



Fall 2022 Conference

*October 20
Arlington, VA*



SPEAKER BIOS

Martha Baker, RN, BSN - Executive Director of SEIU Healthcare Florida Local 1991

Martha Baker is the past President and current Executive Director of SEIU Healthcare Florida Local 1991, which represents over 6,300 nurses, doctors, and healthcare professionals at Jackson Health System, and she is also the President of the Florida State Council. Ms. Baker, the founding Nurse Manager of the Trauma Intensive Care Unit at Jackson Memorial Hospital, one of the largest public hospitals in the nation, is also the current Chairperson of the national 80,000-member SEIU Nurse Alliance. She has been an advocate on a wide range of patient care issues at the local and national levels. From her unique perspective as an ICU nurse and labor movement activist,

Ms. Baker has testified before Congress on numerous occasions of the challenges facing the nursing profession today, including setting safe nurse staffing levels, implementing safe lifting, banning the unsafe practice of mandatory overtime in hospitals, protecting health care workers from the dangers of airborne and blood-borne infectious diseases, and other policy, safety, and regulatory matters. Ms. Baker has also testified before the U.S. Senate on the President's controversial proposals to vaccinate healthcare workers against the possibility of smallpox.

Since her graduation from Ohio State University's School of Nursing in 1979, Ms. Baker has dedicated her life to effective patient advocacy and improving the quality of patient care in our nation's hospitals. She currently resides in Miami, Florida, where she is a prominent RN leader and nurse voice for union and non-union nurses in the state.

Maria Castaneda – Senior Executive Vice President, 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East and Chair of the Climate and Environmental Justice Committee of SEIU International

Maria Castaneda was first elected Secretary-Treasurer of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East in 2007, and has twice been re-elected. She holds the second highest position in her union, representing over 400,000 healthcare workers in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Florida, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. Maria is the highest ranking Asian American woman labor leader in the United States.

Born in the Philippines, Maria migrated to the US in 1984. She worked as a volunteer community organizer in New York, assisting Filipino nurses with their immigration issues and helping promote Philippine cultural heritage. She lobbied for the Nursing Relief Act that granted thousands of Filipino nurses permanent resident status and family unification. She began working for 1199SEIU in 1985 as an organizer in the Registered Nurses Division. In 1998, Maria was a Vice President of 1199, representing the 5,300 members at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx. Seven years later, she was elected Executive Vice President, representing 1199 members at Montefiore Health System, Continuum Health Partners (now part of the Mt. Sinai Health System), Maimonides Medical Center and Lutheran Health System.

Maria has also helped to forge a different model of labor management relationship – the strategic partnership. This partnership focuses on quality patient care and worker engagement. Under her leadership, hospitals reduced acquired infections by engaging frontline workers as quality coaches; increased patient satisfaction through care teamwork; reduced wait time in clinics; improved prep time in operating rooms; and carried out other successful initiatives. These joint labor-management initiatives give frontline healthcare workers a voice and input in promoting quality and safe patient care and services, and promote employee job satisfaction.

Maria also led the labor-management Training and Upgrading program for union members. This program provides career ladders for healthcare workers

through skills enhancement and continuing education. For example, a Certified Nurse Aide can train to become a Licensed Practical Nurse and eventually, a Registered Nurse. Service workers are trained to become Surgical Techs, clerical workers become certified billers and coders and so on. Within 1199SEIU, Maria leads in promoting a culture of health and wellness among members through workplace wellness programs. Members and the employers are engaged as wellness champions and help foster healthy eating choices, exercise and smoking cessation to combat chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes and hypertension.

