

Investing in America's Workforce



Megan Mauney (panelist) is the principal program manager for internal accessibility at Amazon. She is legally blind due to retinitis pigmentosa and has been passionate about disability inclusion since learning to advocate for herself at an early age. Her focus is on systemic and programmatic approaches to improve the employment of people with disabilities. Prior to joining Amazon, Mauney worked in customer experience, accessibility, diversity and inclusion, and development in health care and education. She has a master's degree in disability services.

Meg O'Connell (panelist) is the founder and CEO of Global Disability Inclusion and is recognized as a leading disability expert. She has worked with some of the nation's top brands across a variety of industries and has been implementing and leading disability inclusion efforts for large corporations since the mid 1990s. She has won numerous awards for her work, developing talent management, consumer solutions, and corporate marketing/branding campaigns, all geared toward including people with disabilities in the workforce as a part of diversity initiatives. Winner of the Society of Human Resource Management's Innovative Practice Award in 2000, O'Connell is a regularly requested keynote speaker and leads Global Disability Inclusion's strategic direction and new product development. She is a contributor to *Investing in America's Workforce: Improving Outcomes for Workers and Employers*. O'Connell holds a certificate in ADA mediation and she is also conversationally proficient in American Sign Language.

Lindy Sinka is the transition program director for EmployU, a nonprofit that helps youth and adults find a pathway to employment. Education and empowerment are the passions that drive her to create sustainable pathways for youth through education, experience, and vocational exploration. She has more than 15 years of experience in project management and worked closely with the Department of State and UNHCR in northern Iraq, where she lived for more than five years. Sinka holds a BA in anthropology from the University of Central Florida and is a certified associate in project management.

Ang Pracher joined Florida Blue in 1995 and has served in a variety of roles in human resources. Since 2003, Pracher has been an internal consultant responsible for integrating diversity and cultural competence into the business at the strategic, programmatic, and tactical levels. Her experience includes designing processes for and providing consultative support and direction to diversity business councils and employee resource groups; designing and implementing diversity strategies and tactics that are tied to overall business success; and designing and leading various employee-focused programs. She has a variety of experiences in leading, designing, and implementing initiatives relating to policies and programs for high school and college employees, remote working, tuition reimbursement, diversity education, relocation, mentoring, large-scale employee events, and career planning and development. She currently leads work around helping senior leaders better connect with employees, engaging employees in promoting the business's values, listening first-hand to cultural barriers that employees face and identifying solutions, and integrating values into business processes, procedures, and policies. Additionally, Pracher leads the company's various employee communities which enable Florida Blue to hear the voice of the customer, better speak to the various needs and interests employees have, and market to all employees the options they have to flourish beyond their individual job roles. She received her AB from the University of Michigan and her JD from the University of Florida and is a member of The Florida Bar. She also serves as the acting president for the First Coast Business Leadership Network.



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Speakers' and Panelists' Biographies Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Jacksonville Branch

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Christopher L. Oakley is vice president and regional executive of the Jacksonville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. He is responsible for the branch's board of directors and the district's Advisory Council on Trade and Transportation, oversees Jacksonville's economic and financial education programs, and provides regional input into the Atlanta Fed's monetary policy process. Outside of the bank, he is involved in a number of activities, including having roles on the Florida Council on Economic Education, the First Coast and United States Business Leadership Networks, and the JaxUSA Partnership. He is a member of the Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2010. Oakley received his bachelor's degree in management and a certificate in industrial and organizational psychology from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He has also participated in the executive education curriculum at the University of Virginia and the Federal Reserve System's Senior Officer Development program.

John Wagner, MHA, is an associate director with BRG Healthcare Consulting in the health care performance improvement practice, where he leads the value based transformation practice. Mr. Wagner specializes in value based healthcare, high-performance provider networks development and operations, strategic partnerships and integration, and portfolio optimization. He has over 20 years of health care payer and provider experience, focusing on strategic leadership, value-based health care, population health, delivery systems operations, network development and management, negotiations and relationship development, and market and product development. Wagner maintains a strong commitment to diversity and working causes related to people with disabilities through serving on several boards and with frequent speaking engagements. Through his efforts, he was recognized with the 2014 Disabilities Matters National Disabilities Champion award and the 2014 Florida Diversity Council's Multicultural Leader award, and was named in the *Florida Times Union's* 2013 "Ten Who Make a Difference." He is also a member of the American College of Health Care Executives and the University of North Florida (UNF) College of Health Alumni Association.

Alexander Ruder is a senior adviser in the Community and Economic Development (CED) group at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, specializing in workforce and economic development policy. Previously, Ruder was an assistant professor (tenure track) in public policy at the University of South Carolina. He has also held positions as a research project manager at the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University and as the Illinois workNet business services coordinator at the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Ruder's scholarly work has appeared in the *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *the Economics of Education Review*, and Upjohn Press. He has served in an advisory capacity and has volunteered for several community, economic, and workforce development nonprofits. He holds a PhD from Princeton University, an MPP from the Harris School at University of Chicago, and a BA from the University of Florida.

Kathy Krepcio is the executive director of the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development and is responsible for the day-to-day operations, research, and administrative activities of the center. Her research and technical assistance activities have focused on individuals with disabilities, older workers, dislocated workers, social welfare, employment and training, as well as administrative data analysis and program evaluation. As a senior researcher at the Center, she has coauthored several research reports and briefs related to the U.S. workforce system, disability employment, labor market information, dislocated workers, older workers, and program evaluation. Krepcio currently leads the Heldrich Center's disability and employment work, including being the principal investigator of several program evaluation efforts. At present, she is working with the state of New Jersey on the establishment and governance of an integrated state administrative data system housing longitudinal secondary, postsecondary, and workforce data to be located at Rutgers University under the management of the Heldrich Center. She earned a BA from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University and an MA from the Eagleton Institute of Politics at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University. She is a contributor to *Investing in America's Workforce: Improving Outcomes for Workers and Employers*.

Mark Feinour (panelist) serves as the executive director of the support services group at Bank of America. Support services employs over 300 associates with intellectual challenges, providing data entry, digital printing, wide-format printing, and kitting/assembly functions to support bank businesses with cost-effective and quality service. Feinour began his career at Bank of America in 1992, and worked in a number of roles before moving to the support services division in 1999. Within support services, Feinour acted as the administration manager, and later developed, created, and managed the inventory management department. In early 2005, he was named the business support executive for the group, taking on responsibilities of managing all aspects of the division, including developing innovative ways for associates to achieve their potential and promoting the group internally as a valued resource for services. Feinour holds a bachelor's degree in business management from Goldey Beacom College and is chairman of the Delaware Business Leadership Network.

Michael Kiser (panelist) is a member of the business relations team for Florida Vocational Rehabilitation. He has been in the disability employment field for 23 years. He has worked with businesses throughout Florida to help them connect with qualified candidates. Before joining Florida Vocational Rehabilitation, Kiser had been director of employment services for both nonprofit and for-profit companies.