

H-1B TECHHIRE

GRANTEE CONVENING 2017

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FEATURED SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Gretchen Koch is the Executive Director of Workforce Development Strategies at the Creating IT Futures Foundation, where she is responsible for IT workforce development and education initiatives. Koch joined the foundation in 2014 after 11 years of developing national workforce initiatives for CompTIA, where she parlayed her knowledge of industry and educational systems to become a nationally-known change agent for IT workforce development. Before joining CompTIA and its foundation, Koch had more than 20 years of experience in IT management at Digital Equipment, Compaq and Hewlett-Packard corporations. Koch's most recent position in the IT Industry was national education manager, Global Services Division at Compaq & Hewlett-Packard Corporation. Koch is a graduate of the University of Michigan, with honors, and holds an Master of Arts in Teaching from Harvard Graduate School of Education and a Master of Business Administration from Simmons Graduate School of Business.

Cristina McGlew Castro is a Strategist on the Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy & Global Problem Solving 1B team. As part of the Corporate Affairs Strategy and Global Problem Solving 1B team, McGlew Castro is responsible for gathering, defining and clarifying insights that determine our corporate social responsibility strategic (CSR) direction. McGlew Castro drives business development and thought leadership activities that define and influence CSR investments and solutions development. Prior this role, McGlew Castro was part of Corporate Affairs' Global Engagement Organization, where she was responsible for managing a team based throughout Latin America and CSR initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean. Before joining Cisco in 2006, McGlew Castro earned her Master of Business Administration from University of Michigan Ross School of Business after working with the U.S. Navy as a public affairs and procurement specialist. McGlew Castro earned her undergraduate degrees in economics and Spanish from the University of Maryland.

Jesse Martinez is the co-founder and co-chair of the Latino Startup Alliance, a non-profit supporting global Latino tech entrepreneurs and startup ecosystems. Martinez is also the co-founder of AVION Ventures, the first pre-accelerator focused on Latina women working on a startup and based in San Francisco. Along with his brother, in 1998 Martinez co-founded one of the first U.S. online bilingual Latino communities (picosito.com), which was recognized by a U.S. Congressional Record by the House of Representatives in 1999 for their efforts around technology in Latino community. Martinez was also the co-founder of his second startup – Giggo, a groupon-like venture delivering their messaging in Spanish, and the co-founder/COO of his third startup - Relevance, where he served as the country director under the Startup Brasil Program. Martinez is also an advisor to several startups, including Hackers/Founders Co-op, for #YesWeCode, for SXSW 2016 Accelerator, TechCrunch 9th Annual Crunchies Board Member, for the Global EIR Coalition Community Advisor Committee Member. In addition, Martinez is a 2014 Clinton Global Initiative attendee, a team leader for the U.S. White House on Tech Inclusion, and a previous Board Member for MEDA (Mission Economic Development Agency).

Tom Ogletree is the Director of Social Impact and External Affairs at General Assembly, a global educational company focused on tech, data, business, and design. Ogletree leads design and implementation of education and workforce programs which empower underserved and overlooked talent to acquire digital skills and secure high-wage tech careers. Previously, Ogletree held a range of leadership roles in operations, fundraising, and program management with the Clinton Foundation, CCS Fundraising, and GLAAD. Ogletree received his Bachelor of Arts from Yale and his Master of Public Administration from New York University. Ogletree is Vice Chair of the Board of the Ali Forney Center, a nonprofit that provides housing and supportive services to LGBTQ homeless youth.

Stacey Rose is the Senior Human Resource & Labor Relations Manager for the Kroger Manufacturing Division of The Kroger Co., is a leading voice in the manufacturing industry for apprenticeships and skill-based training. Under Rose's leadership, Kroger became an inaugural member of the U.S. Department of Labor's Apprenticeship USA LEADERS Program and is introducing a standardized apprenticeship program in each of Kroger's 35 manufacturing facilities. With the support of the U.S. Department of Labor and local partnerships with workforce development boards, colleges, and labor unions, Kroger Manufacturing will add at least 40 new apprentices in manufacturing by the end of 2017. Now based in Kroger's Corporate Office in Cincinnati, Ohio, Rose joined the company in 2004 and spent 8 years working in five different Kroger Manufacturing plants. It was during this time Rose developed her passion for investing in Kroger's associates and became an advocate for the strengthening of the American worker.

Mark Wagner is a talent development strategist serving The Hartford claims organization. Wagner joined The Hartford in October, 2012 after holding a similar position at Progressive Insurance for over 10 years and training thousands of claims professionals. The mission at The Hartford is to grow a highly proficient claim workforce at all levels, enabling the Hartford to succeed by growing the business profitably with a talented and engaged work force. In Wagner's tenure at The Hartford, the learning organization has received two patents related to performance and talent development, including one for an employee badging and credentialing process and the other for a knowledge management support platform. The Hartford also introduced the concept of "learning labs" to bring intense practice on real work into the training environment. In 2016, The Hartford started a registered apprenticeship program. The program serves as the first U.S.-based registered insurance apprenticeship program, which was signed at a ceremony at the U.S. Department of Labor on Nov. 17, 2016. Through current partnerships and others in development, The Hartford plans to onboard 200 apprentices by 2020. Wagner is a member of Lumina's Business Champions collaborative and ApprenticeshipUSA LEADERS group.

Byron Zuidema serves as the ETA Deputy Assistant Secretary, in leadership and consultation with national, state, and local leaders; seeking workforce and economic solutions to meet the needs of employers and workers to develop thriving communities. Zuidema was appointed as a Department of Labor Senior Executive in May, 1998 and served as the Chicago Regional Administrator until October 1, 2014. During that time he also served as a Senior Advisor on the Transition Team for the Department of Labor and also Implementation of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. Zuidema has also served as the interim DOL ETA Administrative Officer. Zuidema's other public sector work includes extensive senior-level experience at the local and state levels. Zuidema's private sector experience includes working in the IT Industry with software and technology companies.