Maria is a Vice President of the 2.1 million-member Service International Union. Last year, she formed the Haiyan/Yolanda relief work group, together with other SEIU leaders. The work group raised almost \$600,000, and another \$1.3 million worth of food, medicines, infant formula, water, and wipes. The work group partnered with NGOs in the Philippines and funded agricultural, livestock and fishing projects – including the rebuilding of a fishing landing and trading center – and rebuilding health centers, day care centers and a sewing cooperative. They also donated hospital emergency-room beds, nurses' scrubs, and mattresses, bed sheets, and pillowcases for nurses who had to sleep on hospital floors. Previously, after the earthquake in Haiti, Maria helped form the 1199SEIU We Care for Haiti committee, through which the union donated over a million dollars for UNICEF to support Haiti's children.

Katie Coombes – Senior Director of Programs, RISE Partnership

As Senior Director of Programs, Katie leads the overall development and implementation of RISE's training and benefits programs. Prior to starting RISE, Katie worked for SEIU Local 503, where she led a team of workers and staff in lifting standards for care providers, including winning one of the strongest homecare contracts in the country. Katie lives in Portland, Oregon with her partner and daughter.

Charlene Dickerson – Frontline Caregiver and Advocate, HC Rising (1199SEIU MA)

Charlene Dickerson is a frontline home care worker who has done caregiving in both agency and private pay settings for 30 years. After she started working at the age of 10, Charlene first entered the field of caregiving as a way to support her family without a college degree. She has always worked two to three jobs to survive, and her lived experiences within the field have shaped her commitment to changing long-term care. Charlene is passionate about improving the conditions within long-term care for caregivers so they can perform their essential work with dignity, and dismantling the historic racial inequities within caregiving which disproportionately impact Black women. Charlene's advocacy against structural racism within long-term care includes lobbying state officials in Massachusetts to pass legislation to improve wages and conditions for healthcare workers. In addition to her legislative advocacy, Charlene is an active volunteer with Springfield No One Leaves, a member-led community organization that defends residents against housing displacement. She is also active in HC Rising, a project of 1199SEIU MA.

Ligaya Domingo, Racial Justice and Education Coordinator, SEIU Healthcare 1199NW

Ligaya Domingo is currently the Racial Justice and Education Director for SEIU Healthcare 1199NW where she has worked for over 16 years. She is the Second Vice President of the National Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA). She has also been appointed to serve on a number of committees and boards where she represents Seattle APALA including: MLK Labor, Washington State Labor Council, the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies Advisory Committee, and Washington State Labor Education Research Center.

She is also a member of the SEIU Racial Justice Committee, Washington State Labor Council's Racial Justice Committee, MLK Labor's Racial Justice Taskforce where she serves as the co-chair, Seattle King County Workforce Development Council Board Member and Chair of the Equity Committee. She is also an officer of the SEIU Asian Pacific Islander Caucus and Trustee for the SEIU Healthcare 1199NW Multi-Employer Training Fund. She has a Ph.D. and a M.A, from the Social and Cultural Studies Program in the Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Berkeley.

Kim Evon – Executive Vice President, SEIU Local 2015

Kim Evon proudly serves as an Executive Vice President of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 2015 – California’s Long Term Care Local representing over 400,000 home care and skilled nursing facility workers throughout California.

Kim’s imprint in the labor movement started in healthcare when she helped lead one of the largest hospital union organizing campaigns in the mid-90’s that resulted in giving a collective voice to 1,800 colleagues. It was from that experience that she learned the importance of unifying with others to achieve change in the workplace that benefits both workers and those to whom they provide care.

Carrying that experience into her current position, Kim has worked alongside long term care providers and stakeholders over the last thirteen years to witness incredible victories that benefit both the caregiver and recipient. Such victories include: the passage of safe staffing ratios for skilled nursing facilities that will increase the number of care hours provided to patients by Certified Nursing Assistants; the restoration of vital In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) hours of care that had been cut in previous state budgets and worker contracts that secure training funds to advance worker skill sets to handle the growing needs of those in their care and standards that improve wages and benefits needed to retain and attract the long term caregivers necessary to meet growing demand.

