



**Tennessee
State Government**

Leadership

Tennessee Government Leadership Conference 2016 Biographies

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Rebecca Hunter Commissioner



Rebecca Hunter serves on Governor Bill Haslam's cabinet as Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources. Prior to this appointment, she spent six years as the Director of Human Resources for Hamilton County Government in Chattanooga and held management positions in governmental finance for over 25 years. Rebecca is a Certified Public Accountant and is certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources.

During her tenure with State government, Rebecca has established the Department of Human Resources as a leader in innovative human resources practices, while shaping the best workforce for state government. She led a successful effort to transform the State's employment practices with the passage of the T.E.A.M. Act, which is moving the State from a focus on seniority to a focus on performance. As a result, all state employees have a S.M.A.R.T. performance plan which aligns their work with the agency goals and the

Governor's priorities.

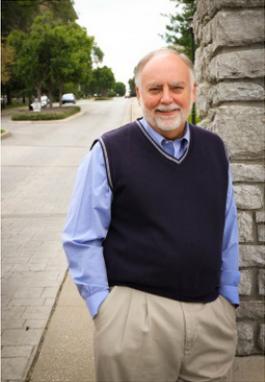
Rebecca's commitment to excellence and performance is demonstrated not only in her leadership of the department, but extends to her leadership on various boards and associations. She serves on the board of the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence, whose mission is to drive organizational excellence in Tennessee. She is a past president of the National Association of State Personnel Executives and the Tennessee Personnel Management Association.

Rebecca is a 2014 graduate of the inaugural class of Leadership Tennessee. She also serves on the Tennessee State University College Advisory Board, the board of HealthCare 21 Business Coalition, the board of Hixson Utility District and was appointed by Governor Haslam to the Utilities Management Review Board.

Rebecca strongly believes that continuous improvement, life-long learning and performance excellence are keys to success both personally and professionally.

Dr. Dan Boone

President Trevecca Nazarene University



Having served in pastoral ministry for more than thirty years, Dan Boone became the eleventh president of Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tennessee, in 2005.

A 1974 graduate of Trevecca, he earned a master's degree from Nazarene Theological Seminary in 1977 and a doctorate in ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1996. He began his pastoral ministry when he was in high school, and his last pastorate was at the College Church in Bourbonnais, Illinois. Dr. Boone has taught on the university and seminary level and also has been an instructor for the Salvation Army.

Dan has been married to his college sweetheart, Denise, for 40 years, and they have three married daughters and six grandkids. Dan and Denise live in Franklin, Tennessee.



Dr. Trish Holliday, SPHR, SHRM-SCP Assistant Commissioner and Chief Learning Officer



Dr. Trish Holliday is Assistant Commissioner and Chief Learning Officer of the State of Tennessee. Commissioner Rebecca Hunter appointed her as the State's Chief Learning Officer (CLO) in 2012 as a member of her executive team.

Dr. Holliday's commitment to public service and her passion for helping professionals reach their greatest potential is rooted in her experience as a certified facilitator, adult educator and executive coach, and her early years in full-time ministry as a missionary in Tennessee Appalachia.

The state of Tennessee was the first state in the country to have the executive role of CLO developing and guiding an enterprise wide learning and development strategy.

As the state's CLO, she creates and leads learning efforts focused on the mission and goals of a customer focused government, building a common culture through a rigorous and consistent set of business and leadership skills.

She provides state appointing authorities with executive coaching in workforce planning and leadership development. Trish drives the overall curriculum focus and development of all statewide leadership programs. Her passion and talent for developing successful leaders and purpose-driven individuals are reflected in these nationally recognized programs.

As a successful change agent, facilitator and storyteller, she is often asked by state leaders to undertake complex problem solving opportunities by bringing people together and helping them discover innovative solutions and develop the leaders needed to execute. In recognition of her work in the state wide LEAD Tennessee leadership development program, Trish was selected as a 2016 Winner for the Leadership Excellence Awards in the Top Corporate Leader Award – Over 35 category. She was ranked 6th in the top 30 winner's circle which were chosen from over three hundred applicants. Trish received the 2016 Edwin L. Swain Award of Excellence, the IPMA-HR Southern Region's highest award given to an individual who has distinguished her/himself throughout their career in HR. Recently she was asked to facilitate the International Public Management Association – HR (IPMA-HR) 2020 strategic visioning task force, identifying critical leadership competencies needed for the future success of the HR profession. Trish's influence reaches beyond state government by serving as an executive leadership coach for private sector businesses, impacting leaders from Kingsport to Memphis. As a result of her influence as a leader, Trish was selected to participate in Leadership Tennessee, class IV.

