

2017 Economic Summit on Early Childhood Investment Speaker Biographies

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Whether as a business owner or governor, Tom Wolf is a leader consistently taking on the status quo and trying to help middle class families. Tom Wolf is a different kind of leader, and he has been a different kind of governor.

Tom grew up in a small south central Pennsylvania town in York County and still lives in the house he was brought home to from the hospital.

Tom left York County to attend college at Dartmouth, but he interrupted his studies to join the Peace Corps and served two years in a small village in India before returning to finish his undergraduate degree. He later earned graduate degrees from the University of London and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

While finishing his PhD, Tom worked as a forklift operator and warehouse worker in the family business, the Wolf Organization, a distributor of lumber and other building products based in York, Pennsylvania. After graduating, his first full-time job was running a Tru-Value hardware store in Manchester, Pennsylvania.

Later, with two cousins, Tom took a risk by securing a loan to buy the family business. Over the course of 25 years, Tom and his cousins grew the Wolf Organization — eventually more than quintupling the business in size — before selling the company in 2006.

Then in 2007, Tom took the job of secretary of revenue in Governor Ed Rendell's cabinet, where he instituted reforms that grew and strengthened the state lottery and laid the foundation for millions of dollars in additional benefits for Pennsylvania's seniors.

Through innovation and smart investments, Tom was able to turn the company around. He changed the Wolf Organization's business model, transforming it from solely a supplier of other businesses' products into a company that sources its own American-made cabinets and competes directly with overseas manufacturers. Tom also made stronger investments in his employees because he knew that it was their work that truly made the Wolf Organization successful. So at a time when many businesses were cutting benefits, Tom continued to provide his employees comprehensive health and retirement benefits and continued returning 20 to 30 percent of the company's profits back to workers. Tom's leadership philosophy is an extension of his lifelong investment in community development. In addition to serving on and leading the boards of numerous organizations dedicated to education, health, welfare, economic development, culture, and the arts, Tom has rolled up his sleeves to help build a Little League baseball field in his community, volunteered in soup kitchens, and painted a local school. Tom and Frances, his wife of 39 years, still live in York County and have two grown daughters, Sarah and Katie.

On January 20, 2015, Tom was sworn in as Pennsylvania's 47th governor.

Since taking office, Tom has taken a number of steps to make Pennsylvania a better place. As Pennsylvania governor, Tom is focused on three simple goals: jobs that pay, schools that teach, and government that works.

Tom knows that to rebuild the middle class, we need new ideas to create middle-class jobs that pay and policies that support our manufacturing and new growth industries. Since Tom took office, nearly 100,000 more Pennsylvanians are employed than before. Just last year, Tom's economic development team completed 58 relocation and expansion projects like the creation of an eBay office in Northeast Pennsylvania, a major Fedex expansion in the Lehigh Valley, a large Amazon expansion across Pennsylvania, the investments in the Philadelphia port, and the Shell Cracker plant in Western Pennsylvania. To make sure Pennsylvania is a leader in manufacturing, Tom created a tax credit for manufacturers who create jobs in Pennsylvania.

Tom is fighting to increase funding for our schools to reverse the devastating \$1 billion in cuts made to schools five years ago that led to larger class sizes, soaring property taxes, educator layoffs, and the elimination or reduction of vital programs. Tom has made clear his strong commitment to education in Pennsylvania by fighting to restore critical education funding cuts, provide unprecedented support to high-quality pre-k programs, ensure students are college and career ready, and making sure funding is distributed fairly.

As a result of his fight for greater investment, schools will receive an additional \$460 million in two years for K through 12 education, along with millions more for Pre-K and colleges. Tom continues to advocate for increased funding for Pennsylvania schools to deliver high-quality education to every student across the state, regardless of zip code. We must make investments to adequately and fairly fund our education system in order to lay the foundation for long-term economic growth in Pennsylvania.

Tom has made fighting the opioid crisis a top priority of his administration and is continuing to work across the aisle to address this looming public health issue. He is the advocate that families struggling with addiction need in Harrisburg.