In addition to her work as an Executive Vice President of SEIU Local 2015, she was elected by SEIU delegates to the national convention to serve as an SEIU International Executive Board Member. Kim furthers her dedication to long term caregivers by serving for the last twelve years as a Board Member of the California Long-Term Care Education Center – a national leader in developing and providing training for long term care workers that has demonstrated outcomes on increasing the delivery of quality care and elevating the value of caregivers in the care team.

Kim is passionate about empowering long term care providers to contribute their compassion, talents and leadership to be agents of change in their own lives, their workplace, those to whom they provide care, and their communities. She believes in the importance of demonstrating the critical value that long term care workers play in our broader communities by creating standards in which all long term care workers earn a livable wage, have quality, affordable health insurance, are able to access retirement, and have a seat at the table in discussions regarding the future of long term care services.

When she’s not meeting with members or stakeholders, Kim enjoys playing tennis, reading and spending time with her family and German shepherd at her home in Burbank, CA.

Jennifer Graves – Vice President, Quality and Safety, Kaiser Permanente Northwest and Kaiser Permanente Washington; Regional Chief Nursing Executive, Kaiser Permanente Washington

Jennifer has been a proud member of the health care community in the Pacific Northwest for her entire, multi-decade career. Before joining Kaiser Permanente as the Vice President for Quality and Safety in both the Northwest and Washington Markets and serving as the Regional Chief Nursing Executive in Washington, Jennifer was the Senior Vice President for Patient Safety and Quality at the Washington State Hospital Association where she was instrumental in creating a formal partnership for nearly 200 hospitals across Alaska, Oregon and Washington whose exclusive focus was on reducing harm and improving patient outcomes.

Prior to her role at WSHA, she completed a successful tenure as the Chief Executive at both Swedish Edmonds and Swedish Ballard, where she was actively engaged in leading all aspects of hospital and ambulatory operations and established a deliberate focus on quality and safety while also creating a thriving work and care environment. Jennifer also served on the leadership team at Virginia Mason Medical Center for nearly a decade, and after demonstrating a natural affinity for process improvement activities, she received one of the first fellowships of its kind and completed a 15-month intensive training program in the Toyota Production System as it applies to health care.

In addition to her two decades of work as a board-certified nurse practitioner, Jennifer has been a professor in the nursing programs at both Seattle Pacific University and Northwest University. Her focus on diversity and transcultural health care called Jennifer to provide nursing education in overseas programs in both Costa Rica and Taiwan. She has conducted clinical research on venous thromboembolic disorders, participated on clinical teams investigating sleep patterns and nighttime hormone levels in women and received grant support to implement evidence-based depression treatment delivered by nurse care managers in ambulatory care. Jennifer is passionate about serving her community and is the current Chair of the Northwest Healthcare Response Network Board of Directors and Chair of the Board for Sound Generations. She also serves as the Honorary Assistant Dean of Clinical Practice at the University of Washington School of Nursing.

Jennifer began her local career in health care more than 30 years ago. She received her Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Portland, returned to Oregon once again to earn a Master of Science degree and completed the Human Resources Management program at the University of Washington. Highlights of her career include receiving the Honorary Recognition Award from the Washington State Nurses Association, receiving the Distinguished Nurse of the Year Award from the March of Dimes and attaining American Nurses Credentialing Center Pathway to Excellence Designation with her Ballard team in 2015, making it the first hospital in the state to achieve this prestigious acknowledgement.

Prasi Gupta – Director of Labor & Employer Relations, Northern California SEIU-UHW

Prasi Gupta is currently the Director of Labor & Employer Relations, Northern California for the SEIU-UHW & Joint Employer Education Fund; a benefit for union healthcare workers to advance their career in the healthcare industry. Prasi joined the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees International Union (AFSCME) where he served the union for 11 ½ years in different capacities as a union organizer and later with the Education and Leadership Training department as the Western Region Education Coordinator. In 2011, Prasi became the Public Policy and Civic Engagement Fellow for the San Francisco Foundation and eventually became the Deputy Director of the National Guestworkers Alliance working on immigrant worker and human rights campaigns. Prasi's early career included working as a fellow for the United States Student Association (USSA) and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR) before becoming an organizer for the national office of Jobs with Justice.

