

NTI 2019

C Group Presenters – Bios

Marie Arcidiacono Kaufman is a Professor of Communications Studies, Department Chair and Director of Forensics at Los Medanos College. She received her B.A. in Communication with an emphasis in Interpersonal/Organizational Communication and her M.A. in Speech Communication from California State University, East Bay. Marie enjoys talking about any and everything related to Communication Studies. She understands the importance of communication skills on and off the job, and she knows how to reset a tripped breaker!

Lucas R. Aubrey is a partner with Sherman Dunn, P.C., a union-side law firm in Washington, DC. He regularly counsels the firm's clients on collective bargaining negotiations, organizing campaigns, and internal union affairs. He also advises clients regarding the formation and operation of joint apprenticeship training committees and other non-profit organizations. Lucas regularly teaches training classes for international and local union representatives and joint apprenticeship committee members.

Timothy Babb is a Quality, Training and Service leader for Lutron Electronics (1999 to present). Timothy also served in the United States Navy as a Avionics Technician from 1986 to 1999.

Dr. Charles E. Backes, Professor, Valdosta State University (retired) and Director of Professional Education, NTI

Lawrence J. Bradley is a native of Philadelphia, PA. He has an extensive background in labor relations and administration serving the electrical industry. Larry worked with the Penn-Del-Jersey Chapter, NECA for 27 years in virtually every capacity of association management and served as the Executive Director of the Chapter for 18 years. Working with 14 IBEW local unions, Larry was either a Trustee on or had oversight of over 40 Taft-Hartley Trust Funds and administered more than 50 joint labor management agreements. His work positively impacted the lives of thousands of IBEW members and their families. In conjunction with his IBEW partners, Larry initiated many unique and effective programs and strategies, bringing unprecedented labor management cooperation to the Penn-Del-Jersey Chapter. Larry served two terms on the IBEW/NECA Council on Industrial Relations (CIR). In 1997, he was honored with NECA's Association Executive, Distinguished Service Award. In October 2002, he was inducted into the Academy of Electrical Contractors, NECA's highest honor. Larry officially became the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the National Electrical Benefit Fund and National Electrical Annuity Plan on July 1, 2002. On April 1, 2011, Larry was appointed Executive Director of the NECA/IBEW Family Medical Care Plan (FMCP).

Jared Burrell is based in Duluth, Georgia and is a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology. He has worked exclusively with JATCs across the country for 12 years and has been teaching insurance at NTI for 10 years with Grimes having been to NTI for over 20 years.

Toffee Coleman is the Education and Sales Marketing Manager at the Fluke Corporation. She is responsible for driving tool adoption and brand awareness to the union trade, vocational, and university education segments. Through her participation in several industry partner councils and tenure at Fluke, Toffee has become known for her insight into the training needs of educators and workforce trends; helping Fluke develop solutions to train the next generation of engineers and technicians.

Raffi Elchemmas is on the Milwaukee Tool Safety and Health Team. His research and studies include Kinesiology, Health Sector Management and Construction Health & Safety. He has worked in the construction industry his whole career focusing on tool ergonomics, health & safety, helping to disrupt the injury prone environment by reducing thousands of work-related MSDs.

The **ELECTRI International**, 2019 Outstanding Apprentice Business Challenge winning team is from Flint/Saginaw JATC and is made up of three Outstanding Apprentices: Kyle Chappelle, Jalen Ewell and Crystal Poore. Welcoming them to NTI 2019 is Sonja Rheame, Christenson Electric, Portland, OR, and Council Chairwoman of ELECTRI International.

Lance Hallberg - TradeSchool, Inc. was founded by Lance Hallberg in 2012. Lance has over 15 years experience in database and software development, specifically in the apprenticeship industry. Lance is a speaker at the FileMaker Developer conference, author of VTC Tutorials on PHP and FileMaker, is a member of IBEW Local 48 and a graduate of the IBEW Inside Wireman apprenticeship program in Portland, Oregon.

Michael Johnston is NECA's executive director of standards and safety. Mike holds a BS in Business Management from the University of Phoenix. Mike is the Chairman of the NEC Correlating Committee and serves on the NFPA Standards Council. He served on NEC CMP-5 in the 2002, 2005, and chair of CMP-5 representing NECA for the 2011 NEC cycle. Among his responsibilities for managing the codes, standards, and safety functions for NECA, Mike is secretary of the NECA Codes and Standards Committee. Johnston is a member of the IBEW and is an active member of ANSI, IAEE, NFPA, SES, ASSE, the UL Electrical Council, the National Safety Council and Vice Chair of the NFPA Electrical Section.

Raymond Kasmak is the director of the IBEW Business Development department in Washington, DC. Ray is an alumni of the University of Utah (BS-1980), and the first graduating class of NTI, UT-Knoxville. Ray served as local 697 organizer and OJTC for 8 years before serving as 697 Business Manager for 9 years. Ray was appointed International Representative for business development in 2013, and the department's first director in 2015.

Bernie Kotliar directs development, promotion, and delivery of sustainable energy business development programs, education, and technical training for IBEW-NECA in California and Nevada including energy auditing, energy efficiency, photovoltaics, ZNE buildings, EVs, energy storage and microgrids. He also works with California regulatory agencies including the Public Utilities Commission, Energy Commission, Air Resources Board, and Contractors State Licensing Board. Bernie has co-founded and/or co-chaired CALCTP/NALCTP, EVITP and ESAMTAC.