Trish is an active member in the following international, national, state and local organizations: Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence, IPMA-HR, Tennessee Public Management Association, Middle Tennessee Society for Human Resources, Association for Talent Development, Tennessee Society for Human Resources, and the National Association of State Personnel Executives.

She serves on the Board of Visitors for the College of Education at Lipscomb University, Tennessee State University's College of Public Service and Urban Affairs Advisory Board, Impact Nashville, Habitat for Humanity of Tennessee, president of Toastmaster's International Tennessee Government Leadership Chapter, Tennessee SHRM state council board member, and past board member of Special Olympics Tennessee. In 2015, Trish earned her Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) with an emphasis in Learning Organizations and Strategic Change from Lipscomb University. Dr. Holliday is driven by a passion to help leaders develop strategies to create learning organizations and implement effective change initiatives.



Marcus Dodson

Tennessee Government Leadership Council



Marcus has 24 years' experience in Information Technology with 7 years management in Tennessee State Government. He currently serves as the Infrastructure and Security Manager for Treasury. He is originally from Kentucky and graduated from Western Kentucky University. He began his career in IT by implementing systems in manufacturing to aid in increased productivity and lower cost. In 2008, he moved from manufacturing to State government where he continues to utilize IT to improve daily operations. Marcus is a 2014 TGMI graduate; a member of the TGL Black Belt Program; TGL Book Club, TGL Toastmasters and serves on the TGL Council as Chairman of the Vision Committee. He is a member of the TGMI Steering Committee where he serves as the 2016 Vice Chair / 2017 Chair and is a member of LEADTN Alliance 7.

John O'Leary Keynote



In 1987, John O'Leary was a curious nine-year-old boy. Playing with fire and gasoline, John created a massive explosion in his home and was burned on 100% of his body. He was given 1% chance to live.

This epic story of survival was first showcased in his parents' book, *Overwhelming Odds*, in 2006. Originally printing 200 copies for friends and family, his parents have sold 60,000+ copies, most in back-of-room sales at John's speaking events. It was this book that first invited John to embrace his miraculous recovery and share it with the world.

John inspires 50,000+ people at 100+ events each year. He speaks to companies and organizations across industries, such as: sales, healthcare, business, safety, marketing, financial services, faith, education and insurance.

Consistently described as "the best speaker we've ever had," John receives 100% of his engagements from referrals. His schedule is a testament to the power of his message and who he is as an individual. His emotional story-telling, unexpected humor and authenticity make each of his presentations truly transformational.

John's first book *ON FIRE: The 7 Choices to Ignite a Radically Inspired Life* was an instant #1 National Bestseller; 30,000+ copies sold in the first 3 weeks. John is a contributor for *The Huffington Post* and *Parade Magazine* website and has an online community of 75,000+.

John considers his greatest success to be his marriage to his wife Beth, their four children and his relationships with friends and family.

Tammy Golden

Tennessee Government Leadership Council



Tammy Golden is Assistant Commissioner of Communication, Publishing and Distribution for the Department of General Services, State of Tennessee. In this role, she oversees the states graphic design, printing, scanning, warehousing, photography, and postal services.

Tammy has always had a passion for customer service. That passion led her to the commercial print industry early in her career. Her previous employment included Triangle Wholesale Printing in Nashville and Top Flight, Inc. in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Since coming to work for state government in 1999, Tammy has helped to drive transformation in Tennessee communications. She and her team have worked to consolidate print operations throughout the state and have utilized technology to offer innovative solutions for agency communication. The consolidation effort has increased efficiency in print operations and reduced expenses. She is also helping to drive the effort to utilize technology to improve the experience of the citizens who seek our services.

