Panelist Bios, in agenda order

Randy Loomans

Along with fellow WIA Labor Liaison Jim Tusler, Randy is responsible for performing what are called "rapid response" activities including: rapid response to plant closure and downsizing events in coordination with the state Employment Security Department; technical assistance in forming labor-management committees to deal with such events; and generally representing the interests of dislocated workers in employment and training planning. In addition, given advance notice of a pre-layoff situation, Randy and Jim work with interested principals in exploring options to prevent plant closure.

Prior to this assignment, Randy served as Education and Safety Director. She was on the WSLC's legislative lobbying team on issues involving workplace safety, apprenticeship, family leave and outsourcing. Prior to that, Randy was the WSLC's Labor Liaison for School-to-Work, representing labor's interests in Washington state's federal grant designed to help students make the transition to productive, rewarding work lives.

Before joining the WSLC, she was a construction trades instructor at Renton Technical College for the ANEW Program (Apprenticeship and Non-Traditional Employment for Women). In this program, women are given the training and skills necessary to find (and keep) work in the male-dominated construction trades. Randy began her career in the trades with an apprenticeship with the Ironworkers (1982-1985), and worked 11 continuous years in construction. For the past several years, Randy has been the Government Relations Director for the International Union of Operating Engineers, local 302. In 2009, she was given a lifetime achievement award from Washington Women in Trades.

Earl Buford

Earl Buford’s career includes 17 years of experience in workforce development, diversity initiatives, education and program management. As President & CEO of WRTP/BIG STEP, Buford has developed strong partnerships with national affiliates, Milwaukee-area businesses, labor unions, government agencies, and non-profit organizations to develop and sustain a diverse labor pool for regional workforce development projects.

Under a unique partnership, Buford has worked with leadership to merge WRTP/BIG STEP into a sector-based Center of Excellence, a nationally recognized central clearinghouse for the recruitment, assessment, preparation, and placement of qualified candidates into the construction and manufacturing labor opportunities, which in turn has benefited employers and the regional community.

Buford received the 2007 MATC Apprenticeship Civic award, the 2006 AGC of America’s Craft Trainer award, the 2005 "Educator of the Year" award from the Daily Reporter, the 2003 Wisconsin Apprenticeship Advisory Council Affirmative Action Award, and in 2002 was selected by the Department of Labor’s Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer, and Labor Services (OATELS), as one of only 17 organizations nationwide to comprise its Diversity Outreach Providers Bank.

Buford serves as a member of the Workforce Committee of the AGC of America, National Network of Sector Partners (NNSP), The National Skills Coalition (NSC), Wisconsin Apprenticeship Advisory Council, and chairs the workforce development committee of the Construction Labor Management Council of Greater Milwaukee. In spring 2004, Buford served on Honorable Mayor Tom Barrett’s mayoral transition team, and presently serves on the Mayor's Green Team.

Active with the Marquette University High School Alumni Association, Buford is a past Board Member and past Board President.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Steve Simms

Currently the administrator of the Oregon State Apprenticeship and Training Division, Steve is also a member of the Oregon Career and Technical Collaboration Task Force, is on the Governor’s Workforce Policy Cabinet, and is the director of the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries, Apprenticeship and Training Division. Steve is a former president of the National Association of State and Territorial Apprenticeship Directors, and has served as a member of the Federal Committee on Registered Apprenticeship. He has also worked as an attorney in Portland, OR. Steve holds a BA in Business Administration from Marquette University, and a JD from University of Oregon School of Law.

Heather Winfrey

Heather Winfrey offers 19 years experience as a collaborator for apprenticeship, education, workforce development program administration, policy and advocacy, and partnership building. Currently, she is the Executive Director for Apprenticeship & Non-Traditional Employment for Women, among the oldest pre-apprenticeships serving women in the nation. Ms. Winfrey served as the Director for the Construction Center of Excellence at Renton Technical College. She is among 24 colleagues in the nation to receive the first fellowships with the Aspen Institute’s first Sector Skills Academy. She holds a national credential as a program assessor with the Management Training Corporation. She has developed content and facilitated over 40 local, state-level and national conferences, workshops, forums and strategic planning sessions. Over the course of her career, Ms. Winfrey has written grants and funding requests with awards over $16 million, and has managed over $12 million in state and federal contracts. She is the author of four instructional textbooks: the *Construction Math Toolbox*; the Cascades Job Corps Center Training Center’s *Training Manual; Collaborating for Success: Partnering Registered Apprenticeship with the Workforce Investment Act;* and *Recruitment and Retention of Women in Washington’s Apprenticeships.* She has also served as the Manager of Training and Education Partnerships for the Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board; the Program Manager for the Apprenticeship and Non-Traditional Employment for Women and Men (ANEW) program; and the Center Vocation Supervisor for the Cascades Job Corps Center in Sedro Woolley, Washington. She began her education career as an English teacher at Bellingham High School.