Prasi grew up in Rochester, NY and attended Clark University in Massachusetts receiving a degree in US History and Comparative Politics. He currently lives in Oakland, CA with his wife and son; and serves on the board of POWER CA.

Sterling Harders – President, SEIU 775

As President of SEIU 775, Sterling was elected to support the more than 45,000 nursing home, home care, and residential care workers throughout Washington and Montana. To accomplish this, she leads a staff of 130 and an Executive Board – comprised of other elected officers and 33 rank-and-file home care workers, agency caregivers, and nursing home workers. Through SEIU 775's innovative and cutting-edge approach, the Union has demonstrated time after time that we can and do win standard-setting contracts for caregivers and low-wage workers – including significant wage increases, paid vacation, health benefits, retirement, training opportunities, increased funding for nursing home workers, and the Fight For \$15.

Born and raised in a small town on the Washington coast, Sterling acquired a firsthand perspective in terms of the importance of respect, dignity, and justice for workers given her father's role as a union mill worker and her mother's work as a caregiver. With this knowledge, she became the first-ever organizer hired by SEIU 775, fighting for the rights of workers throughout the Pacific Northwest at a time such individuals suffered chronically poor treatment and endured abysmal working conditions.

Since then, she has worked her way through numerous more-senior roles within the organization, serving as the Union's Vice President from 2011 until

2018 – and now as President. Additionally, Sterling is proud to represent SEIU 775's accomplishments as a Vice President of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) that now represents more than 2 million members throughout the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico – as well as more than 1.1 million health care workers across the country.

Laura Hopkins – Executive Director, SEIU Healthcare 1199NW Multi-Employer Training Fund

Laura became the Training Fund's executive director in August of 2018. Before coming to the Training Fund, she held the position of Vice President of Instruction at South Seattle College. She brought to the training fund with a wealth of experience, sound knowledge of the community college system, and expertise in apprenticeships with unions and management. She has a Master's degree in Applied Behavioral Science.

Laura is recognized for her visionary leadership and strategic business development. She is also a respected leader – Laura is known as a skillful change agent with a remarkable record of bringing groups of diverse peoples together to achieve meaningful goals.

As part of her career, Laura has received many distinguished honors and awards. Two examples.... In 2012, Laura RECEIVED the 21ST CENTURY APPRENTICESHIP TRAILBLAZER AND INNOVATOR AWARD From the US Department of Labor for demonstrating innovation and pioneering efforts resulting in positive impacts on U. S. apprenticeship. Also in 2012 she RECEIVED the WOMEN OF VALOR AWARD From US Senator Cantwell. This was presented to her in honor of women who have dedicated their lives to investing in jobs in Washington State.

When she isn't innovating professionally, Laura can be found spending time with her family in their West Seattle home, doing outdoor adventures and making time to travel when possible. Fun facts: Laura is helicopter pilot and an airplane mechanic by trade. She grew up in Japan. She moved to the United States when she was 18.

Jane Hopkins – President SEIU Healthcare 1199NW

Jane Hopkins is a registered nurse specializing in mental health. She worked for more than 20 years as a bedside nurse, most recently at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle and Snoqualmie Hospital.

Hopkins serves as president of SEIU Healthcare 1199NW, a union representing healthcare workers in Washington state and Montana. She was appointed by then President-elect Joe Biden to the administration's Transition Covid-19 Advisory Board, and has served on Washington State's Covid-19 Task Force, the Safe Start Advisory Board, the Washington Workforce Board, and the boards of the 1199NW Training Fund and the Washington State Labor Council.

Shantonia Jackson – Frontline CNA, City View Nursing Home; Executive Board Member, SEIU HCII

Shantonia Jackson is a frontline CNA at City View Nursing Home in Chicago, Illinois and has worked in healthcare since 1997. She holds a seat on the Executive Board of SEIU Healthcare Illinois & Indiana, as well as on her union's Committee on Political Action (COPE) Board.

