

TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2025

Rural Economic Development Summit:
**Health Ecosystems
and Workforce Pipelines**



Agenda

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

8:30 a.m.–9:00 a.m. **Networking Breakfast**

9:00 a.m.–9:05 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks**

Philip Jones, Community Engagement Associate, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

9:05 a.m.–9:15 a.m. **Opening Remarks**

Theresa Y. Singleton, Senior Vice President and Community Affairs Officer, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

9:15 a.m.–9:25 a.m. **Framing Remarks**

Valerie A. Arkoosh, Secretary of Human Services, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

9:25 a.m.–10:15 a.m. **OPENING PLENARY: The Economic Case for Rural Healthcare**

Panelists will highlight the economic imperative of maintaining and improving rural health services to support residents, attract businesses, grow populations, and provide economic opportunity to rural residents.

FRAMING REMARKS: Lisa Davis, Director, Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health

- Micah J. Gursky, Rural Health Clinic Administrator and Director of Business Development and Government Relations, St. Luke's University Health Network
- Joanna Hart, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Medical Ethics and Health Policy, University of Pennsylvania
- Carolyn Boser Newhouse, Executive Director, Bradford Area Alliance
- **MODERATOR:** Lisa Davis, Director, Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health

10:15 a.m.–11:00 a.m. **PLENARY: Data to Guide Rural Healthcare Development**

What data sources can rural regions rely on and leverage to strengthen rural health institutions and the role they play in the economies of their regions? Presenters will share data on the community and economic impacts of health systems in Pennsylvania.

- Deborah Diamond, Director, Anchor Economy Initiative, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia
- Tyler Malone, Principal Investigator and Research Fellow, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Alvaro Sánchez, Quantitative Research Analysis Specialist, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

11:00 a.m.–11:10 a.m. **Break**

11:10 a.m.–12:10 p.m. **Respondents' Panel: Rural Health and Innovative Financing**

Brad Fulton of Indiana University Bloomington will showcase the Philanthropy Desert Dashboard as a tool that can be leveraged to inform strategic conversations in rural communities to support investment in rural health initiatives. Other panelists will reflect on using data from this tool to incorporate rural health into economic development strategies and share insights about challenges and opportunities that have impacted rural health innovations.

- Jesse Ergott, Chief Advancement Officer, AllOne Foundation & Charities
- Brad Fulton, Professor of Management, Data Science, and Philanthropy, Indiana University Bloomington
- Brian Haapala, CEO, Stroudwater Capital Partners
- Kim Barber Tieman, Vice President and Program Director for Health and Human Services, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation
- **MODERATOR:** Andrew Dumont, Lead Community Development Analyst, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

12:10 p.m.–12:55 p.m. **Networking Lunch**

12:55 p.m.–1:20 p.m. **Keynote Remarks**

Anthony F. Pipa, Senior Fellow, Center for Sustainable Development, Brookings Institution

1:20 p.m.–1:30 p.m. **Break**

1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions to Highlight Workforce and Rural Healthcare Delivery Strategies**

SESSION 1: Driving Rural Prosperity Through Innovative Healthcare Delivery

How have rural communities created innovative solutions to the closures and consolidations of rural hospitals? This panel will explore the critical role community and federally qualified healthcare centers play in promoting maximum employment in rural communities by increasing access to care and improving population health.

- George Garrow, CEO, Primary Health Network
- Shelley Riser, President and CEO, Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers
- Linda Thomas-Hemak, President and CEO, The Wright Center for Community Health
- **MODERATOR:** Kyle C. Kopko, Executive Director, Center for Rural Pennsylvania

SESSION 2: Healthcare Employers Providing Pathways to Upward Mobility

Hospitals are often the largest employers in rural communities and provide pathways to quality jobs for residents. What are some of the best practices that hospitals and communities employ to center opportunity and economic mobility as they build their workforces and support labor force participation for local businesses?

- Patricia Bricker, Program Manager, Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center, Penn State College of Medicine
- Eric Dunker, Chief Growth Officer and Founding Executive Director, National Center for the Apprenticeship Degree, Reach University
- Mark B. Stephens, Professor and Associate Dean for Medical Education, The Pennsylvania State University
- **MODERATOR:** Arthur L. Kellermann, Senior Advisor, Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority

2:30 p.m.–2:40 p.m.

