

# PA Chamber Higher Education Summit

Presented in Partnership with **SJ STEPTOE & JOHNSON**  
PLLC

September 10, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Rock Lititz Campus

## AGENDA

**9:00 A.M.** Registration, Breakfast, Networking

**9:30 A.M.** Opening Remarks

- **Luke Bernstein**, President and CEO, PA Chamber

**9:35 A.M.** How Rock Lititz is Leading Workforce Development

- **Andrea Shirk**, President and CEO, Rock Global

**9:45 A.M.** Student Panel: Lessons from Live Entertainment

**10:05 A.M.** Panel 1: Aligning Higher Education with Workforce Needs

- **Overview:** Explore how higher education institutions, employers, and state government can work collaboratively to close skills gaps, expand experiential learning, and ensure students graduate with the tools required for the workforce. Panelists will also examine how artificial intelligence and demographic shifts are reshaping higher education's role as an economic driver for the Commonwealth.
- **Moderator:**
  - **Jason A. Antin**, Member, Steptoe and Johnson
- **Potential Panelists:**
  - **Dr. Tuesday Stanley**, PA Commission for Community Colleges
  - **Dr. Lisa Lambert**, President, Chatham University
  - **Amy Reigner**, Chief Human Resources Officer, Penn Medicine Lancaster General Hospital
  - **Grant Ervin**, Vice President of External Affairs and Sustainability, S&B USA

**11:05 A.M.** Refreshment Break

**11:15 A.M.** Panel 2: Navigating State and Federal Policy Impacts

- **Overview:** Higher education institutions are operating in an increasingly complex policy environment shaped by federal and state decisions on funding, immigration, regulation, and campus governance. At the same time, institutions face mounting pressure to control costs, maintain access and affordability, and foster environments that welcome diverse viewpoints. This panel will examine policy forces affecting higher education today—and what institutional leaders should be preparing for next.
- **Moderator:**
  - **Marcia L. DePaula**, Member, Steptoe and Johnson
- **Panelists:**
  - **Dr. Sylvester Williams, IV, JD, MBA, CCLE**, Dean for College of Business and Management, East Stroudsburg University

**12:15 P.M.** “Degrees That Deliver: Accountability through Outcomes”

- **Overview:** This fireside chat will explore how higher education can better align academic programs with the evolving needs of today's workforce. The conversation will focus on elevating student outcomes, strengthening accountability, and ensuring institutions are delivering real value for students, employers, and the broader economy.
- **Panelists:**
  - **Kelly McManus**, Executive Vice President of Education, Arnold Ventures
  - **Dr. Neeli Bendapudi**, President, Penn State University

**1:00 P.M.** Lunch and Networking

**1:30 P.M.** Conclude

# ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



**Kelly McManus, Executive Vice President of Education, Arnold Ventures**

Kelly McManus leads Arnold Ventures' education team, driving efforts to increase the return on investment in the education system for both students and taxpayers. Under Kelly's leadership, the team manages a portfolio of research, policy, advocacy, and litigation investments to create lasting policy change. She has grown Arnold Ventures' education portfolio with a strong focus on accountability, value, and return on investment in education, while building support for evidence-based policies at both the state and federal levels.

Kelly's work spans two decades of experience across K-12 and higher education, including initiatives that connect education and workforce development to economic mobility and stability. She is engaged in career pathways work, ensuring multiple routes to economic security. Her expertise also extends to exploring how K-12 education and workforce policies can drive opportunity and equity nationwide.

Prior to joining Arnold Ventures, Kelly served as the director of government affairs for EdTrust, directing strategy and legislative advocacy across early childhood, K-12 education, higher education, and appropriations issues. Before coming to Washington, D.C., she worked extensively in state-level education policy and advocacy in Arizona and served as a middle school English teacher with Teach For America in Philadelphia.

Kelly earned a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a bachelor's degree in political science from Wake Forest University.



**Dr. Neeli Bendapudi, President, Penn State**

Dr. Neeli Bendapudi has served as the nineteenth president of Penn State since May 2022, leading one of the nation's largest and most comprehensive universities with energy, clarity, and a deep commitment to student success. A nationally respected academic leader and former business executive, she brings more than thirty years of experience across higher education and industry.

Under her leadership, Penn State has achieved a balanced budget a year ahead of schedule, completed its most successful fundraising year ever in 2024-25, and reached new heights in research, intellectual property, and external engagement. She has accelerated interdisciplinary research, continued to build Penn State as a national leader in public impact and innovation, and initiated a multi-year reimagining of the Commonwealth Campus structure.

President Bendapudi previously served as president of the University of Louisville and held senior academic roles at the University of Kansas and The Ohio State University. She holds a Ph.D. in marketing from the University of Kansas, and her research on consumer behavior has appeared in top academic and professional journals.

Widely recognized for her visionary leadership and people-centered approach, she is a proud advocate for public higher education and the power it holds to transform lives.



**Jason A. Antin, Member, Steptoe and Johnson**

Jason Antin concentrates his practice in real estate and general corporate law. He adds value by being a creative problem solver and an effective deal leader.

