



Governmental Research Association 2017 Annual Policy Conference

*Speaker Bios
July 16 – 19, 2017*

Hosted by:



Joe Adams
Research Coordinator
Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA)

Joe Adams is the research coordinator for PARCA. He came from the John C. Stennis Institute of Government at Mississippi State University (MSU) where he worked with state and local governments to improve operations. He has taught more than 40 college courses in the areas of public policy, political theory, program evaluation, and ethics in public administration, and served as an active participant on 15 doctoral dissertation committees as a member of the MSU graduate faculty.



Joe has 23 years of experience in government research, analysis, and planning, including eight years in state government, as a senior legislative research analyst with the Comptroller of the Treasury's Offices of Research and Educational Accountability in Tennessee, as a budget and performance analyst for the Texas with the Legislative Budget Board, and as the first director of planning for the Texas Workforce Commission. Before working in government, he was the research director for Political Research Inc., and a visiting assistant professor at Auburn University. He holds a B.A. from Texas A&M University (political science and history), and a Ph.D. (political science) from Vanderbilt University.

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Mallory Bateman
State Data Center Director
Kern C. Gardner Policy Institute

Mallory Bateman is the State Data Center coordinator and research analyst with the Demographics team at the Kern C. Gardner Policy Institute. Prior to her time at the Policy Institute, she was a Research Analyst at the Utah Foundation and researched policy topics from demographics to local roads. Her experience also includes time in nonprofit community engagement, public involvement, and environmental analysis.



Ms. Bateman earned her BA in Urban Planning from the University of Utah and an MSc in Social Policy and Planning from the London School of Economics.

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Anne Chapman
Senior Researcher
Public Policy Forum

Anne Chapman is a senior researcher with the Public Policy Forum. Her work focuses on K-12 education issues. She also conducts research related to arts and culture, local government finance, and nonprofits/philanthropy.

Before joining the Forum in August 2012, Chapman worked as a legislative program analyst at the Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau. Previously, she served as community impact manager for United Way of Salt Lake and community development agent with the United States Peace Corps in Mali, West Africa.

Chapman holds a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, La Follette School of Public Affairs. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in French and International Studies from Washington University in St. Louis and a graduate certificate in conflict resolution from the University of Utah. She is a member of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management.

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Ari Bruening
Chief Operating Officer
Envision Utah

Ari Bruening, JD, AICP, has extensive experience in visioning and implementation efforts for regions and large-scale projects. Prior to joining Envision Utah, he helped manage visioning and entitlement projects for the San Diego region; Laie, Hawaii; the 93,000-acre Kennecott Land Company project in Salt Lake County; the 175,000-acre Superstition Vistas Arizona state trust land parcel; and the 300,000-acre Deseret Ranches of Florida landholding near the Orlando International Airport. He represented Kennecott Land Company in the land use planning and approval effort for over 90,000 acres on Salt Lake's West Bench, including the 4,000-acre Daybreak community that has received widespread acclaim.

Ari, an AICP certified planner, graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School, where he was an editor for the Harvard Law Review. He is the author of "The TDR Siren Song: The Problems with Transferable Development Rights Programs and How to Fix Them," 23 Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law 423 (2008) and "Old Regionalism, New Regionalism, and Envision Utah: Making Regionalism Work," 118 Harvard Law Review 2291 (2005), and a co-author of "Sprawl & Local Government Taxation Regimes: Cause & Effect" in Urban Sprawl: A Comprehensive Reference (2005).

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Christopher Collard
Research Analyst
Utah Foundation

As a research analyst at Utah Foundation, Christopher focuses on economic policy, fiscal matters, and really anything that involves lots of numbers. He is passionate about finding creative ways to make the practical significance of those numbers understood. He earned a B.A. from Brigham Young University in International Relations with minors in Arabic and Math and a Masters of Public Policy from the University of Utah. He will be returning this fall to the University of Utah's MPP program this fall as faculty. He has a preference for obscenely large books (non-fiction and otherwise) and activities involving mountains.



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Janis Dubno
Director of Strategic Initiatives
Sorenson Impact Center

Janis recently returned to the Center from leave to the U.S. Department of Education, where she was working as a Pay for Success Fellow. Previously, she was Director of Early Childhood and Education Policy for the nonprofit Voices for Utah Children. During her time there she was one of the chief architects for Utah's preschool social impact bond. She has 15 years of experience on Wall Street structuring innovative financial transactions.