Shantonia is deeply dedicated to both patient care and improving working conditions for all healthcare workers on the statewide and national levels. She successfully led the charge for the passage of safe-staffing legislation in Illinois, and served as a strike leader who successfully fought for better pay and conditions for everyone in her workplace. Beyond Illinois, she helped public sector workers win union rights in Virginia as a member of "La Brigada". Shantonia is a member of the SEIU Action Team, a national leadership body of rank-and-file union and not-yet-union caregivers who help lead SEIU national campaigns.

Manny Lamarre – Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. DOL, Employment and Training Administration (ETA)

Manny Lamarre serves as a Senior Advisor at the U.S. DOL, ETA, focusing on workforce development and apprenticeship. His background and experience include state workforce policy and implementation. His focus has been on career pathways such as registered apprenticeships, employer engagement, postsecondary, WIOA, and CTE. Manny's direct experience implementing workforce policies informs his approach. He is the former founding Executive Director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation and served as the Governor's Designee on the Governor's Workforce Development Board. He led the implementation of the state's workforce vision and key policies from 2016-2019.

Before joining ETA, Manny led and supported research and technical assistance projects on workforce and economic mobility at WestEd, a national nonpartisan research agency. Manny has also worked at a community's foundation and teacher across several states. Manny holds a B.A. in Political Science with honors from Wittenberg University, and a Master's in Education Policy and Management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where he was the recipient of the Class Marshal Award for leadership and service to the Harvard community. Manny has authored several reports, studied, and presented on workforce nationally and internationally.

Ahimsa Luthuli – Healthcare Policy Analyst, SEIU

Ahimsa Luthuli is a Senior Policy Analyst at SEIU specializing in healthcare policy broadly and policies that impact the 160,000 nursing home workers that SEIU represents in particular. Ahimsa comanages the Policy and Innovations Workgroup (PIWG), which brings together policy staff from SEIU locals around the country to discuss state and federal policies impacting the long-term care workforce. She also writes public comments on federal rulemaking, keeps SEIU staff abreast of healthcare policy issues, and partners with allies to advance the rights of healthcare workers. Prior to working at SEIU, Ahimsa worked at the US Department of Commerce, the DC Retirement Board, and the Texas House of Representatives. Ahimsa earned her undergraduate degree from Pomona College in Claremont, CA, a Master's Degree in Public Policy from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Juris Doctorate from the American University Washington College of Law. Ahimsa is a member of the District of Columbia Bar.

Mary Alice McCarthy, Director, Center on Education & Labor

Mary Alice McCarthy is the director of the Center on Education and Skills (CELNA). Her work examines the intersection between higher education, workforce development, and job training policies. The Center is dedicated to building learning-based pathways to economic opportunity that can begin inside or outside of formal higher education. McCarthy's writing has been featured in a diverse set of media outlets including the Washington Monthly, The Atlantic, and the Journal on Community College Research and Practice. She participates in a wide variety of public engagement, technical assistance, and coalition-building efforts aimed at improving postsecondary education policy and practice.

Prior to joining New America, McCarthy worked at both the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor. She led a variety of technical assistance initiatives in the areas of career pathways, credentialing, and competency-based education. While at the Department of Labor, she led an initiative with nine states and two tribal entities on how to build and support career pathway programs. She co-founded an interagency working group with staff from the Departments of Education, Health & Human Services, and Labor that continues to meet and coordinate federal investments in relation to career pathways. She also wrote policy guidance on credentialing and career pathways and supported the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCT) and Workforce Innovation Fund grant programs, helping design solicitation and technical assistance activities.

