LEADER CONTACTS
LLP STAFF TRAINING SESSION SPEAKERS

BUDGET

MARY ANN CLEARY
DIRECTOR, HOUSE FISCAL AGENCY, STATE OF MICHIGAN

Mary Ann Cleary is the Director of the Michigan House Fiscal Agency, a nonpartisan agency with the Michigan House of Representatives. Agency personnel provide confidential, nonpartisan assistance to the House of Appropriations Committee and all other members of the House on legislative fiscal matters. She is one of three voting members of the Michigan Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference which, by law, determines the official economic and revenue forecast that serves as the basis for the state budget. Prior to her appointment as Agency Director, Cleary was the Deputy Director of the House Fiscal Agency. She has been employed with the agency since 1990, and has more than 15 years of school finance experience. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Michigan State University, Eli Broad College of Business.

ELLEN JEFFRIES
DIRECTOR, SENATE FISCAL AGENCY, STATE OF MICHIGAN

Ellen Jeffries has been with the Senate Fiscal Agency since 1977, starting as a fiscal analyst, moving up to Chief Analyst for seven years, Deputy Director for 20 years, and now Director of the Agency. Jeffries graduated from Hillsdale College with a degree in Political Economy, and received a Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of Chicago. Jeffries has served as the staff chair for the National Conference of State Legislatures' Assembly on the Legislature Education Committee, was a charter member of Women in State Government as well as the Lansing Women’s Economic Club and a member of the Michigan Higher Education Database Advisory Committee. She has also served as a member and Chairwoman of the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority.
MARY SCHULZ
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, EXTENSION, MSU

Mary Schulz is the Associate Director for the Michigan State University Extension Center for Local Government Finance and Policy.

Mary joined the MSU Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics faculty in 1997 as a research and outreach specialist. Prior to her work at MSU, Mary was a Federal Affairs Representation for the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies and the Crop Insurance Research Bureau in Washington, DC, from 1994 to 1997.

Mary is a graduate of Michigan State University with a B.A. in Economics and a Masters in Agricultural Economics.
ERIC WALCOTT
*State Specialist, Extension, MSU*

Eric Walcott is a State Specialist with MSU Extension’s Government and Public Policy programs. He works with faculty on campus and Educators throughout the State to develop and implement educational programs related to state and local government. Eric’s work focuses primarily on good governance, civic engagement, and fiscal sustainability, seeking to build capacity of state and local government officials as well as educate Michigan residents on issues related to state and local government and encourage their informed participation. Eric previously worked in the Michigan House of Representatives, and holds a Master of Public Policy degree from Michigan State University.
STAFF TRAINING LUNCH SPEAKER
SOCIAL MEDIA LUNCHEON

MICHAL LORENC
Head of Industry – Ticketing, Sports & Live Events
Google

Mike is a 14-year veteran of Google and has held multiple leadership roles on the revenue generating side of the business. He’s currently heading up Google’s Ticketing & Live Events Group where he oversees Sales and Account Services Team responsible for fostering strategic relationships with key partners in sports, family entertainment, music and ticketing Industries; and works closely with key stakeholders across Google's family of brands to develop new ad formats and products for the live events category.

Before this role, Mike opened Google's Operations in his native Poland; helped build out Google offices in Ann Arbor, and ran Mid-Market Sales team for Google Canada. He also teaches video and digital marketing courses at Michigan State University and acts as Executive in Residence at Eastern Michigan University's Center for Digital Engagement. In addition, he recently became a Co-Owner of AFC Ann Arbor - Minor League Soccer Team in Ann Arbor.

A marketing & international business graduate of Loyola University of Chicago, Mike currently resides in Ann Arbor and considers himself extremely lucky to work in the cross-section of sports/entertainment and online marketing worlds.
JANICE BEECHER

DIRECTOR
INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Professor Janice Beecher has served as Director of the Institute of Public Utilities at Michigan State University since 2002, bringing more than thirty years of applied research experience to the position.

She is a frequent author, lecturer, and participant in professional forums and Editor of Utilities Policy. Her areas of interest include regulatory institutions, governance and pricing, and she specializes in the water sector. She is presently serving on Michigan’s 21st Century Infrastructure Commission and the U.S. EPA’s Environmental Finance Advisory Board.

