Higher Learning Commission

## Leadership Advisory Board Members

Lab



**Dr. Daniel Abebe** is Vice Provost at the University of Chicago, where he oversees University of Chicago Professional Education and the Laboratory Schools and serves as President of the Charter School Board of Directors. He supervises the Office of the Secretary of the

Faculties and the Office of Institutional Analysis and manages regulatory and compliance matters under the purview of the Office of the Provost, including accreditation. Dr. Abebe is a member of the Board of Governors for Argonne National Laboratory, Chair of the Board of Directors of Chapin Hall, and an ex officio member of the Board of the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. He clerked for Judge Damon J. Keith of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and later worked as a corporate associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP. Dr. Abebe earned a Bachelor of Arts from Maryville University of St. Louis, a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Chicago, and a Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School.



**Dr. Jo Alice Blondin** became the fifth president of Clark State College in 2013. Prior to Clark State, Dr. Blondin served as Chancellor of Arkansas Tech University – Ozark Campus and Professor of English for seven years, as well as Chief Academic Officer, Chief Student Officer,

Department Chair of English, Communication, and Social Sciences and Instructor of English. Dr. Blondin's national, regional, and local service includes Chair of HLC'S Board of Trustees, the National Council for Workforce Education, and the Community College Alliance for Agricultural Advancement. Additionally, she serves on the boards of the Greater Springfield Partnership, Dayton Development Coalition, and Rocking Horse Community Health Center. She holds a Ph.D. in English from Arizona State University; Master of Arts in English from Arizona State University; and Bachelor of Arts from Purdue University majoring in English with a minor in Spanish.



**Dr. Naomi R. Boyer** is an educational strategist and innovative leader at Education Design Lab with more than 20 years of education experience. As the Senior Vice President, Digital Transformation, she focuses on the future of work catalysts of 21st century/durable skills,

digital micro-credentials, the learner-earner data ecosystem, and competency/skill frameworks. Previous roles include: Chief

Information Officer; strategy and innovation; high quality, distance education; unique faculty technology professional development; talent pipeline development aligned to economic interests; global initiatives; and the creation and facilitation of continuing education. Dr. Boyer has expertise on competencybased education, leads many non-profit Boards, and maintains scholarship on self-directed learning.



Credential

**Mr. Scott Cheney** is Credential Engine's first Chief Executive Officer where he leads the organization's efforts to bring transparency to credentials and reveal the marketplace of credentials. Scott has more than 25 years of experience in, and brings a multi-faceted

perspective to, developing the skills of the U.S. workforce. His experience includes shaping national policy for U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, developing regional workforce and economic development strategies, working with multinational, high-road employers on their investments in training, and establishing and managing adult literacy programs. His first paycheck in this career path came from Dr. Seuss. Scott holds a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Carleton College, and a Master of Public Policy degree from Georgetown University.



**Ms. Kristi Clouse** serves as the Senior Managing Director, Talent for JobsOhio. She oversees JobsOhio's commitment to a unique incentive offering tailored to their clients as well as investments to help strengthen Ohio's talent pipeline; both with the goal to prepare for the

future of work. As one of the founding members, Ms. Clouse has served JobsOhio since it's inception in 2011 as Executive Director of Operations and Director Project Management. Over the course of her career she has launched multiple initiatives. Before joining JobsOhio, she held various positions in economic development and workforce development including roles with the Ohio Department of Development's Strategic Business Investment Division and Allen Economic Development Group in Lima/Allen County Ohio. She is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma's Economic Development Institute and earned her bachelor's degree in communication and business from Bluffton University.