McCarthy has extensive international experience and she has explored how other countries are tackling the skills challenge. While at the Department of Education, she served as the liaison to a team of OECD researchers conducting a review of postsecondary education and training in the United States. At New America, she continued her work with the OECD and led a similar review of Peru's postsecondary education system in 2016, as part of "Skills Beyond School" series of country studies. She participates in the International Pathways Colloquium, an annual gathering of researchers and policy advocates from

the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia to share learning in the area of career and technical education and workforce development. She has a PhD in political science from the University of North Carolina and an MPA from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Patricia (Polly) Pittman PhD, FAAN – Fitzhugh Mullan Professor of Health Workforce Equity at the Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University

Patricia (Polly) Pittman is the Fitzhugh Mullan Professor of Health Workforce Equity at the Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University. As director of the Mullan Institute for Health Workforce Equity, Professor Pittman built an extensive research enterprise focusing on policies that enable health workforce to better address health equity, including protection of labor rights of health workers. Her current portfolio includes directing a HRSA-supported Health Workforce Research Center and the national technical assistance center to address workforce burnout (the “Workplace Change Collaborative”), as well as several foundation-supported grants.

Trained in medical anthropology and public health, her research involves interdisciplinary teams and mixed methods designs. She has published over 80 peer reviewed journal articles and has served as PI on over 40 research grants relating to health workforce policy. These most recently include a background paper commissioned by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) for the new National Academies of Medicine Committee on Nursing 2020-2030. She teaches Advanced Health Policy Analysis and Health Workforce Policy.

Amber Roth, LCSW, MS – Executive Director, Worker Education and Resource Center

Amber Roth has over 20 years of experience working with the transitional age youth, adults, older adults, families, and justice involved individuals, who experience homelessness and/or struggle with mental health conditions and/or substance use. She has 16 years of non-profit management experience, including 12 years of Leadership and Executive Team management. She is also experienced in organizational management, strategic planning, leading organizational change, developing systems, workforce development, and program design and implementation. Ms. Roth is currently the Executive Director for Worker Education & Resource Center. She was employed with Homeless Health Care Los Angeles (HHCLA) for 8 years. She began her tenure with HHCLA as the Program Director for the Housing for Health program and quickly promoted to Director of Operations and Programs. Prior to joining HHCLA, she served over 9 years at Pacific Clinics where she began her career as a mental health worker, promoting to Housing Coordinator, Supervisor and Program Director. She also served progressively as a forensic counselor and social service designee at Foothill Mental Health and Rehabilitation Center for two years.

Ms. Roth earned her Master of Science in Criminal Justice at California State University Long Beach and her Master in Social Work at California State University Northridge. Ms. Roth also is a 2019 graduate of the Coro Women in Leadership program, a 2014 graduate of the UCLA Anderson Graduate School of Management’s Johnson & Johnson/UCLA Healthcare Executive Program and the University of Southern California, California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions Leadership Institute. Currently, Ms. Roth serves on HHCLA’s Board of Directors program committee, the local Emergency Food and Shelter Program (Chair), the Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership Steering Committee; SafeMed LA Coalition-Naloxone Access Committee (Co-Chair) and LA Overdose Prevention Task. She has extensive knowledge and experience in clinical interventions, program development, organizational assessment, cultural transformation, strategic planning, capacity building, and leadership development.

Diane Sosne, RN, MN President Emeritus SEIU Healthcare 1199NW

Diane Sosne, RN, MN became President Emeritus of SEIU Healthcare 1199NW, a local union representing 32,000 registered nurses, professional, service, technical workers and physicians in the states of Washington and Montana, in May of 2022.

Ms. Sosne previously served as a Vice President of the Service Employees International Union’s Executive Board, and was a member of SEIU’s Health Care Division and the SEIU National Nurse Alliance.

As a nurse, healthcare, racial and social justice advocate, and community leader, Ms. Sosne has worked on nursing and healthcare policy, social determinants of health, organizational equity and inclusion, diversifying the healthcare workforce with career ladders for workers of color, protection of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), adoption of a Medicare for All system, including behavioral health integration and health promotion.

Ms. Sosne also serves on the Board of Governors of the Alliance for Ethical International Recruitment Practices, which facilitates the voluntary adoption of ethical practices for the recruitment of foreign-born healthcare professionals to the U.S.