Break

2:40 p.m.–3:40 p.m.

Rural Healthcare and Employment Panel: What Can Be Done in Rural Pennsylvania? The Power of Partnership

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Regional Rural Health Summits are focused on convening local stakeholders around healthcare delivery system reform and actions that are specific to their local needs and priorities. The goal is to catalyze a regional approach to community engagement and partnership that aligns the many existing resources and creates the collaborations, support, and health workforce pipeline needed for long-term rural healthcare sustainability and economic revitalization.

- Miko Rose, Professor and Founding Dean of the Proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- John Roth, CEO, Broad Top Area Medical Center
- Nicole Stallings, President and CEO, The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania
- Michelle Thompson, Chief Education Officer and Vice Dean for Graduate Medical Education, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine
- **MODERATOR:** Karin Verlaine Rhodes, Special Advisor, Department of Human Services, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

3:40 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Philip Jones, Community Engagement Associate, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Biographies



Valerie A. Arkoosh

Secretary of Human Services
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Valerie A. Arkoosh was appointed as the secretary of Human Services for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by Governor Josh Shapiro on January 17, 2023, and took office on June 29, 2023. Before this role, Arkoosh had served on the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners since January 2015, when she was appointed to fill a vacancy on the commission. She won election to a full term in November 2015 and served as commission vice chair until her election as commission chair in November 2016. She was the first woman ever to serve in this role. Arkoosh was re-elected in November 2019 and unanimously chosen by her colleagues to again serve as chair in January 2020. As chair, she was committed to strengthening services for children, veterans, and seniors. Recognizing the need for a strong, supported workforce in executing these goals, she instituted a \$15 minimum wage and gender-neutral paid parental leave for Montgomery County employees. Drawing on her background as a physician, she also oversaw the county's response to the opioid overdose epidemic. As a physician and public health professional, Arkoosh was at the center of Montgomery County's efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. She is also a staunch advocate for maternal health and reproductive rights and previously served on the Pennsylvania Maternal Mortality Review Committee.

In 2007, Arkoosh became deeply engaged in the national effort to achieve comprehensive healthcare reform. She led the National Physicians Alliance, a national nonprofit organization of physicians who joined a broad-based nationwide coalition for reform. During this time, she developed policy and legislative strategy and promoted public engagement in Washington, DC, Pennsylvania, and throughout the country. Before her public service, she was a professor of clinical anesthesiology and clinical obstetrics and gynecology at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

Arkoosh is a graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Medicine and has a master of public health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She performed her residency at Jefferson Medical College in anesthesiology with a special focus in obstetrics. She has an undergraduate degree in economics from Northwestern University.



Patricia Bricker

Program Manager, Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center
Penn State College of Medicine

Patricia (Pat) Bricker is a program manager at the Program Office of the Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center, or AHEC, based at the Penn State College of Medicine. She supports workforce development and recruitment and retention of health professionals in rural and underserved areas of Pennsylvania through health careers pathway programs, student and resident clinical rotations, community health worker training, and continuing

education programs. Previously, Bricker coordinated research and outreach grants related to the patient-centered medical home and primary care practice transformation at Penn State. She also worked in communications for the Pennsylvania Medical Society and The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania and in member relations and practice advocacy for the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians.



Lisa Davis

Director

Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health

Lisa Davis is the director of the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health and is an outreach associate professor of health policy and administration at Penn State University Park. As the director, she ensures that the state office exceeds its federal mission of being a source of networking, coordination, and technical assistance to advance rural healthcare delivery. On national, state, and university levels, Davis is on a wide range of boards of directors, advisory committees, and task forces focused on rural health policy, rural health research, economic development, outreach and education, health disparities, and vulnerable populations. She has received state and national awards for rural service, rural health leadership, and health equity. The Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health received the Award of Merit and the Award of Excellence from the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health.