Janis received an MBA in Finance from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor's in Economics and Political Science from Yale College.

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Kent Gardner (GRA Secretary)
Chief Economist
Center for Governmental Research (CGR)

Kent Gardner is Chief Economist for CGR in Rochester, NY. His public policy expertise ranges from public finance and public administration to health care and education reform. Dr. Gardner joined CGR in 1991 as Chief Economist and served as President from 2005 to 2012. While President he led the expansion of CGR's geographic footprint to areas of the Midwest; directed the development of new data and analysis tools (e.g. informANALYTICS) and expanded CGR's community profile offerings, now in seven states.



Dr. Gardner leads all of CGR's economic impact assessments and is a major contributor to CGR's many program evaluations. As both an economist and a statistician, he brings a nuanced understanding of causation and a deep appreciation both for the potential value and the limitations of established datasets and survey data. Gardner holds B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He teaches Health Policy at the Rochester Institute of Technology and is a regular columnist for the Rochester (NY) Business Journal. His columns are posted at CGR's Blog.

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Julie Hartley
Assistant Commissioner of Outreach and Access
Utah State Board of Regents and the Utah System
of Higher Education

Dr. Julie Hartley is the Assistant Commissioner of Outreach and Access with the Utah State Board of Regents and the Utah System of Higher Education, the entity overseeing the state's public colleges and universities. Prior to joining USHE, she was a faculty member, dean, and then a campus director at various institutions in Utah, Illinois, and Michigan. She has

bachelor's degrees in anthropology and French and a master's degree in American Studies/Folklore. Her Ph.D. is in anthropology from Columbia University. Dr. Hartley currently oversees Utah's statewide merit scholarships, institutional grants to improve K-16 partnerships, the Utah Scholars Initiative, the College Access Network of Utah, the state's programs on Improving School Counseling, and the statewide college completion initiatives.

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Brian K. Jensen
Executive Director, Pennsylvania Economy League of
Greater Pittsburgh
Senior Vice President, Civic Policy, Allegheny Conference
on Community Development

Brian Jensen is a senior vice president at the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Economy League of Greater Pittsburgh, LLC (PELGP), an affiliate of the Allegheny Conference, where he manages the Conference's Economy and Community strategy and Civic Policy work.



Municipal government improvement has been the theme of Dr. Jensen's career with the Pennsylvania Economy League since 1987. Dr. Jensen has the ongoing responsibility to develop and manage a strategy to advance municipal pension and binding arbitration reform. He leads the Allegheny Conference's efforts to regionalize municipal sewer collection systems and promote integrated watershed management in Allegheny County, to foster coordinated approaches to community development and to address preK-12 public education funding, accountability and governance. Dr. Jensen also led PELGP's participation in the efforts that successfully consolidated earned income tax collection and streamlined municipal mergers and consolidations. Additionally, he was instrumental in reengineering Allegheny County government.

Dr. Jensen serves on the board of the Local Government Academy, is a trustee of the Governmental Research Association and serves on the Penn State Center Advisory Council. Dr. Jensen has a Ph.D. in History & Policy from Carnegie Mellon University and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Liberia.

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Patti Kohler
Director of Financial Aid
Western Governors University

Patti Kohler joined Western Governors University (WGU) in April 2017 as the Director of Financial Aid. From 1996 to 2017, Patti worked at Utah State University in various capacities, most recently as Director of Financial Aid from 2013-2017. Patti has 12 years of experience in the student aid administration and scholarship field and continues to be active in the state, regional, and national professional associations. Patti currently serves as the Utah State Delegate to the RMAFAA Board of Directors.

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Richard Kendell
Co-Chair, Our Schools Now!

Dr. Richard Kendell has a 35-year professional career, highlighted by his role as the commissioner of the Utah System of Higher Education. He was an associate dean for two different schools at Utah. He was also the deputy to Governor Michael O. Leavitt for public education, higher education and economic development, among other various positions throughout his career.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in English at Weber State, then a Master's degree and Ph.D. in Leadership and Policy at the University of Utah. He has worked as a high school English teacher and as a faculty member and associate dean in both the College of Education and the Graduate School at the University of Utah. He served as Superintendent of Davis School District in Farmington, Utah and as Utah Associate Superintendent of Public Instruction. Richard has also worked in private industry as research and development director for WICAT Educational Systems and as a project manager for hospital and health care facilities for the Boyer Company.