She has a Ph.D. in Political Science from Northwestern University.
ROGER CURTIS

DIRECTOR

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TALENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Roger Curtis was named director of the Department of Talent and Economic Development by Gov. Rick Snyder in November 2016. The department works to ensure that the state can efficiently and effectively develop, administer and coordinate Michigan’s economic, housing, and talent development initiatives and programs.

Curtis previously spent 10 years as president of Michigan International Speedway. Under his leadership, MIS hosted two annual NASCAR races – bringing an estimated $414 million in economic activity to the state. Curtis worked to make MIS a year-round destination with the addition of sports car and go karting events, automotive research and development programs and non-motorsports events such as a Tough Mudder, and Faster Horses, a three-day country music festival that is one of the fastest growing music festivals in the nation, bringing in more than 100,000 people to Michigan’s Irish Hills.

Curtis also has served as vice president of sales and marketing at California Speedway, senior director of marketing and sales at Richmond International Raceway and director of marketing and sales at Watkins Glen International.

A native of Terre Haute, Ind., Curtis is a graduate of Indiana State University. He lives in Onsted and serves as treasurer of the Onsted Board of Education.

JOELLE DEMAND

MAJORITY FLOOR OPERATIONS MANAGER

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Joelle began her political career in 1996 working for Michigan Sen. Mat Dunaskiss as an office manager and ultimately working up to be legislative director. Continuing in her legislative career, she moved into the Michigan House of Representatives, working with then Speaker Rick Johnson and as a policy analyst for the Republican caucus.

Demand still works for the House and has worked for many members including Speaker Jase Bolger, House Appropriations Chair Scott Hummel, and Majority Floor Leaders Jim Stamas, Aric Nesbitt and currently Dan Lauwers. For four years, between 2007 and 2010, Demand worked as a lobbyist for the Michigan Bankers Association.

Demand graduated from Alma College in 1990, earning a Bachelors Degree in Political Science. From East Carolina University in 1995, she earned a Masters in Public Administration.
Jeremy Hendges currently serves as Chief Deputy Director at TED with a focus on ensuring that people, job providers, and communities have the tools they need to succeed.

He previously was deputy director of policy and legislative relations.

Prior to joining TED, Jeremy worked in the Michigan Legislature for just more than a dozen years holding a variety of positions on legislative policy and process. Including director of floor operations in the Michigan Senate and Legislative Director in the Michigan Senate.

He holds a bachelor of arts from Grand Valley State University.

Robert Kleine is Interim Director of the Michigan State University Center for Local Government Finance and Policy. He’s a former Treasurer of Michigan, appointed by Governor Granholm in April 2006. He was also formerly vice president and senior economist at Public Sector Consultants, where he was employed for 16 years.

He has extensive experience in analyzing public policy issues, state and local government budgets, economic forecasting, tax policy analysis, and school organization and finance. Kleine also was employed by the State of Michigan for 17 years, the last ten as Director of the Office of Revenue and Tax Analysis, where he was responsible for state economic and revenue forecasts and development of state tax policy.

Mr. Kleine also was employed as a Senior Analyst by the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, where he conducted studies on such state and local finance issues as cigarette smuggling, state tax comparisons, value-added taxation, and state and local tax policy.

He has also been an adjunct professor at Michigan State University, teaching public finance. He has a bachelor of arts in economics and history from McDaniel College and a Master’s in Business Administration from Michigan State University.
Mike Kovacic is Director of Stakeholder Relations for the Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, coordinating government relations for the College, including MSU Extension and AgBioResearch.

Prior to joining the University in 1997, Kovacic worked for the Michigan Farm Bureau. He served the organization for 16 years, first as a Commodity Specialist, then as Manager of the Young Farmer Department and then as the Director of Information & Public Relations.

Kovacic is a graduate of MSU with a Bachelor’s, Master’s and doctorate, all in Agriculture and Extension Education.