Tom provided funding to implement 45 treatment centers throughout the commonwealth and has expanded access to treatment for nearly 75,000 people with substance use disorder. Under his leadership, Pennsylvania also recently launched a prescription drug monitoring program that will allow prescribers and dispensers to query and report information regarding the number of opioids prescribed, and to whom and recently announced new prescribing guidelines for the safe and effective use of opioids.

Tom expanded health care access to nearly 700,000 Pennsylvanians, keeping them from either not seeking care or going to the emergency room, which raises costs for insured residents. The governor's action has dropped the commonwealth's uninsured population from 14 percent in 2013 to 6.4 percent today. Tom also saved 3,600 children from losing Children's health insurance, and he fought to save 180,000 seniors from losing their Medicare Advantage.

Tom has always been a different kind of leader and he has brought this experience to his role as governor. Since day one in office, Tom has fought for the people of Pennsylvania and he will continue to serve the best interests of the commonwealth.



CO-CHAIRS

Peter J. Danchak
President, Northeast PA
PNC Bank



Peter J. Danchak is the Regional President of the Northeast PA region of PNC Bank.

Danchak joined PNC Bank in 1984 and has held various positions of responsibility in corporate banking. He was named regional president of the Northeast PA market of PNC Bank in January 2001.

Active in the community, Danchak currently serves as Co-Chair of the Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission, to which he was appointed in 2008, and is a member of the Executive Leadership Council of Pre-K Counts in Pennsylvania. He sits on the board of trustees at Marywood University and Scranton Prep. He is a

member of the board of directors of Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the ARC of Northeastern Pennsylvania Foundation, the Luzerne Foundation, the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute, the Regional Chamber Partnership and Scranton Lackawanna Industrial Building Company. He also serves on the President's Advisory Council for Keystone College and the Kania School of Management at the University of Scranton.

Danchak previously served as a member of the board of directors of the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts, King's College, Keystone College, Johnson College, Junior Achievement of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry.

Danchak received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from the University of Scranton.

Lloyd H. Lamm

***Regional Banking Executive, Capital Region
First National Bank of Pennsylvania***



Lloyd Lamm is a retired Regional Banking Executive for the Capital Region of First National Bank of Pennsylvania, a position he held from 2006-2015. He was responsible for retail sales and service for the 36 branches which comprise the Capital Region of First National Bank in the Commonwealth, and was charged with advancing the name of First National Bank and representing it through numerous charitable and service organizations.

Mr. Lamm served as Senior Vice President of Bank Operations from 2002 to 2006. Prior to that, he was Senior Vice President of Operations with Metropolitan National Bank in Ohio. Previous to that, he was Senior Vice President of Dollar Savings Association at the conclusion of his nearly 22-year service to the New Castle-based savings & loan organization, which was ultimately purchased by First National Bank Corporation in 1994.

Mr. Lamm has been engaged in a number of community endeavors, including serving as Chairman of the board of directors for Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Capital Region. He serves as co-chair of the Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission and continues to speak statewide on the merits of early childhood education. He currently serves on the Economics Pennsylvania State Board of Directors, the single largest not-for-profit economic and financial literacy organization in the state. Mr. Lamm has also served on the Executive Leadership Team of the American Heart Association of Central PA, and has held a number of senior positions with the Lawrence County United Way, including Campaign Chair. He served on the board of directors of the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, and as trustee of the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges.

Lloyd Lamm attended Youngstown State University in Ohio, where he majored in Accounting, and also attended and taught at the Institute of Financial Education based in Chicago.

After more than 42 years in banking, Lloyd retired in 2015 and now lives in New Castle, PA, with his wife, Donna.

2017 Summit Speakers

Peter P. Brubaker

***President, Hammer Creek Enterprises LLC
Former President & CEO, Susquehanna Media Company***



Peter Brubaker is President of Hammer Creek Enterprises, a company he founded in 2005. Hammer Creek provides capital and financial advisory services to growth-oriented middle market companies in the mid-Atlantic region. In addition, he serves as a Director of Snyder's-Lance, Inc., and Alcoil USA, LLC.