Later he served as Deputy for Public Education, Higher Education and Economic Development to Utah Governor Mike Leavitt. During his tenure he helped initiate six early college high schools (high tech high schools) with a \$ 3.6 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and assisted with the development of supportive charter school legislation. Along with an advisory board appointed by the Governor he developed the initial programs for the Professional Educator Job Enhancement Program (PEJEP) intended to attract and retain a stronger corps of math and science teachers. Following his service with Governor Leavitt he was appointed by the Utah Board of Regents as Commissioner of Higher Education for the state of Utah beginning in 2003 and concluding in January of 2008. During this time he was involved in USTAR legislation, the creation of the K-16 Alliance, and the development of the Regents Scholarship.



Stephen J. Hershey Kroes
Strategic Consultant
Utah Foundation & Center for Governmental Research

Steve Kroes brings 27 years of experience in public policy analysis, nonprofit leadership, and public-sector consulting. He has worked extensively with elected officials grappling with complicated policy issues, serving as a subject-matter expert on advisory boards and commissions, working as a trusted, nonpartisan advisor to governors, legislators, and regional and local officials. He has extensive experience working with print and broadcast news media to make complicated policy issues accessible to the public.



Steve most recently served 16 years as president of Utah Foundation, which focuses on economic, workforce, and quality-of-life issues in the Intermountain West. He has focused much of his work on public and higher education policy, public finance, economic issues, infrastructure, and voter engagement. His earlier experience included 10 years with California Taxpayers' Association, including serving as its vice president. There, his specialties were media outreach, legislative advocacy, local government finance, and developing unlikely collaborations with public agencies and other interest groups. He recently moved back to northern California and brings his network of western connections and policy experience to his work with CGR, providing a local connection to clients on the West Coast.

For eight years, Steve taught in the Master of Public Policy program at the University of Utah. Community volunteer positions have added important variety and interest to his career, serving on the Utah Governor's Commission on Education Excellence, Utah Economic Council, Olene S. Walker Institute of Politics and Public Service, Prosperity 2020 Founders Council (a business organization advocating for public education), Utah Health Data Commission, leadership of the Governmental Research Association, two chamber boards, his city planning commission, and other activities.

Steve is a dual national of the U.S. and the United Kingdom, and he just wishes he had the accent to prove it.

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Criketa "Cree" Matlock
Research Director
Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana

Criketa Matlock joined Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana as the Research Project Director to further develop the growing portfolio of PAR's policy and research agenda. She has broad-based experience in state, legislative, and federal policy research, as well as in program development and administrative support.



Previous to PAR, Criketa was at the Orleans Public Education Network (OPEN), a New Orleans-based nonprofit, where she served as the Policy and Research Analyst. In that role she was responsible for providing strategic leadership in guiding and crafting OPEN's policy agenda and conducting research and analysis on educational issues, local, state and federal laws, and the state's Board of Elementary and Secondary Education policies to develop proposed legislation impacting education.



Criketa holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Southern University A&M College in Baton Rouge, LA. She also holds a Master's of Public Administration in public policy from Louisiana State University (LSU).

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Lew Moore
President
Washington Research Council

Lew Moore has broad experience in research and analysis of governmental policies and actions, and in bringing people together around innovative public policy ideas. He has a keen interest in creating more cooperative and effective land use, permitting, and environmental policies, that began with his six year tenure as chief of staff for Congressman Jack Metcalf. Moore was a central figure in the bipartisan process that resulted in the nationally recognized Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative. More recently he co-facilitated another collaborative land use initiative, convened by federal, state, county, and tribal partners, touted at both the national and regional levels as a model. Lew has taught American history at Western Washington University, and worked for several national and Washington state political figures. For the past two and a half years he has served as president of the Washington Research Council.