In 2015, Tammy created the Tennessee Government Printing Alliance to help create collaboration between all state print facilities, including those in higher education and penal institutions. This organization is helping to ensure state resources are being utilized more fully.

Tammy is a 2011 graduate of the Tennessee Government Executive Institute and served on the TGEI Steering Committee in 2013. She is an inaugural member of the Tennessee Government Leadership Council where she served on the Vision Committee that created the Black Belt Leadership Program. She was honored to receive her Black Belt in 2015.

Currently, Tammy serves on the International Board of Director for the In-Plant Printing and Mailing Association and was a past board member of the National Government Publishing Association. She is also a member of Impact Nashville and Director of Lutheran Happening of the South.

Ken Medema Keynote



Across the years, Ken Medema has shared his passion for learning and discovery through storytelling and music with an ever-growing circle of followers around the world. Ken has been performing for over 40 years in many different venues: conventions, colleges, churches and corporations and more, for groups ranging from 50 to 50,000 people. Though blind from birth, Ken sees and hears with heart and mind, singing stories from his audience and accenting themes and perspectives from speakers and workshop leaders. Ken custom designs every musical moment through improvisation and new composition to bring each event to life with his keyboard/piano and vocal performances. Ken's focus is to use music and storytelling to help build communities of compassion while specifically using his skills as a music therapist in order to communicate with the unique needs of his diverse audiences.

Julie Perrey

Tennessee Government Leadership Council



Julie Perrey is the Chief People Officer for TRICOR, where she leads the agency's human resources and talent management team. Ms. Perrey has 13 years of CI experience working in areas, such as human resources, workforce development and government relations. Prior to TRICOR, she was the Assistant to the Governor of Tennessee and also served in various roles with the Tennessee Department of Personnel and Tennessee Department of Safety. Perrey is a certified OWDS/Instructor, a Global Career Development Facilitator, and serves as the Southeast Regional Appointee to the NCIA Board of Directors, as well as the Chairman of the Southeast Region. She is currently the Chair of the TGEI Steering Committee and a member of the Tennessee Government Leadership Council. She has Bachelor of Arts in Management and Human Relations, and a Masters of Science in Management and Leadership from Trevecca Nazarene University.

Kelly Lang Presenter



Kelly has graced the stage of the Grand Ole Opry and the Ryman Auditorium. She has performed with and had her songs recorded by some of music's biggest legends spanning throughout all genres of music. She has made numerous appearances on the biggest music shows in television history and her songs can be heard on radio waves throughout the world.

Kelly was born the youngest of 4 children in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Her father, Velton Lang, was the road manager of Country superstar, Conway Twitty for over 25 years.

Kelly recorded her first Billboard single, "Lady, Lady" at the age of 15, filmed a video that came to the attention of CMT—, and in rapid fire time was soon appearing as a regular on Nashville's popular Ralph Emery Morning Show.

Kelly's teen years were a whirlwind that found the dark haired, green-eyed beauty poised on the very edge of a breakthrough to major stardom. She moved to national attention as a frequent guest on the highly popular Music City Tonight, with Crook & Chase, televised on TNN. Kelly next made the finals of Ed McMahon's popular weekly-televised Star Search— bringing her vibrant, emotion filled vocal style to mainstream audiences.

Kelly became a semi-regular artist on Ralph's Emery's popular "Nashville Now" on TNN, pulling in major viewer mail and a large national fan base. On the road in concert, Kelly shared billings with legends such as Barry Gibb, Ronnie Milsap, Brenda Lee, George Jones, Lorrie Morgan, Ricky Skaggs, TG Sheppard and many of the hot new artists from her own peer group. Kelly has made music her true passion.

Along with balancing a busy career as a performing artist, Kelly is a highly sought after and accomplished songwriter and producer. Kelly's songs have been featured on the major motion picture screen and have been recorded by artists such as Lorrie Morgan, Jerry Lee Lewis, Crystal Gayle, George Jones, BJ Thomas, The Oak Ridge Boys, and Janie Frickie to name a few.