Deborah Diamond

Director, Anchor Economy Initiative

Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Deborah Diamond is the director of the Anchor Economy Initiative at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, helping the expansive educational and medical sectors of the Third District leverage their talent and resources to build a thriving regional economy. Before joining the Bank, she led Campus Philly, an economic development nonprofit that pioneered a now national model for engaging and retaining recent graduates in the cities where they studied. In this work, Diamond developed skills in connecting higher education partners with current employment needs and trends, and she has experience in helping regional colleges and universities collaborate effectively. She also built a 50-city national learning network called Young Smart and Local, dedicated to sharing best practices and successful strategies for talent cultivation and retention. Her work spans communities across the United States and has allowed her to gain unique insights into the needs of diverse employers and universities in sustaining local economies. Diamond has a doctorate in political science from the University of Chicago, followed by a Mellon postdoctoral fellowship in the Society of Fellows at Columbia University. She has taught at Bryn Mawr College, from which she has an undergraduate degree.



Andrew Dumont

Lead Community Development Analyst
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Andrew Dumont is a lead community development analyst at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, where he leads the Board's work on rural development, affordable housing, and other place-conscious community and economic development topics. Before joining the Board, Dumont worked at Pathway Lending, a community development financial institution in Tennessee, where he was a program specialist structuring and underwriting small business loans to further the organization's economic development priorities. Dumont has a master of public policy from The George Washington University and a bachelor of science in business administration from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and he is a certified public accountant.



Eric Dunker

Chief Growth Officer and Founding Executive Director, National Center for the Apprenticeship Degree
Reach University

Eric Dunker is the chief growth officer and founding executive director for Reach University's National Center for the Apprenticeship Degree (NCAD). He leads NCAD's engagement with intermediaries, postsecondary education institutions, employers, K-12 schools, and state/federal agencies. He has 20 years of experience in creating program models for higher education and employers and has experience implementing apprenticeships with organizations such as CommonSpirit Health, Hospital Corporation of America, Lockheed Martin, and Mercy Health Systems. While Dunker was a vice president of workforce and economic development at Arapahoe Community College, he raised over \$30 million in grants and philanthropy and led the formation and launch of two award-winning, career-connected learning campuses that spanned high school, postsecondary, and employer partnerships.



Jesse Ergott

Chief Advancement Officer
AllOne Foundation & Charities

Jesse Ergott is the chief advancement officer for AllOne Foundation & Charities (AOF&C), two affiliated organizations with a shared mission of improving health and well-being across a 13-county region in northeastern and North Central Pennsylvania. In this role, he is responsible for all aspects of AOF&C's mission advancement, including internal operations, philanthropic investment strategy, and resource and partnership development activities. Before joining AOF&C, Ergott was president and CEO of NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania

(NeighborWorks) for 17 years, focusing his efforts on promoting homeownership and quality housing as key tools for increasing the financial stability of families, helping seniors to age in their homes with dignity, and strengthening northeastern Pennsylvania neighborhoods. Under his leadership, NeighborWorks experienced organizational and programmatic growth and became a regional, statewide, and national voice in the housing and community development space. Earlier in his career, Ergott was the chief operations officer for the Lackawanna Heritage Valley National and State Heritage Area, where he was responsible for the administration and oversight of the organization's programs, projects, and day-to-day operations. In addition to his role at AOF&C, Ergott is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Scranton's Kania School of Management, where he codirects the university's Nonprofit Leadership Certificate Program. He is also on several boards, including those of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Nonprofit & Community Assistance Center, the Scranton Lackawanna Industrial Building Company, and the Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce. He is the past board president of the National NeighborWorks Association and is on the advisory council for the Ignatian Volunteer Corps of Northeastern Pennsylvania. He was named the National NeighborWorks Association's National Emerging Leader of the Year and was previously recognized as a "Top 20 Under 40" professional by the *Northeast Business Journal*. Ergott has a degree from Bloomsburg University and is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School's Achieving Excellence in Community Development Program.