Antin advises colleges and universities on a broad range of institutional matters, including real estate development, long term strategic planning, financing structures, and tax exempt considerations. His work supports leadership teams as they evaluate campus growth initiatives, structure capital projects, navigate regulatory and governance requirements, and manage urgent operational challenges when they arise. He helps

institutions align facilities decisions, financial planning, and mission driven objectives to create durable, sustainable frameworks for future development.

He has tremendous experience in all aspects of commercial real estate transactions, including the acquisition, development, leasing, financing, and disposition of industrial, multifamily, office, and retail property. He has represented closely-held entities, real estate developers, corporations, and investment groups. His real estate practice has included a wide range of projects, including urban development, build-to-rent communities, corporate leasing, ground leases, master leases, government entities, real estate related to mergers and acquisitions/portfolios, and joint ventures.

He also has a background as an owner-operator in residential real estate and is a licensed Pennsylvania Broker of Record.

Jason's corporate law practice focuses on providing general counsel services and strategic advice to a wide range of businesses, ranging from multi-generational family businesses to private equity funds. He advises companies on both day-to-day and complex matters.

Previously, Antin was a partner at a large, international law firm and clerked for the Chief District Judge of the Western District of Pennsylvania.

He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of The George Washington University and holds a JD/MBA from Emory University as well as a LLM from NYU.



**Dr. Tuesday Stanley, PA Commission for Community Colleges**

Dr. Tuesday Stanley is President of the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges, where she represents Pennsylvania's 15 community colleges and advocates for policies, funding, and partnerships that strengthen workforce development, economic growth, and student success across the Commonwealth. In this role, she works closely with business leaders, legislators, educators, and industry partners to ensure community colleges are responsive to evolving workforce needs and help employers build the talent pipeline they require.

With more than three decades of leadership experience in higher education, Dr. Stanley has served as a college president, vice chancellor, associate vice chancellor, and executive leader at institutions across the country. Throughout her career, she has championed innovative workforce training, industry partnerships, student access initiatives, and strategic investments in technology to improve organizational effectiveness and student outcomes. She also serves as President of Higher Education Consultants, advising colleges and education technology companies on strategy, enrollment, governance, and market alignment.

Dr. Stanley holds an Ed.D. in Higher Education from the University of Pennsylvania, an MBA from Lehigh University, and a bachelor's degree from Purdue University.



**Marcia L. DePaula, Member, Steptoe and Johnson**

Marcia DePaula understands the importance of authentic connections by engaging in thoughtful conversation, active listening, and exhibiting empathy. Clients appreciate Marcia's ability to make connections with them, but more importantly, her ability to provide solutions to their problems.

Marcia understands the importance of being face-to-face with clients, and she can routinely be found conducting on-site client visits, seeking feedback, and providing training.

Marcia focuses her practice in the areas of labor and employment law and higher education. Marcia's practice is a unique blend of litigation prevention and litigation defense. Marcia helps employers work through Title VII, ADA, FMLA, and ADEA related to discrimination, harassment, accommodations, discipline, and termination. Success in counseling clients is rooted in her willingness to listen to her client in order to understand the legal situation, as well as the impact on business operations and workplace environment. Marcia negotiates collective bargaining agreements and handles grievance arbitrations.

While litigation can be exciting, most employers don't have the same mindset. Marcia works to make the litigation process as effortless as possible for her clients. Marcia is frequently advocating for and defending clients before administrative agencies, including the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and in state and federal courts.

Marcia is a very well-rounded attorney. In addition to her employment practice, Marcia advises private universities on GDPR, FERPA, Title IX, and Title VII. Marcia has extensive experience in commercial and business litigation, including banking, construction, and advertising.

Additionally, Marcia serves as Practice Group Leader for the Labor & Employment Department and serves on the Strategic Planning Committee of the firm. She participates in the firm's Higher Education, Banking, Real Estate, and Financial Services teams. Similar to the way she connects with clients, Marcia has an open-door policy and uses her leadership and relationship-building skills to develop and mentor other firm lawyers.



**Dr. Sylvester Williams, IV, JD, MBA, CCLE, Dean for College of Business and Management, East Stroudsburg University**

Dr. Sylvester Williams is the Dean of the College of Business and Management at East Stroudsburg University. He has had an extensive career in both the public and private sectors, having worked as a legislative aide for the United States Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Early in his career, Dr. Williams was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to serve on the National Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for a four-year term. He was a staff attorney in the Mass Media Bureau during President George Bush's administration. He has extensive work experience in the entertainment area of business, working with law firms as well as Time Warner. He spent 14 years working at Time Warner's corporate office across its cable, movie, and music divisions.

Also in the private sector, Dr. Williams worked as an economic policy analyst for a consulting firm and as an investment advisor for a regional investment firm in Washington, D.C.

He has written several workbooks on e-commerce law, project management, and Internet marketing, and has published over 75 articles on various business topics. As a public official, he has written and presented several documents on various topics relating to free trade and free trade agreements.