From 1995 until 2005, Mr. Brubaker was president and CEO of Susquehanna Media Co. He retired as a full-time employee in February 2005 but continued as a consultant to the company until it was sold in May 2006. At the time of his retirement, Susquehanna was the nation's 11th largest radio broadcaster and the 17th largest cable television operator. Prior to 1995, Mr. Brubaker was Vice President of Finance and CFO of Susquehanna Media's parent, the Susquehanna Pfaltzgraff Co.

Mr. Brubaker has been an active advocate for improving the school readiness of Pennsylvania's children as a founding Director of "Focus on Our Future"; as Chairman of Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children; and as a member of the Pennsylvania Business Community's Early Care and Education Task Force, the Advisory Council for Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Pre-K Counts Executive Leadership Council. In 2008 he was appointed to serve on Pennsylvania's Early Learning Investment Commission.

Mr. Brubaker serves as the Vice Chair of the York County Economic Development Alliance, is a board member and committee chair of the Strand-Capital Performing Arts Center. He also serves on the board for WellSpan Specialty Services, and is a finance committee member of the York Day Nursery. Brubaker previously served on the following boards; National Cable & Telecommunications Association, Cable Television Laboratories, and The Pennsylvania Cable Network. He was the board chair for Martin Library and the past president of Historic York Inc.

Mr. Brubaker holds a B.A. in Economics from Wesleyan University and M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.

Michelle Harkins

Associate Executive Director

Early Connections



Michelle Harkins is the Associate Executive Director of Early Connections. After receiving her undergraduate degree at Penn State Behrend and her Masters Degree in Clinical Psychology at Edinboro University, she worked with adolescents and families to provide individual, group, and family therapy in educational and home settings. Michelle took time off to raise her three children and volunteered at several agencies, schools, political races, and the Twins Mothers Club of Erie during her spare time. She began working at Early Connections in 2012 to assist in policy development, promotion, and administration of Erie's Future Fund. In 2014, she was promoted to the Associate Executive Director of Early Connections. Michelle has been happily married to her husband, Representative Patrick Harkins, for over 25 years. They live in Erie and are the proud parents of three children; twin sons Patrick and Matthew, ages 22; and 17-year-old daughter Barbara.

Michelle Kang

Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Operational Strategy

Bright Horizons Family Solutions



Michelle is the Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Operational Strategy at Bright Horizons Family Solutions. Her early career experiences in child advocacy helped her realize a passion for the well-being of children; however, she was also cultivating an intense interest in worker productivity. After completing Master's degrees respectively in education and business from the University of Virginia and University of Oxford in the UK, she found a great marriage of her passions when she discovered Bright Horizons through a chance meeting with one of their founders, Linda Mason.

Over the last 13 years with Bright Horizons, she has worked closely with many diverse organizations to implement dependent care supports such as on-site child care, back-up child and elder care, and educational advising that help employees balance the many competing demands of their lives between work and personal priorities. She presently serves as the chief of staff to the Chief Operating Officer, supporting the effective operations of Bright Horizons centers across North America. She has found her work even more meaningful as the mother of three sons, all three of whom are graduates of Bright Horizons centers.

Gerald Meck
Senior Consultant
North Group Consultants



Gerald Meck brings 40 years of executive leadership experience in nonprofit organizations. He is the former President and CEO of United Disabilities Services, having served in that role for 26 years. As a consultant with North Group, Gerald's primary focus has been consulting with nonprofit organizations. These engagements have included executive leadership coaching, senior leadership team facilitation, board development, operations consultation, mergers/acquisitions and interim executive leadership.

Gerald holds a B.S. in Sociology and Psychology from Eastern Mennonite University and a M.Ed. from Millersville University. He is a graduate of the Management Institute at Columbia University. Gerald serves on numerous nonprofit board of directors. He is Chairman of both Diamond Street Early Childhood Center and Early Childhood Innovative Connections.

Gerald and his wife, Lynette, reside in Akron, PA. They are the parents of two adult children and have four granddaughters. When the wind is blowing, Gerald enjoys sailing on the Chesapeake Bay aboard his sailboat *Knot@Work*.