**Mr. Donald M. Elliman, Jr.** has been Chancellor of the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus since February 2013. A longtime executive in publishing, he worked at Time Warner for 32 years, retiring as an executive vice president of Time Inc. Other positions he has held

include publisher of People Magazine and president of Sports Illustrated. Most recently, Mr. Elliman was executive director of the University of Colorado School of Medicine's Charles C. Gates Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Biology on the Anschutz Medical Campus. He also served for two years as chief operating officer for Colorado, assisting the governor in the management of all state agencies, and as chair of the Colorado Recovery Accountability Board, with responsibilities for oversight of spending in Colorado. He has also served as director of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade and as president of Ascent Sports and of Kroenke Sports Enterprises, with oversight of business activities, including The Pepsi Center, The Denver Nuggets and The Colorado Avalanche. He received a B.A. in Economics from Middlebury College.



**Dr. Rufus Glasper** is President and CEO of the League for Innovation in the Community College. Dr. Glasper, Chancellor Emeritus of the Maricopa Community Colleges, served as Chancellor from 2003 through February 2016, and held district leadership positions for

three decades. Nationally, Dr. Glasper serves as an advisory board member for the Center for Community College Student Engagement, The University of Texas at Austin; Community College Research Center, Teachers College, Columbia University; The Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research, North Carolina State University. Dr. Glasper serves on the board of directors for the Education Design Lab; and COMAP, the Consortium for Mathematics and Its Applications. He also served as trustee for the Higher Learning Commission and the American Council on Education. Dr. Glasper earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Luther College, as well as a master's and advanced degrees in school business administration from Northern Illinois University. He received his doctorate of philosophy degree in higher education finance from the University of Arizona.



Mr. Jake Hirsch-Allen builds public private partnerships between North America's governments, workforce development organizations, colleges and universities, and LinkedIn Talent Solutions. Through this work, Mr. Hirsch-Allen supports and is learning to be

an ally to groups such as newcomers, refugees and people with disabilities. Mr. Hirsch-Allen advises an impact investing firm, Avalanche VC, the US CCSSO and several startups. He speaks

regularly on the changing nature of work and learning and is passionate about immigration, interoperability, open and userowned data, skills-based-hiring and -learning and AI regulation. Mr. Hirsch-Allen is a Director on the Boards of the Ontario Tech Talent and the Canadian Club. He founded Lighthouse Labs, Canada's foremost software bootcamp and Hacking Health. A former intellectual property and international criminal lawyer, Mr. Hirsch-Allen was also Chair of the Technology Committee of the Global Education Platform, taught Global Health at McMaster University and clerked at the Supreme Court of Israel.



**Ms. Morgean Hirt**, Director of Credentialing for the Association for Talent Development, is responsible for the overall management and leadership of the ATD Credentialing Institute and was instrumental in the development of the Talent Development Capability Model and

a variety of related interactive tools. She brings more than 30 years of nonprofit experience in professional certification and accreditation across a variety of professions. As an Institute for Credentialing Excellence Certified Credentialing Professional (ICE-CCP), Ms. Hirt has devoted her career to advancing professions through the establishment of industry standards. She has led several organizations through establishing competency frameworks and industry standards. Prior to joining ATD, she spent 10 years as President and CEO of Certified Fund Raising Executives International Credentialing Board (CFRE International), and was responsible for establishing international support across six continents for a unified standard of fundraising practice. Ms. Hirt began her career in post-secondary accreditation focusing on workforce training, before moving to credentialing.



**Dr. Sukhwant Jhaj** is an expert in design thinking, managing change, open innovation, and institutional transformation. In his role as Vice Provost at Arizona State University, Dr. Jhaj works to discover new solutions for incremental and disruptive challenges facing higher education

and helps ASU set a new standard of quality and accessibility that can be shared with higher education institutions around the country and the world. In addition to his role in the Office of the University Provost, Dr. Jhaj is the Dean of University College, an instrumental and significant part of ASU's efforts to enhance retention, graduation, and overall student achievement. Dr. Jhaj speaks extensively on these topics, and has served on several national advisory groups. Jhaj is an active design researcher and has received funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Association for Public and Land Grants Universities, Strada Education Foundation, and government agencies.