Kelly released her third studio album, "11:11" in late 2011, which gained much critical acclaim. The single and video for her popular breakup anthem "I'm Done" has received over 230,000 YouTube hits and can be seen on some of the biggest music video networks. Kelly's highly anticipated fourth studio album, "Shades Of K", a compilation of love songs, was released in April 2013. Kelly and her country superstar husband, TG Sheppard, released "Iconic Duets" in late 2013. The album, which features some of the greatest duets of all time, is already gaining rave reviews from the media and has quickly become a fan favorite.

As a recent inductee into the North American Country Music Hall Of Fame, Kelly Lang's career continues to grow at a rapid pace. She was recently invited by Barry Gibb of the Bee Gees to perform "Islands In The Stream" in honor of Kenny Roger's, at his recent Country Music Hall Of Fame induction. Kelly and Barry also performed together at the Grand Ole Opry.

Kelly's lyrics, voice and high energy show reach out to audiences of all ages. She brings her life experiences to the stage each night and shines as she connects with crowds of people, leaving them begging for more of her tender, moving and grooving songs. Kelly Lang is a true artist in every sense of the word.

Melissa Boaz

Tennessee Government Leadership Council



Melissa Boaz is a manager for the Comptroller of the Treasury, Department of Audit, Financial and Compliance Investigations group, where she has worked in the field of fraud investigations for nearly 15 years. Prior to that, she was an auditor with the Division of State Audit for 4 years. She also briefly worked for a local CPA firm as an auditor. Melissa served as an in-house instructor for the Department of Audit for three years.

Melissa is a member of the Tennessee Government Leadership Council and is a graduate of TGMI (2007) and LEAD Tennessee (2012). In addition, Melissa is a current member of the TGL Book Club. She is also active in various professional organizations relating to accounting and fraud investigations.

Melissa holds a Master of Accountancy degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Cumberland College. She is a Certified Public Accountant, a Certified Fraud Examiner, a Certified Government Financial Manager, and a Chartered Global Management Accountant. Melissa is currently pursuing a graduate certificate in forensic document examination at East Tennessee State University.

Melissa is married to Gerry Boaz. They have a black cat named Sherlock. Melissa enjoys reading, exercising, traveling, and watching NASCAR.



Marcus Whitney Presenter



Marcus Whitney is an unconventional leader. He loves the game of business because he believes it allows for the most creativity and freedom for someone like him, so he runs several businesses.

Marcus' is President and Co-Founder of Jumpstart Foundry, a new kind of equity investment firm focused on innovative, early stage healthcare companies. Jumpstart has a portfolio of over 60 companies including NextGDX, Satchel and Sightbox.

He also is a co-owner of Nashville SC, the only professional soccer team in Tennessee, set to debut in 2018. Through his social enterprise The Unlikely Company, dedicated to educating and inspiring unlikely entrepreneurs, Marcus has a twice-weekly YouTube show called Create and Orchestrate about entrepreneurship and life.

Marcus has been listed in the Upstart 100 by Upstart Business Journal, Power 100 by Nashville Business Journal, and has been featured in Techcrunch, Fast Company and The Atlantic.

Marcus is a member of the board of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Nashville, the Nashville Public Library Foundation and the Country Music Hall of Fame.



Dr. Kelly Lancaster

Tennessee Government Leadership Council



Kelly Lancaster has spent the bulk of his human resources career convincing executives that their people are indeed their greatest assets and will drive tremendous growth and revenue if they are developed in a culture that fosters pride and accountability. He believes engaging employees in the right way will create a purposeful and meaningful culture that can truly define a company throughout its lifecycle. Committing himself to this philosophy has helped Kelly to attain the Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) and SHRM Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP), the highest levels of certification in the Human Resources arena.

Prior to coming to the State of Tennessee, Kelly led all the HR initiatives for Maury Regional Medical Center, a Baldrige-recognized hospital system, as the Director of Human Resources. Before that experience, he spent three years developing a sustainable and scalable culture at Smith & Wesson Security Solutions, a perimeter security company in Franklin, Tennessee, as they navigated through multiple ownership changes. Kelly also worked five years at Healthways, Inc. managing all of their employee relations, EEOC claims, and lawsuits as well as being a change agent for large projects and initiatives. His experience in creating the HR infrastructure for two startup companies using Six Sigma and Lean techniques has reinforced his philosophy of embracing change by improving an organization through its people.