Brad Fulton

Professor of Management, Data Science, and Philanthropy
Indiana University Bloomington

Brad Fulton is a professor of management, data science, and philanthropy at Indiana University Bloomington. His research examines the social, political, and economic impact of community-based organizations. Fulton leads Project 990, which is analyzing data on over 1 million nonprofit organizations to construct a foundation-grantee network of the entire U.S. nonprofit sector. He coleads the Observing Civic Engagement project — a field study that uses a data collection technique known as *systematic social observation* to analyze the internal dynamics of organizations. He also codirects the National Study of Congregations' Economic Practices, which analyzes how congregations receive, manage, and spend their financial resources. Fulton is the coauthor of the award-winning book, *A Shared Future*, and the forthcoming book, *Bridging Social Divides*. His research has received awards from academic associations spanning six disciplines and is regularly covered by media outlets including the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and NPR. Fulton has been a fellow with the Aspen Institute, an academic research partner for GivingTuesday, and an academic ambassador for Tableau. He also hosts the *Statistics Made Simple* podcast. Fulton is the founder and CEO of Smart Charity, a tech startup that is using data science to advance philanthropic grantmaking and grantseeking.



George Garrow

CEO

Primary Health Network

George Garrow has been the CEO of Primary Health Network since June 2022. He has been working to help address the clinical and social needs of the patients and communities served by Primary Health Network, a Federally Qualified Health Center, since he joined in March 2016 as chief medical officer. He remains focused on overcoming health disparities that have led to a disproportionate impact among vulnerable groups within rural communities. Garrow was a member of the faculty at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and the University of Rochester Medical Center. He achieved board certification in internal medicine, medical oncology, and hospice and palliative medicine. He is a proud recipient of a 2023 Alumni Fellow Award from The Pennsylvania State University, and he was recognized as the 2023 Rural Health Hero by the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health. In 2024, he received the Community Star Award from the National Office of Rural Health. Garrow has a medical degree from The Pennsylvania State University's College of Medicine and an undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He completed an internal medicine residency and chief residency at Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center and a medical oncology fellowship at Vanderbilt University, where he was honored as an American Cancer Society fellow.



Micah J. Gursky

Rural Health Clinic Administrator and Director of Business Development and Government Relations

St. Luke's University Health Network

Micah J. Gursky is the rural health clinic administrator and director of business development and government relations for the St. Luke's Miners Campus of St. Luke's University Health Network. The rural health clinics were named Pennsylvania's 2016 Rural Health Program of the Year by the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health and the 2018 Outstanding Rural Health Organization by the National Rural Health Association. Gursky was on the board of Star Community Health, Inc. and was a member of the Tamaqua Borough Council from 2000 to 2003 and from 2006 to 2017, including eight years as president. He was named Pennsylvania's Council Person of the Year in 2016 by the State Association of Boroughs. Since 1995, he has been executive director of the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership (TACP), a comprehensive community development organization, working on historic preservation, heritage and eco-tourism, downtown revitalization, arts and culture, recreation, and more. He was also on FHLBank Pittsburgh's Affordable Housing Advisory Council and chaired the Sexual Assault Resource and Counseling Center of Lebanon and Schuylkill counties. He is currently on the Pennsylvania Development & Management Corporation of the Carbon County Housing Authority. Previously, Gursky worked for Pennsylvania State Representative (now Senator) Dave Argall from 1997 to 2007 before leaving state service to join St. Luke's Hospital. During that time, he worked as a legislative aide in the district as well as for the Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution Control & Conservation Committee, the State House Urban Affairs Committee, and the State House Appropriations Committee. Gursky graduated cum laude from Princeton University.



Brian Haapala

CEO

Stroudwater Capital Partners

Brian Haapala is the CEO of Stroudwater Capital Partners and has served as an advisor to health executives for over two decades, focused on developing sustainable healthcare systems in rural communities. In his current role, Haapala works to create innovative solutions to bridge the funding gap in underserved communities. He has made it his mission to ensure rural healthcare providers have the resources they need to thrive. Drawing on over 25 years of experience as an advisor and investment banker, Haapala has guided rural health systems through the complexities of capital investment, enabling them to deliver critical care. His expertise has directly contributed to the planning and financing of over \$1.5 billion in rural healthcare projects, creating lasting impacts in countless communities. Haapala combines his industry knowledge with a drive to support the leaders who sustain rural healthcare, working to improve access to capital and to empower healthcare providers to reimagine what's possible for the communities they serve. He has a master's degree in health services administration from the University of Michigan.