He earned his bachelor's degree in economics and finance from Howard University; his MBA from Wake Forest University; and his JD from Wake Forest University, along with certifications and executive leadership studies at Catholic University of America and Harvard University.





### **Grant Ervin, Vice President of External Affairs and Sustainability, S&B USA**

Grant Ervin serves as Vice President for External Affairs and Sustainability for S&B USA, where he leads stakeholder engagement, marketing and communications, strategic partnership development, government affairs, and corporate philanthropy that advances S&B's infrastructure investment pursuits and construction activities in North America. He specializes in forming public, private and university partnerships that catalyze the creation of innovative infrastructure solutions and career opportunities for the next generation of builders.

Ervin has over 25 years of experience integrating infrastructure solutions, sustainability and social responsibility practices into operations, policies, communications strategy and organizational initiatives with community, government, private and university partnerships.

He previously served as the Chief Resilience Officer and Assistant Director for the City of Pittsburgh's Department of City Planning and Department of Innovation and Performance and Department of Innovation and Performance. His accomplishments include the development of Hays Woods into Pittsburgh's newest park, the catalyst for the Uptown Eco Innovation District which as spurred over \$500 million in infrastructure and construction activities, the ONEPGH resilience strategy and public private partnership platform, The Pittsburgh Climate Action Plan and the Western Pennsylvania Energy Consortium Renewable Energy Procurement Program among many other initiatives. Mr. Ervin's activities led to the City's participation in number national and global partnerships with the Rockefeller Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Bloomberg Philanthropies, which connected his hometown of Pittsburgh with the world.

Ervin currently serves as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA) Manufactures and Commerce, on the Green Builders Committee of the Master Builders of Western Pennsylvania, the transportation policy advisory committees of the Associated Pennsylvania Constructors, Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, as an advisor to Pittsburgh Earth Day – where he hosts the monthly Green Voice Podcast, and on the board of directors of CONNECT (the Congress of Neighboring Communities), The Pennsylvania Economy League, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and The Challenge Program.

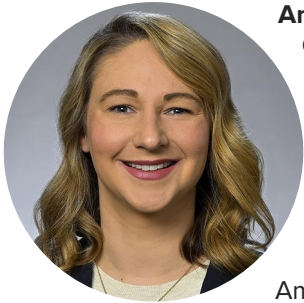
Ervin continues to advise cities and local governments on matters of sustainability and infrastructure. He holds a Master of Public and International Affairs (MPIA) with a specialization in Global Political Economy from the University of Pittsburgh – Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, a BA from Washington and Jefferson College, and his Environmental Social and Governance Executive Certificate through Wharton Executive Education at the University of Pennsylvania.



### **Andrea Shirk, President & CEO, Rock Global**

Andrea Shirk is the visionary leader behind a new generation of live event experiences. As President & CEO of Rock Global, she has built a uniquely collaborative organization dedicated to advancing the live event industry through innovation, operational excellence, and world-class production solutions. Andrea brings a strong engineering and leadership background to her role, holding a degree in Mechanical Engineering and having served in product development, program management, and leadership positions at both Lockheed Martin and Bose. Her experience developing high-performance teams and complex technical programs has shaped her strategic approach to business growth and innovation. Since taking the helm in 2013, Andrea has led the transformation of Rock into a

globally recognized destination for live event production. Under her leadership, the organization has created an ecosystem where tours, productions, and live event professionals from around the world can rehearse, train, build, and refine their shows in a safer, more efficient, and highly collaborative environment. Today, Rock Global continues to expand its impact across the live entertainment sector, bringing together industry-leading companies, cutting-edge facilities, and a community-driven culture that fosters creativity, education, and innovation. Andrea remains committed to empowering the next generation of live event professionals while driving continued growth and excellence throughout the industry. Through her leadership, Rock Global champions a culture of collaboration, passion, and progress helping shape the future of live events on a global scale.



**Amy Reigner, Chief Human Resources Officer, Penn Medicine Lancaster General Hospital**

Amy Reigner, SPHR, is the Chief human resources officer (CHRO) at Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health (LG Health), effective June 1, 2026. In this role, Amy leads the strategic direction and oversight of all human resources functions at LG Health, with a continued focus on strengthening culture, advancing workforce development, and supporting overall organizational performance.

Amy began her career at LG Health as a human resources business partner and, over nearly a decade with Penn Medicine, advanced through systemwide leadership roles including corporate HR manager, associate CHRO, and, most recently, CHRO at Princeton Health. Across these roles, she took on progressively broader responsibilities and led complex, high-impact initiatives that strengthened alignment across the health system while honoring local entity needs.

Most notably, Amy is leading enterprise-wide policy harmonization, with a focus on standardizing HR practices and creating a more consistent employee experience. As CHRO at Princeton Health, she also implemented targeted engagement and talent strategies that contributed to reduced turnover, reflecting her steady focus on workforce stability.

Amy holds a Bachelor of Science in business administration with a concentration in human resources management from Shippensburg University and a certificate in human resources management from Villanova University. She is a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) and an active member of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), grounding her leadership in both practice and professional rigor.