**Dr. Justin H. Lonon** has provided proven executive and strategic leadership for Dallas College as the college's eighth chancellor. Dr. Lonon previously served as executive vice chancellor, as a driving force in the consolidation of the 55-year-old Dallas County Community

College District — and its seven colleges — into one Dallas College, as well as previously serving as interim president of Dallas College's Brookhaven Campus. Prior to joining Dallas College in 2005, Dr. Lonon worked in the private sector providing public affairs counsel. Dr. Lonon serves on several national and local boards including the Texas Association of Community Colleges Executive Committee; Rebuilding America's Middle Class (RAMC), a national consortium of leading community colleges; and as past chair of the Task Force on Higher Education Government Relations for the American Association of Community Colleges. He earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from Missouri State University, a master's degree in public administration from the University of North Texas, and a doctorate in management from the University of Maryland – Global Campus.



**Ms. Laura Pedrick** is Executive Director of UWM Online at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She oversees UWM's online and blended programs, focusing on program quality, regulatory compliance, new program development, marketing, and building a strong

community of practice for online programs. She serves on the Advisory Council for the Universities of Wisconsin online strategic plan implementation, co-leads UWM's microcredentialing initiative, and co-teaches the "Building a High-Quality Microcredential Program" EDUCAUSE Learning Lab. She has served as co-PI on a Lumina Foundation credit for prior learning All Learning Counts grant, two Next Generation Learning grants from EDUCAUSE/Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and a grant on blended learning from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Ms. Pedrick is the campus lead for UWM's participation in the UW Flexible Option, with six online competency-based programs. She has a master's in Journalism from the University of Minnesota.



**Dr. Chris Rasmussen** is Senior Director for Academic Pathways and Innovation with the Colorado Department of Higher Education, where he leads statutory and externally-funded initiatives to help students earn degrees in less time and at a lower cost, with a focus on seamless

transfer, innovative delivery, recognition of prior learning, reform of developmental education, and diversifying the credentialing ecosystem. Dr. Rasmussen began his career in student services before earning his Ph.D. in public policy and higher education at the University of Michigan. In 10 years with the Midwestern Higher Education Compact, he led several initiatives to address shared challenges among states in student access, affordability, and completion. Dr. Rasmussen also served as vice president for programs and research at the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. He is a former trustee of Gustavus Adolphus College, where he earned his B.A. Dr. Rasmussen also earned an M.S. in counseling and student personnel administration from Minnesota State University, Mankato.



**Dr. Kevin P. Reilly** is President Emeritus and Regent Professor with the University of Wisconsin System. He holds an appointment as Senior Fellow with the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. Dr. Reilly began his career working for New York State Board of

Regents programs that translated education and training offered in business, government, and trade associations into college credit. He later led the Regents office that accredited all degreegranting institutions in New York. Before he became President of the University of Wisconsin System, he was Chancellor of UW-Extension, overseeing credit and non-credit outreach programs systemwide. He chaired the American Council on Education Commission on Adult Learning and Educational Credentials, and served as the President of the National Association of System Heads. He currently is a member of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters.



**Mr. Geoffrey M. Roche** presently is serving as the inaugural Director of Workforce Development at Siemens Healthineers and National Healthcare Practice Executive Advisor at Core Education PBC. Mr. Roche speaks often on healthcare workforce topics at national

conferences such as Becker's Annual Conference, HIMMS, HLTH, and ViVE. In 2022, Mr. Roche was nominated to the Forbes Business Council for his national level work. Mr. Roche has more than nine years of experience in hospital administration and has held leadership positions at various universities in the United States. Mr. Roche also serves as a Senior Advisor with Econsult Solutions, Partner with Product10x, DNPs of Color Advisory Committee, and Leavitt School of Health Advisory Council at Western Governor's University, and strategic advisor to numerous startups. He has a Master of Science, Management and Leadership Public Administration from East Stroudsburg University and a Bachelor of Arts, Political Science and Public Management from Moravian University.