Joanna Hart

Assistant Professor of Medicine and Medical Ethics and Health Policy

University of Pennsylvania

Joanna Hart is a tenure-track assistant professor of medicine and medical ethics and health policy at the University of Pennsylvania and a practicing pulmonary and critical care physician both at Penn Medicine and Philadelphia's Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Her National Institutes of Health-funded research portfolio focuses on improving the lives of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, a disease that disproportionately affects those living in rural areas. She is the lead of Penn's Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics Rural Health and Policy Research working group. This group, founded in 2019 by Hart, works to improve the rural responsiveness of research at Penn and collaborate with partners to learn from and contribute to science benefiting rural communities.



Philip Jones

Community Engagement Associate

Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Philip Jones is a community engagement associate in the Philadelphia Fed's Community Development and Regional Outreach Department. He focuses on building and supporting cross-sector partnerships to advance equitable solutions to a region or community's economic challenges. Jones is passionate about ensuring that residents have access to safe and affordable homes. Before joining the Bank, he worked for the Fair Housing Rights Center

in southeastern Pennsylvania, where he advocated for equal access to housing opportunities for all people. It was there that he learned about the inequities that exist in securing credit or home loans in marginalized communities and how building awareness of available programs and services within these communities is key to helping to address these challenges. Through his work as the director of legislative affairs for Pennsylvania State Representative Stephen Kinsey, Jones also gained experience building relationships and working with leaders and community partners across the state to address key issues. He organized the first-ever legislative policy hearing at a Pennsylvania state correctional facility focused on the social benefits and economic advantages of granting compassionate release of the geriatric incarcerated population. Jones has a B.A. in political science and international relations from Albright College.



Arthur L. Kellermann

Senior Advisor

Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority

Arthur L. Kellermann is a national healthcare leader with expertise in academic emergency medicine, public health, military medicine, and health policy. He currently advises the Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority, the American Red Cross, and three health technology startups, and he also writes occasional commentaries for Forbes.com. Previously, he was senior vice president for health sciences at Virginia Commonwealth University and CEO of VCU Health System. Before that, Kellermann was dean of the School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and cochaired its Committee on the Consequences of Uninsurance, which issued six reports between 2001 and 2004.



Kyle C. Kopko

Executive Director

Center for Rural Pennsylvania

Kyle C. Kopko is the executive director of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania. He joined the Center in July 2020. Before joining the Center, Kopko served as associate dean of institutional effectiveness, research, and planning and associate professor of political science at Elizabethtown College. Kopko has authored or coauthored more than 50 publications, including two university press books. His research has received national and international media attention in outlets such as the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, CNN, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and Fox News Channel. Kopko has a law degree from the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law; a Ph.D. and an M.A., both in political science, from The Ohio State University; and a B.A. in political science from Elizabethtown College.



Tyler Malone

Principal Investigator and Research Fellow, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Tyler Malone is a principal investigator and research fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research. As deputy director of the North Carolina Rural Health Research Program, he specializes in methods from econometrics and biostatistics to analyze the public health of rural communities. His research often uses large administrative datasets to explore questions related to hospital financial distress and rural patient care-seeking behavior.



Carolyn Boser Newhouse

Executive Director
Bradford Area Alliance

Carolyn Boser Newhouse has been the executive director of the Bradford Area Alliance since 2018, leading strategic initiatives to enhance economic viability and resilience. A seasoned entrepreneur, Newhouse has founded multiple businesses. She previously served as the deputy secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, a role appointed by the governor. Before returning to Bradford in 2018 from Washington, DC, Newhouse supported over 200,000 transitioning servicemembers across more than 300 worldwide military installations. She has been on multiple boards, including the Upper Allegheny Health System Board, the Pitt-Bradford Advisory Board, and the boards of Leadership McKean, the North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission, the Northwest Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center, and Team PA Foundation. Newhouse has an executive M.B.A. from the University at Buffalo and a bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford.