Matt Miner
Chief Executive Officer
Capitol Strategies Group

Matthew spent more than 15 years working on the inside of state government before going on to become one of the youngest individuals to be named Chief of Staff to a Senate Majority Leader in 2007. In his position as Chief of Staff to Senate Majority Leader Michael D. Bishop, Matthew Miner was the top strategist for the majority leader and successfully directed the Michigan Senate Republican Campaign Committee to its largest majority in the Michigan Senate in more than six decades. Prior to his service with Senate Majority Leader Bishop, Matthew was the Legislative Director to longtime Senate Appropriations Chairman Harry Gast.

In 2010, Matthew left the Senate and co-founded Capitol Strategies Group with Daniel Farhat. Matthew’s interests include strategic planning, public policy development, communications, and political strategy. His strong legislative knowledge and political experience uniquely positions him for his role as client advocate; especially in an era of term limits. In his more than 15 years of work experience in state government, Matthew has amassed a strong understanding of the legislative process and has the proven ability to strategize, promote, evaluate and implement political and public policy objectives.
STACEY MURRAY
**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR**
**MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Stacey Murray serves as the Professional Development Coordinator for the Michigan House of Representatives. She is responsible for continuing education of staff members, professional development, hiring assistance in member offices and implementation of the Michigan House of Representatives Legislative Fellowship Program.

Prior to becoming the Professional Development Coordinator, Stacey was a staff member in the Michigan House of Representatives and the Michigan Senate for over 20 years in several capacities. Having served in several leadership offices, her responsibilities have ranged from legislative director, floor director in the senate, fundraising and campaigns. Stacey also spent a few years as a lobbyist for the Michigan Township Association.

Stacey is a graduate of Michigan State University and resides in Williamston with her four sons.

FRED SCHAIBLE
**CHIEF OF STAFF**
**SEN. DAVE HILDENBRAND**
**MICHIGAN SENATE**

Fred Schaible graduated from Saline High School in 2002 and studied political science at Western Michigan University. He received his bachelor's degree in December 2005 from WMU. In January 2005, prior to graduating, he began his career at the State Capitol where he still works today. Fred began his career covering constituent relations and scheduling for two state representatives.

In 2007, he accepted a position with the House Republican Policy Office and served as a policy adviser for Human Services, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Environment, and Energy and Technology. In 2009, he moved to the Senate Majority Policy Office and staffed transportation issues for the caucus. Following the 2010 election he was offered the legislative director position for state Sen. Dave Hildenbrand, where he currently serves as the senator's Chief of Staff and appropriations coordinator.
Eric Walcott is a State Specialist with MSU Extension’s Government and Public Policy programs. He works with faculty on campus and educators throughout the State to develop and implement educational programs related to state and local government.

Eric’s work focuses primarily on good governance, civic engagement, and fiscal sustainability, seeking to build capacity of state and local government officials as well as educate Michigan residents on issues related to state and local government and encourage their informed participation.

Eric previously worked in the Michigan House of Representatives, and holds a Master of Public Policy degree from Michigan State University.
STAFF TRAINING AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SPEAKERS

FROM VISION TO LEGISLATION

JOHN BOLLMAN
DIRECTOR, LEGAL DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU

John Bollman began working as an attorney with the Legislative Service Bureau's Legal Division in 1986. Since 2004 he has served Director of the Legal Division.

In that capacity he manages the law office that serves as legal counsel to the Michigan Legislature and drafts all legislation considered by the Michigan Legislature. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, he drafts legislation in the areas of Great Lakes, water, natural resources, environmental protection and environmental funding.

He received his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and his law degree from Western Michigan University Cooley Law School.

John Bollman
Director, Legal Division
Legislative Service Bureau
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CURRENT TRENDS IN POLICY

LAURA TOBLER

DIVISION DIRECTOR
STATE POLICY RESEARCH DIVISION
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

Laura serves as Director of the State Policy Research Division at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), a membership organization of the states.

She has been with NCSL since 1995 and has authored many papers, articles, books, and issue briefs on a variety of health topics.

She received her Bachelor of Science from Pennsylvania State University and her Masters of Public Policy from Rutgers University.
Matt Grossmann serves as the Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR). A nationally known political scientist, he also holds a position as Associate Professor of Political Science at Michigan State University.