Kelly earned his Bachelor of Science in Communication at Freed-Hardeman University where he developed his own morning radio show personality, Ken Coffee, and served as the Sports Information Director for the school. He earned his Master of Business Administration at the University of Tennessee which allowed him to understand global business during visits to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and Hong Kong, China. Kelly earned his Doctor of Business Administration degree with Apollon University. He also serves on the leadership team and as a faculty member for the university teaching students across the world, including Vietnam, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Turkey, and India.

Kelly has been married to Tammy Lancaster, an elementary school teacher, for 25 years. They have a 17-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, who enjoys teaching herself Korean and Spanish and performing service projects for others. They also have a 15-year-old son, Evan, who enjoys cross country and track, and wants to be an architect when he grows up. Kelly and his family live in the La Vergne/Smyrna community where he leads the College Age Ministry at their local church.



Graham Thomas Presenter



Graham Thomas attended and graduated from the University of Tennessee in 2008. He began his career in Washington, DC as an intern and staff assistant for U.S. Representative Marsha Blackburn. He returned to Tennessee in 2009 and worked for a mortgage company in downtown Knoxville. In June of 2010 Graham began working with knoxAchieves, now tnAchieves. He is currently the Director of Community Partnerships for the nonprofit where he oversees the mentoring program, outreach efforts and local advisory councils.



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Casey Gray Mahoney Tennessee Government Leadership Council



Casey Mahoney has spent the majority of her career in public service. She currently serves as the Director of Customer Interface with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Previously, she worked as a Public Information Officer for multiple state government agencies in Florida and Tennessee. Mahoney earned her B.S. in Communications/Public Relations and M.S. in Applied American Politics and Policy from Florida State University. Her expertise is in digital communications, media relations and web content management. She is very active in her community, particularly with the GFWC Dickson Woman's Club and Charlotte-Fagan United Methodist Church. Mahoney and her husband, Kevin, live in Burns, Tenn. with their two sons.



Danielle Barnes

Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel



Danielle Whitworth Barnes serves as the Deputy Commissioner & General Counsel for the Tennessee Department of Human Resources. In her capacity, she oversees all legal issues within the Department, offering counsel and advice to her agency, other state agencies and individuals on employment law matters. One of her greatest accomplishments has been co-authoring and implementing the Tennessee Excellence, Accountability and Management Act (T.E.A.M. Act), an overhaul of the State's antiquated civil service employment practices. This Act created the Board of Appeals and the Tennessee Employee Mediation Program, both of which fall under her areas of responsibility.

In addition, all matters dealing with departmental legislative affairs, employee relations, workplace discrimination and harassment, as well as the review of certain statewide employee transactions fall under her review. Further in her capacity, she oversees the administration of state government's Performance Management Program, which was recently overhauled to focus on objective performance outcomes. Along with that program, Ms. Barnes is charged with the design and implementation of pay for performance in State government.

Ms. Barnes has experience in various matters pertaining to Title VII, the ADEA, ADA, FLMA, FLSA, THRA, and other state and federal employment laws. She has experience in all types of employment matters and has counseled clients regarding discrimination, retaliation, harassment, wage and hour issues, and affirmative action. She initially joined the Department of Human Resources in October 2007 as the Assistant General Counsel, Director of Equal Employment Opportunities Division and Legislative Director.

Prior to joining the Department, she served as the Legislative Coordinator and Assistant General Counsel for the Tennessee Department of Human Services. Her responsibilities in that role included representing the Department before the Tennessee General Assembly. She also served as legal counsel to the Department in various matters, including matters before the EEOC and THRC, general employment law consultation, contract disputes, and administrative hearings. Ms. Barnes also worked for a private law firm in Nashville and Memphis, practicing in the areas of employment law, insurance defense, general civil litigation, contract matters and government relations.

Ms. Barnes holds certification as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR), Society for Human Resource Management Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP), and International Public Management Association Senior Certified Professional (IPMA-SCP). In addition, she is a Rule 31 Listed Mediator.