Anthony F. Pipa

Senior Fellow, Center for Sustainable Development
Brookings Institution

Anthony (Tony) F. Pipa is a senior fellow in the Center for Sustainable Development at the Brookings Institution. He launched and leads the institution's Reimagining Rural Policy initiative and hosts the *Reimagine Rural* podcast, which features stories about people developing solutions to strengthen the resilience, economic security, and future prospects of their rural towns. He also provides expertise on U.S. global development policy and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Previously, Pipa was chief strategy officer at the

U.S. Agency for International Development and a special envoy at the U.S. Department of State, leading the United States in the SDGs negotiations at the United Nations. He was also the first director of philanthropic services at the Triangle Community Foundation; the founding CEO of the Warner Foundation in Durham, NC; and a founder of the Foundation for Louisiana. Additionally, Pipa is the vice chair of StriveTogether, the chair of the Reimagining Rural Assistance Network, a board member at Lead for America, and a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond's Rural Investment Collaborative, and he has roles on other advisory councils and boards related to economic mobility. Pipa has a master of public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School, graduated from Duke University, and attended Stanford University.



Karin Verlaine Rhodes

Special Advisor, Department of Human Services
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Karin Verlaine Rhodes is a special advisor to Secretary of Human Services Valerie Arkoosh at the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Human Services, with a focus on rural health. She is an emergency medicine physician and health services researcher with over 30 years of clinical, health system, federal, state, and nonprofit administrative and leadership experience. Before joining the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in September 2024, she was chief implementation officer at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), where she led a strategic plan for AHRQ's Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund investments. A former Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) clinical scholar, Rhodes was promoted on the tenure track in both Emergency Medicine and Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania, where she was inaugural chair of the Center for Emergency Care Policy and Research, leading research teams testing emergency department innovations in screening/intervening for health-related social risks, improving transitions in care, and tracking the impact of Affordable Care Act insurance expansions on access to primary care. As a vice president for care management at Northwell Health, she designed and evaluated innovations to address the complex care needs and social determinants of health of patients across the continuum of care. In Washington, DC, Rhodes served as an RWJF health policy fellow in both the Senate and House, after which she was director of the Division of Public Health for the state of New Mexico. During the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in New York City (NYC), she organized Emergency Medicine All Threats, an informal network of NYC-area emergency medicine leaders seeking to break down silos across competing health systems, share regional knowledge and actionable data, and improve health equity and public health preparedness. In Pennsylvania, Rhodes is hoping to build on these experiences to support rural community engagement and collaborative partnerships, improve access to high-quality whole person care, and grow the rural health workforce pipeline needed for long-term rural healthcare sustainability and economic revitalization.



Shelley Riser

President and CEO

Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers

Shelley Riser is the president and CEO of the Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers (PACHC), a nonprofit membership organization that serves as the primary care association for Pennsylvania's 54 community health centers and look-alike health centers. She is responsible for the overall operation, management, program development, and fiscal control of the association. Riser is an agent of the association and acts as an advocate for the association's members with federal, state, and local policymakers and leaders to ensure members have the resources they require to improve access to primary care for the healthcare safety net in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. She is also the president of the Pennsylvania Health Center Technology Alliance, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of PACHC supporting Pennsylvania health centers in developing and implementing Epic and IT shared services. Riser is a healthcare executive with more than 30 years of experience leading organizations and teams, ensuring organization-wide strategic alignment and the operational excellence of people, processes, and systems and fostering workplaces of accountability, growth, and transparency. She has expertise in leadership, population health, value-based care, behavioral health, data, reporting, and operations. Riser is on several boards, including those for Harrisburg University of Science and Technology, PA Health and Wellness, and Capital Link, among others. She is a registered nurse in Pennsylvania and Delaware and has a master of science in health services administration from the University of St. Francis and a bachelor of science in nursing from the University of Pittsburgh.



