

Rural Policy SUMMIT



Local Services and Collaboration Summit Speakers



Julie Fitzpatrick

Julie is Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Downtown Center. She has been involved with a variety of projects in communities all over the commonwealth, including community visioning, developing regional downtown revitalization strategies, establishing tourism infrastructure plans, and developing business improvement district plans and other strategic planning activities. She also provides board and committee education and technical assistance to designated Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Keystone Communities Main Street and Elm Street programs, has worked with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources on *Nature-Based Placemaking*, and with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission on a COVID-related response, *Designing for Distance*. She has a master's degree in Community and Regional Planning, and a bachelor's degree in Art History and Anthropology from Temple University.



Dr. Kyle Kopko

Kyle is the director of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania. Before he joined the Center, Kyle served as Associate Dean of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, and Planning, and Associate Professor of Political Science at Elizabethtown College. He earned his Ph.D. in political science from The Ohio State University in 2010, with a concentration in public law and judicial politics.



Dr. Lawrence Feick

Larry currently is Interim Associate Dean of the College of Business Administration and Professor of Business Administration at the Katz Graduate School of Business/College of Business Administration at the University of Pittsburgh. Previously, he served as Vice Provost for Special Projects at Pitt, a role where he worked on the transition of the Titusville campus and served as the interim President of both the Bradford and Titusville campuses. Prior to that he served as Pitt's senior international officer. Larry also served on the faculty at Pennsylvania State University where he earned his Ph.D.



Amanda Settelmaier

Amanda is Executive Director of Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments (TCVCOG), which represents 20 municipalities in Allegheny County. Amanda specializes in intergovernmental cooperative efforts, grant writing/administration, and creating multi-municipal tools to mitigate community blight. Prior to her appointment as executive director of TCVCOG in June 2008, Amanda was Special Projects Coordinator for State Senator Sean Logan, Grants & Communications Coordinator for the Municipality of Monroeville, and Assistant Community Development Coordinator at TCVCOG. Amanda has a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the Graduate School of Public & International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh and a bachelor's degree from St. Vincent College.



Jim Becker

Jim is the Executive Director of the Economic Progress Alliance of Crawford County. The Alliance is the lead economic development agency for Crawford County and serves as a full-service single point of contact for economic development in the County. Prior to joining the Alliance, Jim served as the Executive Director for the Titusville Community Development Agencies. Jim has served on the board of the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association (PEDA) since 2011 is currently the Immediate Past President. In 2004, Jim retired from the U.S. Air Force in the rank of Senior Master Sergeant after 20 years of active duty. He has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Columbia Southern University and completed numerous national courses in economic development and finance.



Councilwoman Alexis Eroh

Alexis is a member of Plymouth Borough Council in Luzerne County, and currently serves as a member of the Planning Agency and Parks and Recreation Committee, and as Chairwoman of the Civil Service Commission. Alexis received her bachelor's degree in Political Science from King's College in 2008.