She earned her undergraduate degree from Spelman College and her law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law. She is a graduate of Tennessee Government Executive Institute, LEAD Tennessee, Leadership Nashville and Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law. She was recognized by the Top Ladies of Distinction for Top Women in the Law and was a finalist for the Nashville Athena Young Leaders Award.

Carl Mallory Deputy Commissioner



Carl Mallory has served as Deputy Commissioner of Operations for the Tennessee Department of Health since March, 2016. He has oversight of an annual operating budget of \$580 million and supervision of TDH offices managing administrative services, information technology, and workforce solutions and services. His responsibilities include assisting the department's commissioner with day-to-day operations of services affecting residents and visitors in all 95 counties of the state, including financial and facilities management, contract review, capital projects and fiscal, property, procurement and support services.

Originally from Greeneville, Tenn. Mallory earned his B.S. degree from East Tennessee State University in 1983. Prior to his work with TDH, he was a director for the United Distribution Group, a Bristol, Tenn.-based mining, gas and oil supply company with operations throughout the United States and western Canada.

In 2003 he was inducted into the ETSU Alumni Hall of Fame for his accomplishments in public relations. He has been married for 34 years to Polly, a native of Kingsport; the couple has two daughters and one grandson.

The mission of the Tennessee Department of Health is to protect, promote and improve the health and prosperity of people in Tennessee. TDH has facilities in all 95 counties and provides direct services for more than one in five Tennesseans annually as well as indirect services for everyone in the state, including emergency response to health threats, licensure of health professionals, regulation of health care facilities and inspection of food service establishments. Learn more about TDH services and programs at www.tn.gov/health.



Dr. Shari Meghreblian Deputy Commissioner



Shari Meghreblian joined TDEC as Deputy Commissioner on May 2, 2011 to oversee the department's environmental regulatory programs for the protection of Tennessee's air, land and water. During her first year as Deputy Commissioner, Meghreblian was selected as TDEC's representative on Governor Haslam's Top to Bottom Review Committee and also served as TDEC's liaison for the Department of Economic and Community Development's Fast Track Infrastructure Development Program. She was a primary sponsor of TDEC's LEAN process improvement initiative and the governor's Customer Focused Government initiative.

Recognized for her ability to provide strategic insight and analyze processes and procedures to streamline business practices, Dr. Meghreblian has been appointed to several boards and councils supporting three different departments of state government. In 2012, she was appointed by TDOT's Commissioner John Schroer to the

Department of Transportation's Environmental Advisory Council which focuses on enhancing TDOT's commitment to protecting Tennessee's natural resources while building, operating and maintaining the state's transportation system. Additionally, Dr. Meghreblian was chosen by TDEC's Commissioner Bob Martineau to serve on the Board of Directors for the West Tennessee River Basin Authority and the Department of Agriculture's Interagency Task Force on Rural Economic Development. Shari was also appointed by Gov. Haslam in Aug. 2015, to serve on his Rural Development Task Force that will bring resources together from a wide range of organizations to advance rural communities and economic development throughout Tennessee.

In 2013 Shari was selected as the Co-Chair for Tennessee Regions' Roundtable State Advisors Committee for Cumberland Region Tomorrow. Her work with multiple state agencies was recognized in July, 2013 by the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) when President Teresa Marks (Arkansas) announced her appointment of Meghreblian to serve as the new Chair of the ECOS Federal Facilities Forum. This forum provides ECOS leadership for a host of matters including cleanup and oversight of nuclear waste sites and military installations. She was most recently recognized as a "Woman of Influence in Public Policy" for 2016 by the Nashville Business Journal.

Meghreblian has more than twenty years of combined experience in private sector manufacturing and environmental management systems. She joined TDEC from General Motors' plant in Spring Hill, Tennessee, where she served as the environmental operations manager since 2005. Prior to that, she worked in various roles at the Spring Hill facility under the Saturn Corporation, including manager of environmental affairs, production operations supervisor and environmental engineer. Recognized in Tennessee and nationally as a successful steward of natural resources through industrial conservation and pollution prevention, Meghreblian's achievements include leading the General Motors' Spring Hill plant to become the first industry in the state to achieve Performer Level status, the highest achievement available in the Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership program.