Miko Rose

Professor and Founding Dean of the Proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Miko Rose is a professor and founding dean of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania's proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine. She was an associate professor and program director of the Joy Initiative Wellness Program at Michigan State University as well as assistant dean of clinical education, associate professor, and chief of the Division of Psychiatry in the Department of Clinical Medicine at the Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine. She was also an appointed faculty member of the National Board of Medical Examiners. Rose created and taught one of the first formal classes on happiness and joy in medical schools in the nation — offered for almost a decade as a for-credit class at Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine and College of Human Medicine. She received a national academy fellowship award designation as one of the top medical educators in the country, the National American Osteopathic Medical Educator Fellowship Teaching award, which was recently renewed for a 10-year term. In September 2023, the fellows of the American College of Neuropsychiatrists/American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists elected her as a fellow of the American College of Neuropsychiatrists. In 2024, Rose was named one of the 20 People to Know in Health Care in the *Pittsburgh Business Times* and one of Pennsylvania's Fifty Over 50 top leaders by *City & State Pennsylvania*. She is nationally board-certified in psychiatry and neurology, having completed her training at Michigan State University.



John Roth

CEO

Broad Top Area Medical Center

John Roth is the CEO of the Broad Top Area Medical Center (BTAMC). He joined the center in 2017 after a successful 25-year career in emergency medicine and was tasked with opening and directing a walk-in medical clinic at the Walmart Plaza in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. The clinic opened in June 2018, as the first walk-in medical clinic in South Central PA to qualify as a Federally Qualified Health Center. The clinic now sees up to 18,000 annual visits. At the end of 2018, at the recommendation of the departing CEO, the BTAMC board of directors asked Roth to lead the organization as CEO, and he accepted the challenge while continuing to work at the clinic. Under Roth's leadership, BTAMC has doubled in size and now has over 150 employees.



Alvaro Sánchez

Quantitative Research Analysis Specialist

Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Alvaro Sánchez is a quantitative research analysis specialist for the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's Community and Economic Development group. He contributes quantitative and qualitative research focused on benefits cliffs and broadband access. Previously, Sánchez was an analyst at the Philadelphia Fed. Before joining the Federal Reserve System, Sánchez completed a graduate program at the University of Pennsylvania, where he was a public policy fellow in the Office of the Council President with Philadelphia City Council, providing research for city initiatives relating to housing affordability and student debt. Previously, he was a research intern at the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia, an early education policy fellow with the Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity in Philadelphia, and a public policy and analysis intern with the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia. Sánchez has a master's degree in social policy from the University of Pennsylvania and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Temple University.



Theresa Y. Singleton

Senior Vice President and Community Affairs Officer

Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Theresa Y. Singleton is senior vice president of the Community Development and Regional Outreach Department at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and the Bank's community affairs officer. Singleton is responsible for overseeing research and outreach initiatives that promote community development and fair and impartial access to credit. She has guided the creation and implementation of the Economic Growth & Mobility Project. Singleton

also oversees the Bank's Financial Institutions Relations efforts that serve to connect the Reserve Bank with lending institutions across the Third District. Before joining the Bank, she was the director of research and information at the Housing Assistance Council in Washington, DC. In that role, she was responsible for the organization's research and information activities, including oversight of the communications and public relations functions. She also developed and managed the council's research agenda. In addition, she directed and contributed to research and information products that examined demographic trends, assessed policy impacts, and developed recommendations for rural communities. Prior to her work on rural housing issues, Singleton taught undergraduate courses on the American political system at Temple University and Widener University. She has a Ph.D., an M.A., and a B.A. in political science from Temple University.



Nicole Stallings

President and CEO

The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania

Nicole Stallings is president and CEO of The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP), representing more than 230 hospitals and health systems. One of the nation's largest state hospital associations, HAP is Pennsylvania's chief advocate for hospitals and their patients, representing their interests with state and federal leaders, the business community, and other stakeholders. Before joining HAP in June 2023, Stallings worked for nearly 12 years in leadership positions at the Maryland Hospital Association, overseeing government affairs, policy and data analytics, quality, population health, and communications. She worked for five years in Maryland state government, serving as senior policy advisor to two health secretaries and as chief of government affairs and special projects at the Maryland Health Care Commission. Stallings started her career with the New Jersey Hospital Association, working on policy and legislative advocacy. She has a master of public policy with a concentration in healthcare from Rutgers University's Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy and a bachelor's degree in political science from Virginia Tech.