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Catherine Oakar
Senior Fellow
EducationNC

Catherine Oakar is currently a Senior Fellow at EducationNC, a North Carolina-based non-profit. She most recently served in the office of former First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House as the Associate Director of the *Let's Move!* initiative. Prior to joining the *Let's Move!* team, she was a Senior Policy Advisor in the White House Office of National AIDS Policy. She previously served as the Director of Public Health Policy in the Office of Health Reform at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services where she had primary oversight responsibility for the coordinated and timely implementation of the public health, prevention, and health care workforce policy provisions of the Affordable Care Act. She began her work in Washington, D. C. as a David A. Winston Health Policy Fellow. She has also been a Fellow at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland and has conducted community-based research with low-income cancer survivors and safety net clinics. Catherine completed her graduate education at the University of Michigan School of Public Health and her undergraduate education at the University of Notre Dame. She is originally from outside Cleveland, Ohio.



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Pamela S. Perlich
Director of Demographic Research
Kern C. Gardner Policy Institute

Pamela Perlich, Ph.D. is the director of demographic research at the Kern C. Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah where she leads the newly formed DemographyUTAH team. In this role, she and her team are responsible for developing and producing population estimates and projections, neighborhood indicators, and demographic analyses focusing on Utah. In addition, the DemographyUTAH team is responsible for the Utah State Data Center, a program affiliated with the U.S. Census Bureau that is responsible for the dissemination and interpretation of demographic and socioeconomic data, including recently released and historical.



Formerly, she worked as a senior research economist with the Bureau of Economic and Business Research, which has recently merged into the Kern C. Gardner Policy Institute. Prior to joining BEBR, she worked in the Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, concentrating on long run economic and demographic projections. Although trained as an economist, she applies a multidisciplinary approach to develop data, modeling, and analysis that identifies ongoing demographic, economic and cultural transformations. The focus of her work is to illuminate these trends and the associated implications for the future, especially as they impact Utah. Her work highlights the great diversity in our communities and how these change over time.

She is highly effective in communicating these ideas to a broad nontechnical audience, including everyday people as well as community leaders. She has received awards for teaching, publication, and public service. Her work in the community includes frequent speaking engagements for civic, education, governmental, corporate, and professional organizations. She often serves as a resource to the press, providing the Utah context for broader events. Pamela serves on numerous boards and commissions.

Dr. Perlich received her B.S. in both economics and business from the University of Tulsa and her Ph.D. in economics from the University of Utah. Prior to joining the University of Utah in 2000, Dr. Perlich worked for seven years in the Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, concentrating on long run economic and demographic trends. Before this, she taught for seven years at Tulsa Community College.

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**Mebane Rash (GRA Vice-President)
CEO, Editor-in-Chief
EducationNC**

Unaffiliated. Wonk. Mama. Traveler. Tar Heel.

Mebane Rash is the CEO and editor-in-chief of EducationNC. Mebane attended Irwin Elementary, First Ward Elementary, McClintock Middle, and East Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte. She graduated from the University of Virginia in 1990 and the UNC School of Law in 1993. At the UNC School of Law, she was a member of the North Carolina Law Review. She has been a member of the North Carolina State Bar since 1993, and she is admitted to practice in both the state and federal court systems.



After law school, she worked for Carolina Legal Assistance, a mental disability law project, before joining the nonpartisan N.C. Center for Public Policy Research as the policy analyst from 1994-98 and the director of law and policy from 2006-14. From 1995-99, she was an adjunct professor at the UNC School of Law. She was an attorney for the ACLU-NC from 1998-99.

She was selected in 1997 to be a William C. Friday Fellow for Human Relations, a fellowship for emerging leaders across North Carolina, and she currently serves on the inaugural Z. Smith Reynolds Leadership Council. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the national Governmental Research Association. In 2013, she was one of 60 women from 25 countries invited to spend a week at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government to study Women and Power: Leadership in the New World. She has won national awards from the Governmental Research Association for most distinguished research, outstanding policy achievement, and most effective education of the public.

Mebane is a native of North Carolina, currently living in Raleigh. She says, "We live in a purple state now – 2.7 million of the registered voters are blue Democrats, 2 million are red Republicans, and 1.7 million are unaffiliated. I could see this happening as I grew up because on my block lived Harvey Gantt, and next door to him lived Mel Watt, and two doors down from them lived Sue Myrick with her son Dan Forest. Every day of my life has been spent playing and then working across party lines. Living a bipartisan life, I have learned the importance of finding common ground and that credible research and information can change minds."

