

New Elected 2020 NYATEP Board Members

President



Brian J. Williams, Rensselaer County Employment and Training

Brian J. Williams has over 25 years' experience in the workforce development field assisting youth, adults, and dislocated workers with workforce options. He has specific expertise in employment and training program administration, youth programming, job development and career guidance. In addition, Brian has experience in human resource policies, labor law, recruitment, grant and proposal writing, and marketing. Currently, Brian is the Commissioner of Employment & Training for Rensselaer County and Director of the Rensselaer County One Stop Career Center under the Capital Region Workforce Development Board.

Brian serves on several other Community Boards including President for the New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals (NYATEP) Board, Capital District Educational Opportunity Center Board of Hudson Valley Community College, the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce Board, the Questar III BOCES Advisory Board, and the Commission On Economic Opportunity Board in Troy.

Executive Vice President



Sylvie Nelson, North Country Workforce Development Board

Ms. Sylvie Nelson has been the North Country Workforce Development Board Executive Director for the past six years. The organization oversees workforce development in Clinton, Essex, Franklin, and Hamilton counties through the OneWorkSource Centers. This is accomplished through a network of partners including NYSDOL, CV-TEC, FEH-BOCES, ACAP, Plattsburgh Housing Authority, ACCES-VR and more. Additionally, Ms. Nelson is involved with numerous organizations in the North Country, including being an advisory member to CV-TEC,

Clinton Community College, North Country Community College's Institute of Advance Manufacturing (IAM), Board Chair of the United Way of the Adirondacks and Executive Vice President of NYATEP.

Prior to that, Ms. Nelson was the Executive Director of the Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce for eight years where she oversaw the coordination of tourism and economic development efforts in the tri-lake area. Ms. Nelson has a B.A. in English, B.A. in Communications Studies and G.D. in Journalism. She currently serves as NYATEP Executive Vice President.

Second Executive Vice President



Denise Zieske, State University of New York (Central Office)

Denise Zieske is the Director of Workforce Development for the State University of New York (SUNY) in the Office of Community Colleges and the Education Pipeline. She develops and implements workforce programs and related initiatives for SUNY's colleges and supports SUNY's workforce efforts at the state and national level.

She administers the Apprenticeship Programs at SUNY, coordinating activities to expand Registered Apprenticeships in NYS focused on advanced manufacturing, healthcare, IT/cybersecurity/AI and other high demand areas. She also oversees the SUNY programs included in the NYS Office of Workforce Development's Workforce Development Initiative Consolidated Funding Application, including workforce development training grants, apprenticeship, and job linkage.

Prior to joining SUNY, Denise served as the Vice President for Workforce Development and Community Education at SUNY Schenectady County Community College. She previously worked at Tech Valley High School, the Albany County

Airport Authority, Center for Economic Growth and Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce (now the Capital Region Chamber). Her career has included work in many aspects of economic and workforce development. Denise is pleased to have served as the Second Executive Vice President of NYATEP for the last two years and would welcome the opportunity to serve a second term.

Treasurer



Vivian Benton, Workforce Development Institute

Vivian Benton is currently the Deputy Director for the Workforce Development Institute (WDI), having first served as the CFO for the WDI. In both roles Vivian has been responsible for working with regional staff, unions, businesses, educational institutions, government agencies and others to shape collaborative programming initiatives in multiple sectors. Vivian has also been instrumental in leading the organization's efforts to build systems and processes (data and other) that advance the organization's mission and vision.

Prior to her roles at WDI, Vivian served as the Director of Financial Planning and Analysis at Harvard Medical School, where she managed a \$450M budget and served in a key planning function to the executive team in all aspects of finance and program planning.

Vivian holds a BA in Economics and French as well as an MBA in Finance from the University at Binghamton. She currently serves as a Partner Appointee to the NYATEP Board.

At – Large Members



Jessica Centeno, Center for Employment Opportunities

Jessica Centeno serves as NYS Deputy Executive Director at the Center for Employment Opportunities, the largest national reentry provider of employment services. Jessica oversees CEO's workforce reentry programs across New York State with a focus on Albany, Buffalo, and Rochester. Jessica's key responsibilities include overseeing revenue, tracking and reporting of program outcomes for multi-site grants, ensuring that all offices within the region are on track to meet performance outcomes and operate sustainably, as well as hire, lead, and develop a high-performing team of leadership and support staff who ensure all operational and programmatic aspects of the CEO model run smoothly. Jessica also oversees Training and Job Development in New York City including several work-based learning partnerships within the private sector.

Jessica has been working in the employment reentry field for over 10 years where she fulfills her passion of facilitating connections to training and employment that leads to sustainable living. Prior to joining CEO, Jessica worked as the Regional Training and Development Manager for a national private arbitration and mediation firm where she was responsible for recruitment and training of staff throughout the East Central Region.

Jessica obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University at Albany, SUNY, interned at the NYS Assembly as a Legislative Aide and received a Master's Degree in School Counseling from Hunter College in Manhattan.



Daniel Porter, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben Workforce New York

Daniel Porter currently serves as the Executive Director of the Workforce Development Board of Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties where he has been since his return to public workforce development in 2016. Previously, Dan spent three years in the private sector contingent staffing industry supporting advanced manufacturing employers. Before his role in the private sector, he served as a WDB Director for two local areas in upstate for a little over 12 years combined. He brings a unique background mixture of public and private workforce development, tempered with a stint in adult literacy education.



Alice Savino, Herkimer, Madison and Oneida Workforce Board and Chenango, Delaware, Otsego Workforce Board

I am honored to have been nominated for the NYATEP Member-at-Large Board position. Since July, 2002, I have served as Executive Director of the Herkimer, Madison & Oneida Counties Workforce Development Board. In 2011 we contracted with the Chenango, Delaware & Otsego Workforce Development Board to provide Executive Director services to their area as well. It has been a real learning experience for me, my background was in marketing and sales as Publisher of national trade publications based in the Capital District.

Our membership in NYATEP has been an invaluable resource for our area over the years but it takes on even more importance in these changing/challenging times. I have worked with NYATEP and been supportive of its goals serving on the Board as a Member-at-Large and participating on the policies and procedures committee to create a policy toolkit for new Executive Directors.

I am a graduate of Russell Sage College in Troy receiving my BS in Economics. I actively participate and serve on several community boards including the Resource Center for Independent Living, School and Business Alliance, Mohawk Valley Economic Development District and United Way resource allocation committee.

This is a critical time for our workforce institutions as a result of a rapidly changing economy and the demands of a pandemic on businesses and our workforce, but also as a result of significant funding decreases. I look forward to working with all of the NYATEP membership and leaders to find and explore new solutions. Thank you for this opportunity.

Hudson Valley Special Election



Louise McLoughlin, Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board

Louise McLoughlin, a former small business owner, is currently the Executive Director of the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board. In her previous role, Ms. McLoughlin was the Senior Vice President of Workforce Development at the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce. Ms. McLoughlin earned her Doctorate Degree in Public Administration from West Chester University. Louise serves on several Boards in Dutchess County and adjuncts at Marist College in the School of Management.