Mark B. Stephens

Professor of Family and Community Medicine, Professor of Humanities, and Associate Dean for Medical Education
The Pennsylvania State University

Mark B. Stephens is a professor of family and community medicine, professor of humanities, and associate dean for medical education at The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine Regional Campus. Before joining the faculty at Penn State, Stephens served for 27 years in the U.S. Navy and was a professor and chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. His professional interests include physician wellness, exercise medicine, rural medicine, and the use of arts/humanities in medical education.



Linda Thomas-Hemak

President and CEO

The Wright Center for Community Health

Linda Thomas-Hemak is president and CEO of The Wright Center for Community Health, a growing network of 13 regional safety net primary care teaching community health centers that serve rural and underserved patients of all ages, income levels, and insurance statuses, and The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education, a Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Safety Net Consortium deliberately designed to address America's primary care physician shortage, maldistribution, and related health, healthcare, and healthcare career access challenges. She is also governor for the Eastern Region of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Physicians. Thomas-Hemak joined The Wright Center in 2001, and she became president in 2007 and CEO in 2012. Concurrent with her executive responsibilities, she is board-certified in internal medicine, pediatrics, obesity medicine, addiction medicine, and nutrition. She has cared for generations of families for 25 years and believes her hands-on clinical experience strengthens her leadership and advocacy. A "Beyond Flexner" Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine founding board member, she devotes her leadership to multiple healthcare and medical education organizations, nonprofit boards, and cross-sector committees and workgroups, advocating for collaborations that advance the health and welfare of local, regional, and national communities. She has received several state and national awards for her leadership, mentorship, and advocacy initiatives. Thomas-Hemak graduated as a Michael DeBakey scholar from Baylor College of Medicine and completed Harvard's combined Internal Medicine/Pediatrics residency program.



Michelle Thompson

Chief Education Officer and Vice Dean for Graduate Medical Education

Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine

Michelle Thompson is the chief education officer and vice dean for graduate medical education at Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine and is the designated institutional official at Geisinger Health System. Thompson has led innovations in medical education curriculum at Geisinger for the last two decades, with an emphasis on advancing the clinical learning environment for students, residents, and faculty. After completing a combined Internal Medicine-Pediatrics residency program at Geisinger, she was chief resident for the Internal Medicine residency and joined the faculty in Pediatrics and Medicine. Thompson has held numerous roles in education, notably working as the residency director for the Internal Medicine-Pediatrics program. She is currently engaged with the AAMC as the chair-elect for the Group on Residency Affairs steering committee. Thompson has secured grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration, Josiah Macy Foundation, and Picker Institute to advance innovation in graduate medical education. She was the 2025 recipient of the ACGME Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award in recognition of her contributions to graduate medical education leadership. She has also been honored with the Dr. Henry P. and M. Paige Laughlin Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching from Temple University School of Medicine, Geisinger Health System House Staff Teaching Award, and the Geisinger

Excellence in Leadership Engagement Survey award. Her current professional interests include advancing rural healthcare through residency development and advancing the interface between clinical healthcare and graduate medical education using data-driven strategies. She has an M.D. from the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and a B.S. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Kim Barber Tieman

Vice President and Program Director for Health and Human Services
Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation

Kim Barber Tieman is the vice president and program director for Health and Human Services at the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. With over 30 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, philanthropy, and public service, she is committed to improving the well-being of West Virginians. Her career includes her past role as the executive director of Volunteer West Virginia, where she oversaw the state's AmeriCorps programs, and 18 years as an adjunct faculty member at West Virginia University's School of Social Work, teaching courses in nonprofit management and social welfare policy. At the Benedum Foundation, Tieman leads initiatives focused on children's health, oral health, chronic disease, and expanding access to preventive care across all 55 counties of West Virginia. She played a role in the foundation's COVID-19 response, coordinating statewide relief efforts and supporting healthcare safety nets. Tieman also actively contributes to numerous boards and committees, including the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, Workforce West Virginia, and the Buckskin Council of Boy Scouts of America. She is also the past president of the National Association of Social Workers – West Virginia Chapter. Tieman's work in community development and health equity has earned her recognition as a 2020 West Virginia Wonder Woman by *WV Living Magazine*. She has a master's degree in social work from West Virginia University and is a licensed social worker in the state.