An additional major focus of Ms. Sosne's work is around healthcare workforce development. Her national workforce work includes her role as the Labor Co-Chair of the Healthcare Career Advancement Program (H-CAP), a unique Labor/Management partnership to address the nursing shortage and incumbent worker career ladders. She is also a member of the Washington State Health Care Personnel Shortage Task Force. Ms. Sosne was also a founding Member and Advisor of Time's Up Healthcare, a national initiative aimed at stopping sexual harassment and inequality in healthcare workplaces. She has also served on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Academic Progression in Nursing (APIN) National Advisory Committee.

Locally, Ms. Sosne is a member of the Seattle-King County Healthcare Industry Leadership table. This committee is a collaboration with healthcare employers and social service agencies sharing and developing best practices for an ongoing pipeline into healthcare jobs and advancement.

Ms. Sosne serves as the Chair of the SEIU Healthcare 1199NW Multi-Employer Taft Hartley Training Fund. This fund currently covers over 16,000 healthcare employees who work at eleven (11) Health Systems in WA State. As a member of WA State's Health Workforce Council she is a part of a multi-discipline group that addresses workforce shortages. Her statewide nursing activities include her role as a Board Member of the Washington Center for Nursing.

Ms. Sosne received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Simmons College in Boston and her Master's Degree in Psycho/Social Nursing from the University of Washington.

Lul Tesfai – Senior Advisor, Center on Education & Labor at New America

Lul Tesfai is a senior advisor with the Center on Education & Labor at New America, which is focused on restoring the link between education and economic mobility. She conducts research and analysis on federal, state, and local policies related to high-quality education and training models, workforce development, and worker protections. Lul also works directly with communities and stakeholders to design and implement systems that improve economic and educational outcomes, particularly for marginalized populations.

Prior to joining New America, Lul was a senior policy director at CNA Education, where she led efforts to strengthen the adult education and career and technical education (CTE) research base. Lul previously served as the director of policy in the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education at the U.S. Department of Education (ED), which is responsible for the ED's CTE, adult education, community college, and correctional education and reentry portfolio. She has also worked as a policy consultant for the California Senate Office of Research, an educational consultant to several school districts across the country, and a public-school teacher.

Her research has been cited in The New York Times, NPR, and other publications. Lul holds a master's degree in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley, and a bachelor's degree in political science and international studies from Northwestern University.

Kimberly Townsend Edd, JD, MPA, MBA, CPA, FACHE – President & CEO, Loretto

Kimberly Townsend is President and Chief Executive Officer of Loretto, a continuing care system located in New York, with assets in skilled nursing, housing, managed care, short term rehabilitation and medical adult day services.

Prior to joining Loretto, Ms. Townsend was the Associate General Counsel and Senior Director of Government Affairs for Welch Allyn, Inc. She has been an adjunct professor in the Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University, as well as the Syracuse University College of Law.

Ms. Townsend is currently a Governor's Appointee to the New York State Workforce Investment Board. She also serves as a board member and in board leadership positions for a number of non-profit organizations.

Ms. Townsend received her BS and MBA from the Whitman School of Management, her JD from Syracuse University College of Law, her MPA from the Maxwell School of Public Administration and her Doctorate in Executive Leadership from St. John Fisher College. She is admitted to practice by the New York, New Jersey and Washington, D.C. bars.

Brian Rudiger – Executive Director, RISE Partnership

As Executive Director of RISE Partnership, Brian leads the overall work of the organization focused on delivering top-notch training and related benefits to 80,000 Oregon care providers and public service workers. In addition to anchoring the launch of RISE in 2019, Brian helped establish the training trusts for homecare, long-term care, and state workers, and served chairperson of the Oregon homecare worker benefit trusts. Prior to starting RISE, Brian worked for two decades with SEIU and AFSCME unions in California and Oregon. He lives in Portland, Oregon with his wife and two sons.