A Kentucky native with roots in family farming, Meghreblian has been active in environmental and business advocacy across Tennessee for more than two decades, holding membership in numerous organizations such the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Air and Waste Management Association; Tennessee Environmental Council; The Nature Conservancy; and the Harpeth River Watershed Association. Shari holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Management and a master's degree in Engineering from Vanderbilt University, and a bachelor of science in Marketing/Economics from Western Kentucky University.



Eugene Neubert Deputy Commissioner



Eugene Neubert was appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration in September 2015. In this role he is charged with overseeing the day to day operations of the department which strives “to provide sound stewardship of state assets through good business practices and great customer service.”

From 2007 to 2015, Eugene worked as a part of Tennessee’s public health workforce in the Department of Health where he was first appointed Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Administrative Services and then later assumed the role of Acting Deputy Commissioner for Operations in January 2011 before being permanently appointed to the position in February 2012. In these roles he provided operational oversight to the many programs of the department and served as a key advisor to the executive leadership team.

Prior to joining the Department of Health, Eugene worked in the Department of Commerce and Insurance for eight years as a Staff Auditor, Budget Director, Chief of Fiscal Services and the Assistant Commissioner for Administration. Eugene began his state service in 1998 with the Department of Employment Security as an Unemployment Accounts Auditor. Originally from Nashville, Eugene and his wife Tara Atwood now reside in Franklin. Eugene graduated from Tennessee Technological University with a bachelor’s degree in Accounting in 1997 and attended the Tennessee Government Executive Institute at the University of Tennessee, Institute for Public Service in 2003.

Lauren Hill

Tennessee Government Leadership Council



Lauren Hill came to work for the state of Tennessee 17 years ago when she joined Tennessee state parks system as the Inn manager at Paris Landing state park and she has progressed throughout her career to where she currently serves as the Director of Guest Services and Revenue Management for all Tennessee State Park hospitality operations. Originally from Mississippi she earned her Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Sociology at The University of Tennessee at Martin, added K-12 Professional Education Certification in History and Social Studies, and ultimately received her MBA. She also holds the Certified Hotel Administrator (CHA) designation.

She began her career doing social work in rural Mississippi, migrated to teaching then gravitated to the business environment and hospitality operations where she enjoys the day to day interactions and the complexities and challenges they offer. Lauren is an avid

Mentor and a life-long learner. She is a graduate of the TGMI class of 2006 where she was class President and went on to Chair the Alumni Steering Committee; member and Vice President of the TGEI class of 2011, participates in the Tennessee Government Leadership Black Belt Program; TGL Book Club, a Charter member of the TGL Toastmasters Club, and she currently serves on the Tennessee Government Leadership Council.

Michelle M. Smith

Tennessee Government Leadership Council



Michelle M. Smith has 18 years' experience with the State of Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. She currently serves as the Quality Assurance Director for Middle Tennessee. Prior to becoming the Director, Michelle moved up through the ranks as a Quality Assurance surveyor and the Quality Assurance Coordinator. She is originally from North Carolina and graduated with her Masters of Education in Special Education from East Tennessee State University. Michelle began her career as a Special Education Teacher and Administrator before coming to the State where she continues to live her dream of making an impact on the lives of all individuals with disabilities. Michelle is a 2013 TGMI graduate and is currently serving as the TGMI Steering Committee Chairperson for 2016; a member of the TGL Black Belt Program; TGL Book Club; TGL Council; as well as serving on the LEAD Tennessee Steering Committee Taskforce. She is also a recent graduate of the TGEI Class of 2016.



Dr. Sybril Brown Presenter



Dr. Sybril Brown, affectionately known as “Dr. Syb,” is a Vanderbilt-educated, Harvard-trained, two-time Emmy award-winning multimedia journalist, author, international speaker and presenter.

With extensive experience in traditional and social media fields spanning more than 25 years, Dr. Syb is the author of two books: *Innovate: Lessons from the Underground Railroad*, which examines the UGRR and the Internet as among America's most effective, innovative and disruptive networks, and *The Color-Full Alphabet Book*, a Dr. Seuss-like book pairing positive images of children of color with encouraging words.