As an expert on American politics and government, his research spans national and state policymaking, election campaigns, interest groups, and political parties. His current work explores key differences between major political parties and economic inequality in policy influence.


He is author of numerous journal articles on such topics as policy change, political party networks, the legislative process and public opinion. His research appears in the Journal of Politics, Policy Studies Journal, Perspectives on Politics, American Politics Research and other outlets. He is also co-author of Campaigns & Elections, a textbook available through W. W. Norton, and editor of the volume New Directions in Interest Group Politics, from Routledge.

His roots are also deep in practical politics, especially in candidate training, policy and survey research. His experience includes work at the Rose Institute of State and Local Government, the Institute of Governmental Studies, the Center for Voting and Democracy and the Center for Democracy and Technology. He served as a fellow for the Sunlight Foundation and co-authored a book for use in campaign leadership institutes.

A member of MSU’s faculty since 2007, he is founder and director of the and served as liaison to MSU’s Washington Semester

He received his bachelor’s degree from Claremont McKenna College, his master’s in political science in 2002 and doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2007. He became IPPSR director in January 2016.
JEFF DWYER, PH.D.
DIRECTOR, EXTENSION
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Jeff Dwyer was named director of MSU Extension on April 1, 2016 after serving as interim director since Jan. 1, 2016. He has been an active member of the MSU Extension team since 2008, and has helped lead the Extension Health Research Team since it was created in 2014. This health and nutrition initiative brings together the resources of MSU Extension and the College of Human Medicine to enhance the health of Michigan residents by engaging them in health research in their communities.

Dwyer earned the prestigious MSU Extension Key Partner Award in 2011 for his role in helping the organization help medical professionals put health research into practice and helping patients learn how to manage their own health. Since joining the organization, he has played a key role in delivering much-needed assistance to the residents of Flint during the water emergency, helped create a cross-functional team to help address farm stress spurred by low commodity prices and shored up resources with MSU Extension to help strengthen the organization’s offering to residents throughout the state.

MARK BURNHAM
VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Mark Burnham became Vice President for Governmental Affairs for Michigan State University in February 2011. He had been MSU’s Associate Vice President for Governmental Affairs in Washington D.C. since April 2006. Prior to joining MSU, Burnham was the director of federal relations for research for the University of Michigan.

From 1998 through 2003, he was a member of Lewis-Burke Associates, a lobbying firm representing universities and scientific consortia. In addition to his career as a higher education advocate, Burnham worked as an attorney for the law firm JonesDay. Burnham has a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of Michigan and a law degree from the Boston College Law School.
DAVID BERTRAM
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR STATE AFFAIRS
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

David Bertram joined MSU in October 2011 as Assistant Vice President for State Affairs. Prior to working at MSU, Bertram, spent nearly 15 years with the Michigan Township Association, serving as the legislative team leader from 2000-11.

Bertram served in Gov. John Engler’s office in a number of positions, working as the governor’s lobbyist in the Michigan Senate for three years. He also served on Senate Majority Leader Engler’s staff, gubernatorial campaign staff and on the Engler transition team in 1990. Bertram has a Bachelor of Science in political science from Lake Superior State University.

MIKE KOVACIC
DIRECTOR, STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS,
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Mike Kovacic is Director of Stakeholder Relations for the Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, coordinating government relations for the College, including MSU Extension and AgBioResearch.

Prior to joining the University in 1997, Kovacic worked for the Michigan Farm Bureau. He served the organization for 16 years, first as a Commodity Specialist, then as Manager of the Young Farmer Department and then as the Director of Information & Public Relations.

Kovacic is a graduate of MSU with a Bachelor’s, Master’s and doctorate, all in Agriculture and Extension Education.
ERIC WALCOTT
STATE SPECIALIST, MSU EXTENSION
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Eric Walcott is a State Specialist with MSU Extension’s Government and Public Policy programs. He works with faculty on campus and educators throughout the state to develop and implement educational programs related to state and local government. Eric’s work focuses primarily on good governance, civic engagement, and fiscal sustainability, seeking to build capacity of state and local government officials as well as educate Michigan residents on issues related to state and local government and encourage their informed participation. Eric previously worked in the Michigan House of Representatives, and holds a Master of Public Policy degree from Michigan State University.