



Meet Our Presenters



Jeff Abramowitz, Chief Executive Officer, The Petey Greene Program

Jeffrey Abramowitz, J.D is the CEO of the Petey Greene Program. Jeff previously served as Executive Director of Justice Partnerships for JEVS Human Services and Executive Director of Reentry Services. Jeff is the founder of the Looking Forward Philadelphia Reentry Program. Jeff is also the Founder/President of Looking Forward Community Engagement Partnership, and the founder of the National Workforce Opportunity Network, a fully integrated workforce development and career placement agency. Jeff is a 2017-2018 JustleadershipUSA Leading With Conviction Fellow.



Jeff Arnott, Chief Executive Officer, Lot 12 Education

Award-winning educational leader and consultant with over 20 years of experience in adult, alternative, and career education. I hold a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Education degree from the University of South Florida.

As the President and CEO of Lot 12 Education, I provide full-service consulting services to schools, districts, and organizations that want to improve their CTE, family literacy, apprenticeship, school marketing, and adult and alternative education programs. I also teach intro to education courses at Indian River State College, where I was named the Adjunct Professor of the Year for the College of Education in 2020. My mission is to help learners of all ages and backgrounds achieve their academic and career goals, and to make a positive impact on the education system and society.



Sharon Bonney, COABE

Sharon Bonney began her career with COABE as a part-time administrator in 2009, moving up in the organization as she showed an unparalleled commitment to the field of adult education. Sharon has helped advance the organization on a number of fronts, including managing efforts to move it from a 1,300 member group in 2009 to 40,000 active members in 2022. She was the guiding force behind designing and implementing a new national conference model, developing new state, national, and workforce partnerships with more than 100 organizations, rebranding the COABE research journal and a related research-to-practice initiative, and designing all new professional development offerings, including webinars that have engaged more than 50,000 participants. Bonney spearheaded the development of the internationally acclaimed, six-time award-winning Educate and Elevate public awareness campaign, which brought much-needed visibility to the value of adult education and prompted more than 250,000 contacts with legislators at the local, state, and federal levels. These efforts staved off \$200 million in funding cuts and added a \$108 million increase in funding for adult education. In addition, Bonney successfully promoted a national two-time award winning campaign, Move Ahead with Adult Ed, to increase enrollments in local adult education programs that were hard hit by the pandemic. Moreover, she has diversified and increased revenue streams for the organization by envisioning, designing, and implementing many innovative strategies.



Patrick Brown, Nonprofit Education Leader

Patrick Brown formerly served as the award winning Executive Director of the Michigan Adult, Community and Alternative Education (MACAE) Association, the leading professional organization in the state of Michigan for individuals working in these fields. In that role he led the professional development resources, advocacy initiatives and networking of the association. Patrick has held various positions in the education and nonprofit sectors including serving in Adult Basic Education at the Dominican Literacy Center in Detroit. He served at the Okemos ESL Program as the Program Specialist for two years.



Terence Freeman, Miller Electric

Terrance Freeman is a dynamic leader with a diverse and accomplished background in both public service and community development. Currently serving as the Senior Project Manager of Strategic Initiatives and Talent/Workforce Development at Miller Electric, he brings a wealth of experience and dedication to his role.



Amber Gallup, Adult Education Director at New Mexico Higher Education Department and Subject Matter Expert for Center of Excellence-Center of Excellence in Apprenticeships

I have 25 years of experience in teaching, training, instructional design, and Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL) in workforce contexts. As a consultant, my diverse clientele included labor-management training partnerships, labor unions, government agencies, colleges and universities, private businesses, and non-profits. As state Adult Education Director, my vision includes the development of a statewide professional development system for our hardworking teachers and administrators, encouraging efforts that support the whole learner (not only as a worker, but also as a member of a family and a community), and raising awareness of all the high-quality services that our programs offer to New Mexican adult learners.



Karyn Goven, Director Workforce Development, MiWealth

Karyn, COABE's Workforce Development Chair, has been involved for more than 20 years in many facets of educational leadership, from instruction and curriculum design to administrative governance positions throughout adult and community education. Working with the state, she created nine Learning Labs in Detroit to support individuals who want to improve their education and transition to employment or training.