Dr. Syb is a tenured, full professor of journalism at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee where she was instrumental in helping to establish the New Century Journalism Program in 2003 and currently teaches Social Media Reporting, Digital Citizenship, Mass Media & Society and Entrepreneurial Media. Additionally, she’s published a monograph as part of an international project commissioned by the American Association of Colleges and Universities in partnership with the Bridge to Theory and Practice organization. Her research interests focus on innovation, civility as well as digital and social media.

A respected journalist, Dr. Syb began her career working behind the scenes at ABC in Milwaukee, CBS in Chicago, and was a former general assignment reporter, fill-in anchor and fill-in talk show host at the CBS affiliate in Nashville. Dr. Syb has been recognized by her peers receiving honors from the International Association of Business Communicators with the “EXCEL Award,” which recognizes individuals who exhibit leadership in fostering excellence in communication, and by the National Association of Black Journalists as the 2015 Journalism Educator of the Year and as the 2014 NABJ Region III Achiever, honoring African-American journalists who have achieved excellence in his/here genre for 15 years or more and has gone above and beyond to elevate their industry, their career and their community.

Dr. Syb is a sought-after speaker and lecturer joining the roster of high-end conferences such as Tedx Nashville and the internationally-popular Web Summit in Dublin, Ireland, a premier global conference attracting more than 10,000 of the world’s leading thinkers and doers in technology.

In her latest book, “*Innovate: Lessons from the Underground Railroad*,” Dr. Syb’s research examines today’s Internet parallels with the early 19th century slave escape routes of the Underground Railroad (UGRR) and how the UGRR is among the most effective, disruptive and innovative networks in American history.

Dr. Syb earned her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Vanderbilt University, her M.Ed. in College Student Personnel from Loyola University of Chicago and her B.A. in Broadcast and Electronic Communication from Marquette University.



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Patrice Steinhart

Tennessee Government Leadership Council



Patrice Steinhart serves as the Operations Director of Benefits Administration in the Department of Finance and Administration for the State of Tennessee. In her role, she oversees all aspects of operations, including project and customer relationship management, new technology implementation, and strategy analysis for continuous improvement. Prior to joining Benefits Administration, she was the Payroll/Benefits Manager for the Edison/PeopleSoft implementation. She initially joined F & A as the Statewide Payroll Director. Prior to her tenure in State Government, she worked as an Internal Auditor with Nashville Metropolitan Government. She is a Certified Public Accountant. Patrice is a 2012 TGEI graduate; a member of the TGL Black Belt Program and serves on the TGL Council.

Coach Micheal Burt Keynote



Coach Micheal Burt represents the new age leader, a leader that he simply refers to as a Super Coach.

The Super Coach is unique blend of a former championship coach who has an entrepreneurial mindset. Coach Burt has quickly become the go-to business coach for aggressive minded companies in competitive and saturated markets who want to look different, run faster, and be agile. Coach is the author of 10 books, including the best seller called "Person of Interest – How to become the person other people want a piece of and can't live without: and the Wiley published "Zebras and Cheetahs – Look Different, Run Faster, Be Agile." His online TV show, "The Super Coach," can be watched live globally each week on Tuesday on the Whatever it Takes Network and heard through podcast on iTunes, Android, and Stitcher Radio. His reality style TV show Zebras and Cheetahs, is a cross

between Shark Tank, Amazing Race, and The Apprentice and can be seen on the Channel 5 Network and on burtnetwork.com.

Coach Burt holds the WORLD RECORD for most speaking engagements in a single day with 40, because he believes we are all in a sprint, a sprint to reach our potential. His energy and unique perspective comes from his coaching acumen married with his unique abilities of taking the complicated and making it simple, packaging and delivering content in ways that create action, and his versatility across multiple disciplines with quantifiable evidence of success.

Coach's client list ranges from small entrepreneurial firms to multi-billion dollar companies such as Dell Inc., John Hancock Insurance Services, Ohio National, Vanderbilt University, State Farm Insurance, First Bank, Coldwell Banker Real Estate Firm, Better Homes and Garden, and others.

He is a "practitioner" on what he speaks, actively practicing his theory daily as a coach to many of the above companies in charge of talent development.

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