Suzann Morris
Deputy Secretary of Office of Child Development & Early Learning
Department of Education, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Suzann Morris serves as deputy secretary of the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning, a program office of the Departments of Education and Human Services. Suzann has been a part of the OCDEL executive leadership team since 2015, serving as Director of External Relations. In this role, she was a liaison with OCDEL stakeholders and leadership councils and developed analyses and determined policy recommendations across the Office. With nearly 10 years of public policy experience, Suzann is a strong advocate for young children and families and understands how to leverage internal and external resources to improve and expand early learning services.

Prior to joining OCDEL, Suzann led strategic advocacy and coalition efforts at the Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children (DVAEYC) and Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY). She also was a member of the Early Learning PA Campaign and the Southeast PA Early Childhood Education Coalition.

She is a native of Delaware County and lives in Lancaster with her husband Carson, and their family.

Jessie Rasmussen
President
Buffett Early Childhood Fund



Jessie has been with the Buffett Early Childhood Fund for 9 years, serving first as the Vice President for four years and then as President since 2011. The entire focus of the Buffett Early Childhood Fund is on promoting the opportunity for children facing the greatest risks to have quality experiences in the first five years of life. Investments are made in Nebraska and nationally in three key areas- practice, policy and knowledge development.

Before joining the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, Jessie served as the Early Childhood Policy Director at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation where she led a legislative initiative to establish a \$60 million endowment benefiting children under the age of three. Prior to that she served in public administration, first as Director of Health and Human Services in Nebraska and then as Director of Human Services in Iowa.

Jessie brings extensive policy experience to her work at BECF, having served as a Nebraska State Senator and Director of the Governor's Office of Children and Family Policy. Prior to her legislative experience, Jessie was an early childhood practitioner for 25 years, serving as a teacher, administrator and infant-toddler specialist.

Jessie received her Bachelor and Master's degrees from the University of Nebraska in Human Development and Family Relations.

Shannon Rudisill

Executive Director

Early Childhood Funders' Collaborative



Shannon Rudisill is the first Executive Director of the Early Childhood Funders Collaborative, a group of national, regional, and local foundations committed to increasing the effectiveness of philanthropy in early childhood and elevating the importance of early childhood in policymaking. Prior to joining ECFC, Shannon was the Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development at the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Shannon served on the Obama Administration's senior leadership team for early childhood programs, setting strategy for ACF programs such as child care and Head Start, as well as programs jointly administered with the U.S. Department of Education, such as the Race to the

Top – Early Learning Challenge and the Preschool Development Grants. She is especially proud of the \$500 million Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grants which will bring higher quality early care and comprehensive services to thousands of infants and toddlers from families in poverty.

From 2009-2014, Shannon was the Director of ACF's Office of Child Care (OCC). OCC administers the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), which provides over \$5 billion per year to States, Territories, and over 500 Tribal communities to provide child care for about 1.5 million children each month. At OCC, Shannon tirelessly pursued strategies to make child care work better for families and to ensure that children are served in safe, healthy, and nurturing early learning and afterschool programs. Under her leadership, the Obama Administration's principles for child care reform were reflected in the reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant for the first time in almost 18 years.

Mary Strasser

Acting Director, Philadelphia Pre-K Initiative

Philadelphia Mayor's Office of Education



Mary Strasser has had a 40-year career in non-profit and public administration both in city and federal government. Currently she is the acting director of the Philadelphia Pre-K Initiative, launching the first city-wide effort to provide quality pre-kindergarten education to serve more than 6,500 three and four year olds throughout the city.

She is also a principal for Logistics Services, specializing in Non-Profit Management Consulting. In 2014 Strasser retired from the federal government as the Director of AmeriCorps' Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) at the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). In this position, she oversaw the federal anti-poverty program that provides full-time volunteers to support anti-poverty efforts. Her tenure at CNCS began as the Pennsylvania State Program Director.

Prior to joining CNCS, Strasser served as the Vice President for Community Impact at United Way of Southeastern PA. She has directed Philadelphia Promise, Philadelphia One to One, Big Brothers/ Big Sisters of Montgomery County and serve as the program director for Girl Scouts of Greater Philadelphia.

Strasser holds a Master's in Public Administration and an undergraduate degree in history from the Pennsylvania State University.