, MA.



Donna M. Sams
Partner
[Centered Change, LLC](#)

Donna Sams has over 25 years of organization development, change management and operations experience in several industries, including: health care, retail, high tech/information management, and public sector. She has been in operations management, senior staff, and executive positions. And has held large program management assignments. Donna is recognized for effectively developing strong leaders and successfully executing change to improve performance and results. While pursuing her career, Donna has volunteered her time and expertise to address issues such as diabetes, childhood literacy, heart disease, and women representation in the field of technology, to name a few. She has been a requested speaker at numerous conferences and meetings. She has served on several non-profit boards and received several recognitions and awards. Most recently, she was appointed to the Rhode Island Commerce Board, enthusiastically being part of the execution of plans for revitalization and economic development in Rhode Island.



Vicki L. Sebell
Executive Director
[Home Care & Hospice Alliance of Maine](#)

Since 1997, Vicki Sebell has served as the Executive Director of the Home Care & Hospice Alliance of Maine, a statewide trade association representing home health care and hospice providers. In her role as Executive Director, Vicki is intensely involved in regulatory, legislative and public policy issues both in Maine and at the federal level. The mission of the Alliance is to offer a unified and informed voice in support of affordable, accessible, quality home care and hospice services throughout the State of Maine.



Dr. Susan B. Sepples
Associate Professor of Nursing
[University of Southern Maine](#)

Dr. Susan B. Sepples is an Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Southern Maine in Portland, Maine. Susan has been on the faculty at USM since 1996, from 2006-2009 she served as Director and Chief Academic Officer for the School. Susan received a BSN from Duke University, and a Masters in Pulmonary Critical Care Nursing and a PhD from the University of Virginia. Susan continues to practice at the bedside in a general medical surgical intensive care unit at Maine Medical Center and in the community at a nurse run clinic for the working poor in Portland. Susan was a founding member of the Maine Partners in Nursing Education and Practice and is a Hanley Leadership Fellow. Susan's research is on nursing workforce issues in Maine. Susan is a long time executive board member at Maine Health at Home (formerly Home Health Visiting Nurses).



Barbara Silver, PhD

Research Director, Schmidt Labor Research Center

[University of Rhode Island](#)

Barb Silver, Ph.D. is a Research Professor of Psychology and the Research Director at the Labor Research Center at the University of Rhode Island, which focuses on all aspects of work and employment. From 2003-2009, she directed the URI NSF ADVANCE Institutional Transformation program, overseeing initiatives to recruit and promote the careers of women in science and technology, including the balancing of work and family. Her research, policy, and program work focuses on the intersections of gender, work, and family. She is currently conducting research evaluating the impact of Rhode Island's recent paid family leave legislation, promoting paid leave outreach initiatives, and evaluating the needs of pregnant and parenting students. She presents and serves as outside consultant and workshop facilitator on issues of work-life, faculty mentoring, gender equity, and diversity.



Kristin Smith

Family Demographer & Professor of Sociology

[Carsey School of Public Policy and Research Associate](#) & [University of New Hampshire](#)

Kristin Smith is a family demographer at the Carsey School of Public Policy and Research Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of New Hampshire. She also is a Visiting Associate Professor at Dartmouth College teaching *Gender, Work, and Family* and *Social Problems* in the Sociology Department. Her research explores women and work, shifting gender roles, workplace flexibility, and work and family policy. She is co-editor of *Economic Restructuring and Family Wellbeing in Rural America*. Her research has been published in academic journals, including *American Sociological Review*, *Demography*, *Monthly Labor Review*, *Social Science Research*, *Family Relations*, in book chapters, and has also been reported in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Boston Globe*, and numerous online and local media outlets, and she has appeared on National Public Radio.



Senator Karen E. Spilka

State Senator, Senate Committee on Ways and Means Chair

[Massachusetts Senate](#)

Senator Karen E. Spilka is the State Senator for the 2nd Middlesex and Norfolk district, which includes the towns of Ashland, Framingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopkinton, Medway and Natick in the MetroWest region of Massachusetts. She serves as the Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, the committee that oversees the budget and finances of the Commonwealth. She also chairs the Biotech Legislative Caucus and the Tech Hub Caucus. Senator Spilka's legislative accomplishments include efforts in a broad range of areas including economic development, jobs creation, education, juvenile justice and services for the elderly and disabled communities.

Senator Spilka is a graduate of Northeastern Law School and holds a B.S. from Cornell University. She has been married for over thirty years to Joel S. Loitherstein, an environmental engineer, and has three children and one dog.



Tejal Tarro
Partner
[Centered Change, LLC](#)

Tejal Tarro is the founding partner of Centered Change, LLC, a change leadership consultancy firm based in Rhode Island. She is also the Chair of the Rhode Island Commission on Women and Girls.