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**Peter Reichard (GRA President)
President
Utah Foundation**

Peter Reichard comes to the Utah Foundation after 15 years with the Bureau of Governmental Research in New Orleans, where he served as Director of Research. He is currently president of the Governmental Research Association (GRA), the national organization of governmental research professionals, and he has served as a GRA trustee since 2010. Earlier in his career Reichard was a journalist; his work included serving as managing editor of a business weekly. He holds degrees from Loyola University in New Orleans (B.A.) and Fordham University in New York (M.A.).



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Phyllis Resnick
Lead Economist
Colorado Futures Center

Phyllis Resnick is lead economist for the Colorado Futures Center at Colorado State University. In addition, she is an independent consultant with a practice that focuses on economic forecasting, revenue and fiscal sustainability studies for state and local governments, and economic impact studies. Her current and past clients include the Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting, the region's metropolitan planning organizations, many of Colorado's municipal governments, and the State of Hawaii.



Resnick is the former lead economist for the Center for Colorado's Economic Future and for the Colorado Economic Futures Panel, both at the University of Denver. For much of 2012, she traveled throughout Colorado presenting the findings from the Center's award winning fiscal sustainability study and advised the state of Hawaii on issues of fiscal sustainability. In 2007-08 she served as research staff to DU's Strategic Issues Panel exploring changes to the state's constitution. She has led and authored a number of studies looking at state and local tax policy and burdens within Colorado and has spoken nationally on the impact of Colorado's TABOR Amendment and the role of the initiative process in formulating fiscal policy in Colorado.

Resnick completed her master's and doctoral degrees at the CU-Boulder and CU-Denver respectively, and her research explored the effect of tax and expenditure limitations on tax reform efforts in the states.

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Kriss Sjoblom (GRA Treasurer)
Research Director and Senior Economist
Washington Research Council

At the Research Council, Kriss Sjoblom has authored reports on numerous issues, including the state's economy, its tax system, transportation, and housing. Dr. Sjoblom has served on the Washington State Governor's Council of Economic Advisors since 1995, under Governors Mike Lowry, Gary Locke, Chris Gregoire and Jay Inslee. In 2011, he served on the Commission on State Debt.



A Seattle native, Sjoblom earned an A.B. degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a Ph.D., in economics, from Yale University. Before joining the Research Council, he taught at the University of Pennsylvania and at Haverford College. He is currently a fellow of the University of Washington Economics Department's Economic Policy Research Center.

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Laura Summers
Senior Director, State Intelligence
Leavitt Partners

Laura Summers is the senior director of state intelligence based in Salt Lake City. Laura has expertise in economics, health care, and public policy. Her professional experience includes research for the public, private and nonprofit sectors.

In health care, Laura's research focus has been state-level health reform, with a particular focus in Medicaid and health insurance exchanges. At Leavitt Partners, Laura prepares detailed analyses of state-by-state comparative data, researches state public health programs, policies, and trends, and works on state health care reform initiatives. Specifically, Laura has provided project management and research support for the Leavitt Partners teams responsible for assisting states design and develop state-based health insurance exchanges, 1115 Medicaid demonstration waivers and amendments, and other state health reforms.

Prior to joining Leavitt Partners, Laura worked as research director for Utah Foundation – a well respected research firm that publishes reports on issues affecting state and local government policies.

Laura received her master of public policy with an emphasis in public economics from Brigham Young University and her bachelor's degree in economics from Westminster College.

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Shawn Teigen (Conference Coordinator)
Vice President and Research Director
Utah Foundation

Shawn has been at Utah Foundation for five years, researching topics as diverse as air quality, the coal economy, rural schools, and economic mobility. Shawn worked as a housing policy analyst with Community Action Partnership of Utah and has worked for Utah's chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. He serves on the board of directors of several public-sector, private-sector and non-profit organizations, including as a trustee for GRA. During much of his career, Shawn provided consulting services to early-stage businesses in addition to executing an extensive research effort to found an organization focused on foreign investment-related economic development. Shawn holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Management and a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Utah. Shawn has always been active in volunteering, including having spent two years in Kazakhstan with the U.S. Peace Corps.

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