David Myers

Executive Secretary, Building and Construction Trades

David Myers is a third generation union crafts worker and has been a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 970 for the past 16 years. After completing his apprenticeship in 1999, David spent five years in the field as a journeyman electrician before transitioning to the Department of Labor and Industries where he worked as an electrical inspec- tor compliance officer then moved on to serve as the electrical technical specialist for four years. In 2007 David was elected business manager and financial secretary of IBEW local 970, positions that he served until his appointment as WSBCTC Executive Secretary in October of 2011.

Peter Lahmann

Peter is the SW Washington Apprenticeship Coordinator for the NW Washington Laborers and Employers Training Trust. Pete serves as Chair of the WA State Apprenticeship Coordinators Association, and he serves on other trades-related bodies, such as the Pierce County Construction Partnership. Peter has a background in heavy highway construction and he has a Masters degree in Business Administration.

Halene Sigmund

 Halene is the President of the Construction Industry Training Council. CITC directly involved with the management of CITC's growth, ensuring that the systems and company operations align with the mission of CITC and the vision of the Board of Trustees. These duties include ensuring compliance with the rules and regulations of each set of apprenticeship standards approved under the Washington Administrative Codes (WACs) and the Revised Code of Washington (RCWs). Halene also ensures that consistency in policy making and the interpretation of CITC's seven standards of apprenticeship is adhered to between seven craft specific apprenticeship committees.

Halene was born in San Francisco and grew up in Southeast Asia. She has traveled extensively through Asia and Europe. She believes that it is through education that diversity is understood and where individuals are given options and access to opportunities that they may not have otherwise had.

Halene earned her B.A. in Art History from San Jose State University. She received her MBA in 2005 and is a certified by SHRM as a Professional in Human Resources.

Warren S. Whitlock

Associate Administrator for Civil Rights

Federal Highway Administration

Warren Whitlock began his tenure at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in September 2011. In this capacity, Mr. Whitlock provides national leadership in the development and implementation of FHWA's civil rights initiatives, and establishes systems to monitor and measure the adequacy, impact, and effectiveness of programs.

From February 2009 to September 2011, Mr. Whitlock served as the Director of the Office of Civil Rights at the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) where he was responsible for the development and implementation of NYSDOT's Civil Rights programs. Mr. Whitlock served as the Director of Construction Coordination for Columbia University from 2002 to 2009. At Columbia, Mr. Whitlock served as an executive member of the University's Facilities Management team and helped develop and execute the University's $1.2 billion capital program and $8 billion campus expansion in the Manhattanville area of West Harlem, New York. Additionally, he directed the development of a successful minority, women and local business enterprise (MWLBE) initiative which, achieved arguably the highest minority, women, and business enterprise (MWBE) utilization of any peer institution in the United States. He also created Columbia's MWBE mentor program with the City of New York and leading construction industry stakeholders.

Mr. Whitlock also served as the Executive Director of the Harlem Community Development Corporation; First Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Community Development Agency and the New York City Economic Development Agency. In addition to management positions on Wall Street, Mr. Whitlock served as a consultant to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Somalia, East Africa, where he lived and worked for four years.

Mr. Whitlock is an adjunct professor of Urban Planning at Brooklyn College's Graduate Center for Worker Education and a Trustee of the Morris Jumel Mansion in New York City. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Urban Land Institute's New York District Council. He participated in several Advisory Services Panels including Urban Land Institute's plan for the re-development of post-Katrina New Orleans in 2005 where he chaired the infrastructure committee.

Mr. Whitlock has an AB from Princeton University and a Masters in Real Estate Development from the Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation at Columbia University where is he also a Charles H. Revson Fellow.