Steven Lehr is the Director of Vocational Education for Greenlee. Steve developed GreenApple labs after recognizing a gap in the equipment and learning resources in many secondary and post-secondary electrical training programs. Steve is a 29 year employee of Textron/Emerson holding multiple positions and a retired Navy Reserve Master Chief.

Jennifer Mefford serves as National Co-Chair of EVITP and also as Director of Business Development of the Southeastern MI LMCC. Jennifer worked closely with General Motors and other OEM's on the creation of an installation network of contractors in North America for the installation of EVSE to support the expansion of electric vehicles.

Bill Mulcrone is the Midwest Regional Director for Helmets to Hardhats. As Regional Director, he works on the ground and serves as the primary points of contact for the program's target population (transitioning military service members, National Guard, Reservists, construction industry trade organizations, and employers). He received a Political Science degree from Iona College in New Rochelle, NY and is a Journeyman Ironworker in Local 1 Chicago, IL. He started his Apprenticeship in 1999.

Mir Mustafa, Executive Director of Business Development for NECA National directs business development and relationships development efforts across the country. Mir provides leadership, expertise, and connectivity to over 65 business development professionals currently in place within our organizations.

Darrell Roberts served as a Petty Officer Second Class in the United States Navy and later joined the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. While serving in the Guard, he was deployed to Kosovo as part of a NATO lead, peacekeeping mission, where he served as a Squad Leader in an Infantry Company. He is a Journeyman sheet metal worker and a member of Central Pennsylvania Sheet Metal Workers International Association, Local #19, Philadelphia. He has worked on multiple construction projects throughout the Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey areas. He is a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1463, a member of American Legion Post #206 and belongs to the Non-Commissioned Officers Association. He serves on the U.S. Department of Labor Advisory Committee for Veterans Employment, Training and Employer Outreach (ACVETEO). Darrell also received a Master's Degree in Leadership (EML) from Georgetown University.

Johnny Sellers is the Sr. Training Instructor for Southwire Company with 40+ years of electrical industry experience. He is OSHA 30 certified and holds a Georgia unrestricted electrical contractor's license. Previously, he was a Chief Electrical Estimator, BEM/CAD Preconstruction Manager, Sr. Project Manager, Field Operations Manager, and Cable & Raceway Software System Director. His experiences include overall responsibility of electrical design/build and design assist projects such as data centers, health care, hospitality, industrial and institutional projects. Current responsibilities include teaching electrical industry professionals best practices to improve safety, increase productivity, and drive profitability.

Fred Sargent and **Leticia Fedora** are involved in the development and management of the NECA Service Network. To learn more about this program dedicated exclusively to business development on behalf of service-oriented NECA member firms, go to www.necanet.org/neca-service-network or contact us by phone at 412-394-7415. Leticia is an apprenticeship instructor in Pittsburgh. Both are members of IBEW Local Union #5.

L. Joe (Joey) Shorter, Ph.D. is becoming a regular presenter at NTI. Beginning his sixth year on the national NECA staff, he spent the previous thirty years as a professional educator, developing faculty and staff, designing and coordinating curriculum, managing and directing financial budgets and investments, recruiting talent, and developing, placing and counseling students to their potential. Now, Joey brings those experiences to his efforts in coordinating research, education and development for ELECTRI International and NECA. He is married to his wife of 34 years, Beth, and has four sons, one married and expecting his first child, and a second soon to be married, a third finishing college, and the last one entering his senior year in high school.

Kathy Jo Van is an experienced industry veteran, recently retired Sr. VP of Southwire.

Daniel R. Van Sickle is currently the Training Director of the Electrical Training Alliance of Jacksonville. He entered the Trade after high school and was indentured in 1994. He graduated from the Jacksonville Electrical JATC in 1999, making the start of a lifetime career. He so enjoyed it that, in 2002, he became an instructor at the JEJATC. In 2016, Mr. Van Sickle took on the role of Training Coordinator full-time. This career move led to him being named the Director of the Electrical Training Alliance of Jacksonville in 2017. Amongst the already impressive accomplishments, he currently serves on the Code Making Panel 18 for the NEC as well as several local and National Advisory Boards.

Kelly Waters is the President of Waters Group and Director of Power Connect. Kelly is currently driving the Smart Cities effort in the state of Ohio and the first phase of the \$50M grant program begins with EV charging utilizing the EVITP contractor network.

Wesley L. Wheeler is NECA's Director of Safety. Wesley joined NECA in 2014 and prior to NECA, he was a Safety Director and OSHA Safety trainer for a large industrial based electrical contractor in Florida. Wesley has been a qualify OSHA Construction Outreach Instructor and has assisted in OSHA instructor classes for the electrical training ALLIANCE. He has also been a Florida State Certified Electrical Contractor, Safety Trainer and Consultant, and has also served on the NECA Codes and Standards committees since 2006 representing NECA on the NEC-NFPA 70 Code Panels 6 & 7 and also the NFPA 70E Committee since 2015. Wesley is also a trained First Aid/BLS Instructors, a Department of Labor Mine Safety Health Administration Instructor, and also has had OSHA General Industry Outreach Trainer credentials from the University of South Florida.