As director of Workforce Development in Southwest Detroit, Karyn supervises an adult education Learning Lab, an American Jobs Center, an Earn + Learn training program, a Center for Working Family financial education program, and youth programs. Her primary responsibility and leadership goal is to ensure that all program managers and programs meet grant requirements, participate in regional committees, market new training and education programs, create partnerships, and adhere to budgets. Karyn is actively involved in state and national organizations, including the Michigan Association of Community and Adult Educators (MACAE), Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE), Reading Works, Detroit Workforce Leadership Academy, MiTESOL AE, and an alternative high school. She has presented at numerous state and national conferences showcasing best practices and innovative programs. Karyn's leadership vision is one that focuses on building collaborative systems that support learners with different access points, increased opportunities, and community investment.



Anson Green, Senior Executive, Tyson Food, Upward Academy

I've worked passionately for over 20 years to develop and implement pioneering education and workforce development solutions first for the San Antonio area, then for Texas, and now nationally for Tyson Foods. I thrive in the relentless pursuit of challenging misaligned educational perspectives to best support employers and our diverse communities in attaining economic prosperity. I strive to ensure that public investments bring the greatest value for taxpayers. My multi-sector experience in workforce development, adult education, community colleges, and services to immigrants and refugees has resulted in a career of building solutions for employers and jobseekers that connect education and training to employment and economic growth. This work has resulted in years of demonstrated policy and program development with local, state, federal, and business leaders. My experience is evidenced by lasting solutions that connect education and training to employment and economic growth. My early years of direct classroom experience, preparing students in a workforce center on San Antonio's Westside who were transitioning off welfare for the GED and jobs, grounds me in my continued work developing paths to economic prosperity for high-risk populations. This work has resulted in years of successful policy and program development with local and state leaders as well as enhancements to recent regulations of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.



Chrissie Klinger, Education Professional, Penn State University

Chrissie Klinger, M. Ed. is an education professional with over 20 years of experience working in K-12 and adult education as a volunteer tutor, classroom teacher, program administrator, trainer, and on-line course facilitator. In her current role as a Workforce Development Director at the Institute of Adult Literacy at Penn State University, Klinger oversees two technical assistance projects that provide support and training to adult education programs across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the areas of career pathways, workforce preparation skills, student supportive services, corrections education, reentry services, and working effectively with workforce partners. Additionally, she serves as a LINCS moderator for the Career Pathways Community, has been a facilitator for IET Design Camp and IET in Corrections, has articles published in multiple COABE journals, and is a National Coalition for Literacy board member.

She earned a master's degree from Penn State University in Learning, Design, and Technology and has two graduate certificates: Educational Technology Integration and eLearning Design. Klinger is certified through the Department of Corrections as an Offender Workforce Development Specialist and is a Certified Global Career Development Facilitator.



Michelle Perry, Senior Technical Assistance Consultant, American Institutes for Research

Michelle Perry is a Senior Technical Assistance Consultant in the Human Services Division at the American Institutes for Research (AIR). She currently serves as the LINCS Community lead, task lead for Expanding IET Opportunities for Adult Learners project, and project manager for the National Reporting System for Adult Education, all projects under the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education. Ms. Perry has over 18 years' experience in training and technical assistance, and project management with a focus on virtual learning communities and integration of web-based learning tools for both K-12 and adult education.



Clare Vanderpool, Registered Apprenticeship Subject Matter Expert, Safal·Center of Excellence in Apprenticeships

- Provide expert-level guidance, strategy and support to clients in designing, implementing and expanding high-quality, sustainable Registered Apprenticeship programs
 - Analyze client program needs, develop technical assistance and training recommendations, and develop content to support clients, partners and apprenticeship system stakeholders
 - Conduct research and analysis to inform development of effective Registered Apprenticeship programs and technical assistance materials and training
 - Utilize technology and software tools including Microsoft Suite to develop program materials, including technical assistance proposals, reports, guides, toolkits, fact sheets, tip sheets, and presentations
 - Facilitate or support in-person, virtual, or hybrid training/meetings as needed
- Provide ongoing program management and support to ensure the success of Registered Apprenticeship programs