Tejal has over 20 years of organization development, change management and business consulting experience in several industries, including: health care, retail, manufacturing and high tech/information management. Tejal is mostly recognized for her ability to creatively facilitate teams of leaders in strategic planning, team building, leadership development and culture shifting that supports desired results.

While pursuing her career, Tejal has volunteered her time and expertise to affect change for women. Her most recent efforts include rebuilding the commission to be able to amplify and accelerate policy, education and programming efforts across the state. She is also leading a project designed to challenge organizations to commit to taking actions that advance the status of women.

Julio A. Thompson
Director, Civil Rights Unit
[Office of the Vermont Attorney General](#)

Julio Thompson is an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Vermont and Director of the Attorney General's Civil Rights Unit, which enforces Vermont's laws regarding employment discrimination, fair employment practices, and hate crimes. Julio has been practicing in the areas of employment, labor, and civil rights law since 1991, and spent his first 15 years of practice in Los Angeles before moving to Vermont.



Patti Tototzintle
Chief Executive Officer & Representative
[Casa de Esperanza](#) & [LatinasRepresent](#)

Patti Tototzintle is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Casa de Esperanza, a national Latina organization with a mission to mobilize Latinas and Latin@ communities to end domestic violence. In Minnesota, direct service and community engagement initiatives provide family advocacy services and support for Latinas and families, as well as, leadership development training for youth and adults, who in turn develop community action projects and campaigns that benefit Latin@ communities. Nationally, the National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities (NLN) provides training and technical assistance to organizations, conducts research, and leads public policy initiatives that positively impact Latin@ families. Casa de Esperanza is a member of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHCLA) comprised of 40 leading national Latin@ organizations. Patti co-chairs the Latina Task Force, which focuses on the NHCLA's commitment to gender equity and also supports LatinasRepresent, an initiative addressing the lack of Latinas in public office.



Carolyn M. Treiss, J.D., M.S.W

President,

[Permanent Commission on the Status of Women in Connecticut, Inc](#)

Carolyn M. Treiss most recently served as executive director of the former Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW), which after forty-three years of advocating specifically for the needs of Connecticut's women and girls, was eliminated in the FY 2017 state budget. In response, Treiss, along with several former PCSW Commissioners and staff, launched a new non-profit, the Permanent Commission on the Status Women in Connecticut, Inc. to carry on the work and the legacy of the former state agency. Treiss serves as President of the board of directors. Prior to her work for the PCSW, Treiss served as policy director for the Connecticut Senate Democratic Caucus, legislative program manager for the Department of Social Services, chief of staff at the state Office of Health Care Access, and executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice CT. Most recently, she consulted with Fairfield County's Community Foundation Fund for Women and Girls through a leadership transition.

Erin Vilardi

Founder & CEO

[VoteRunLead](#)

Erin Vilardi is the Founder and Director of VoteRunLead, a national organization leveraging technology and training to accelerate the number of women in civic and political leadership. She first launched VRL as Vice President of Program and Communications at The White House Project, establishing the largest national political training program readying women for public office and civic life, training over 15,000 women. She has worked with a diverse range of clients including Fortune 100 companies, global girls' initiatives and the U.S. Department of State, reaching women leaders in a dozen international cities. She is an Executive Producer of Ann Richards' Texas, a documentary about the late pioneering governor. She has appeared on CNN, BBC, and Fox News and her work was featured in O, The Oprah Magazine as well as numerous international and domestic articles on women and leadership



Dawn Oliver Wiand

Executive Director

[Iowa Women's Foundation](#)

Originally from Des Moines, IA, Dawn Oliver Wiand is a graduate from the University of Iowa and returned to Iowa City after 30 years in Kansas City. She joined the Iowa Women's Foundation as Executive Director in February 2013 after serving as Executive Director for the Women's Foundation of Greater Kansas City.

Dawn hold a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work and has worked in the nonprofit field for more than 34 years as a volunteer and professional. She spent the first 15 years in the public housing field, providing direct services, and then moved into nonprofit management, focusing on fundraising and ultimately providing vision, leadership and management to two women's funds.

She truly believes that "improving the lives of women and girls is a must, not only for our families but our communities and, ultimately, our country!"



Amy M. Zucchero

Chief of Resource Development and Communications

[IGNITE](#)

Amy Zucchero has over fifteen years of experience championing women's rights. She currently serves as Chief of Resource Development and Communications for IGNITE, a non-profit that builds political ambition in young women. Amy has been instrumental in shifting IGNITE from a state based organization to a nationally recognized entity that inspires hundreds of thousands of young women to own their fair share of political power. Prior to IGNITE, she was a founding staff member at The Representation Project where she spearheaded the efforts to raise significant funding and national attention to challenge the media's portrayal of women and girls. Amy spent seven years with the Women's Funding Network, a global association of foundations investing in women-led solutions. Amy received her BA from University of California Santa Barbara and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.