**Mr. Matt Sigelman** is President of the Burning Glass Institute, Chairman of Lightcast, and a Visiting Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School. Named by Forbes to its Future of Work 50, Mr. Sigelman has dedicated his career to unlocking new avenues for mobility, opportunity,

and equity through skills. Previously, as CEO of KKR-backed Lightcast, he and his team invented the field of real-time labor market data, a breakthrough innovation that transformed the way employers, education institutions, policy makers, and workers understand, plan for, and connect with the world of work. Prior to Lightcast, Mr. Sigelman worked at McKinsey & Company and at Capital One. He writes widely on the job market, has testified before Congress, and is consulted frequently by public officials and global media. Mr. Sigelman holds an AB from Princeton University and an MBA from Harvard and is a Member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



**Dr. Mautra Staley Jones** is the 11th President of Oklahoma City Community College. With her appointment, Dr. Jones became the first woman and first person of color to serve as President of the College. Her appointment also made Oklahoma history as she is the first

African American female to serve as president of any institution of higher education in the state that is not an HBCU (Historically Black College and University). Dr. Jones serves as a board director for BancFirst and BancFirst Corporation, South Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, Oklahoma Hall of Fame, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Oklahoma Philharmonic Society, Oklahoma Watch, the Oklahoma City and County Historical Society and the Oklahoma City Industrial & Cultural Facilities Trust. Dr. Jones holds a B.A. in Journalism from the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Oklahoma and was named a 2023 Distinguished Alumni. In addition, she holds an M.B.A. from the University of Phoenix at San Diego and an Ed.D. from Vanderbilt University's prestigious Peabody College of Education and Human Development.



**Dr. Roy Swift** is currently the executive director of Workcred, an affiliate of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Previously, he served as ANSI's chief workforce development officer, senior director of personnel credentialing accreditation programs at ANSI, and executive

director of the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy. This all followed a 28-year career in the U.S. Army Medical Department, where in his last position, he was chief of the Army Medical Specialist Corps in the Army Surgeon General's Office. Dr. Swift is involved in working groups related to personnel credentialing with the International Organization for Standardization, and has been a guest lecturer on credentialing at the University of Geneva. Dr. Swift holds a B.S. in occupational therapy from the University of Kansas, an M.S. Ed. from the University of Southern California, and a Ph.D. in continuing and vocational education with an emphasis in continuing competency in the professions from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



**Ms. Sarah Szurpicki** is the Director of the Office of Sixty by 30 at the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential where she is responsible for coordinating efforts across the state to meet Governor Whitmer's goal of ensuring that 60 percent

of Michigan's working age adults hold a degree or certificate by 2030. She also serves as a Senior Advisor on Talent to the department director, the Executive Director of the Michigan Workforce Development Board, and the Chair of the state's MISTEM Advisory Council. Ms. Szurpicki's background is in nonprofit management and public policy, particularly around education and youth, urban policy, and talent. She most recently served as the Vice President of the nonpartisan think tank Michigan Future Inc. She attended Harvard University.



**Dr. Holly Zanville** is a research professor and co-director of the Program on Skills, Credentials & Workforce Policy at George Washington University. She currently co-leads the national initiative, Credential As You Go; and leads the wiki model, digital Learn & Work Ecosystem Library. Previously

she served as a strategy director at Lumina Foundation. She has held leadership positions at state higher education systems/ boards in Oregon and Washington, and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education; held academic positions at community college and nontraditional university programs in multiple states; and served as a consultant on K-20 strategic planning, community college networks, and distance education. She serves on the Executive Committee of International Council on Badges and Credentials (ICOBC). Dr. Zanville received her PhD in Educational Administration from the University of Minnesota; MA in English from the University of Wisconsin-Madison; and BA in Biology and English from Lindenwood University (Missouri), graduating with Highest Honors in English.