

GCWDB Biographies



KATHLEEN EDWARDS

Kathy Edwards has more than 25 years in manufacturing, as both a Quality Engineer and Quality Manager. Her responsibilities include developing training materials both written, and in computer-based Learning Management Systems. She is involved on a day-to-day basis with training production and quality associates, and in mid- to upper-level management special projects in continuous improvement and workforce development focused on upskilling and technology integration.



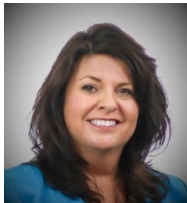
VERNITA H. GILL

Vernita H. Gill, Founder and President of Harris Executive Solutions, LLC has over 20 years of Human Resources experience with an HR focus in the Hospitality industry. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of South Carolina-Upstate and a Master of Arts degree in Human Resource Management from Webster University. As an undergrad, she became a student member of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) where she discovered her passion for servicing others. She began her career in Human Resources in 1998 as a Recruiter for a "women and minority" owned staffing company. As her career progressed, she held positions as a Contract Recruiter placing qualified candidates with companies in industries to include Automotive, Manufacturing, Warehouse & Distribution, IT, Hospitality, and corporate office settings. She has held positions in Human Resources to include Director of HR, HR Generalist, Office Manager, Sr. Recruiter, Contract Recruiter and most recently, Director of Training & Recruitment. Continuing with her passion to teach and educate others, she was an Adjunct Instructor for the University of Phoenix-Greenville Learning Center in which she facilitated HR and Business courses for her students alongside her position as a Director of Human Resources for the Marriott Greenville. Vernita is a Certified Hospitality Trainer (CHT) who incorporates professional recruiting, HR consultancy, leadership coaching, training, and development as a service model for services provided to her clients. Diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives are included within recruiting processes and training deliverables. Vernita's passion and purpose is centered around servicing others and is no doubt the reason she landed in the hospitality industry. Her passion to serve continues through her involvement as an active board member for the Greenville County Workforce Development Board (GCWDB) and member of the Greenville Society for Human Resource Management (GSHRM) in which she has held multiple board positions within the organization and currently serves on their advisory board.



CRAIG KINLEY

Craig Kinley is the Founder of several startup companies focusing on Consulting- Economic Development (WiProwess), Education (Thin School) and Craft Beer/Hospitality (Growler Haus/Tiki Hut). He developed the strategic plan(s) and execution of both e-Merge @ the Garage an Anderson, SC public/private incubator program focused on industry partners in Health Care, IT Intelligence, Education and Culinary Arts and Tri-County Technical College's INSPIRE LABs an entrepreneurial ecosystem program for local start up businesses. Mr. Kinley spent 20 years in Wireless Telecommunications as Senior VP of Engineering & Network Operations for a Sprint Affiliate. His ability to evaluate a situation, focusing on the engagement with the client and developing a suite of solutions at all levels of an organization delivering value in improvement of effectiveness and efficiency. Mr. Kinley graduated from DePaul University with a B.A. in Telecommunications Planning and Development and received his M.J. from Loyola School of Law in Business Law. He is married to his wife, Lori, they have two children, Chase & Cole and reside in the Historic District of Linley Park in Anderson, S.C.



ROBYN KNOX, GCWDB CHAIR

Robyn Knox is the President and Founder of **The HR Business Connect, LLC**, an HR consulting, coaching, and leadership development firm located in the Upstate of South Carolina. She is an experienced HR leader with over **25 years of human resources experience** in the manufacturing industry. As an HR executive, Robyn developed innovative HR strategies across all facets of human resources. Robyn was recognized as the 2016 Greenville SHRM HR Professional of the Year, and she was recognized by the SC Chamber of Commerce and SC SHRM State Council as the **2017 South Carolina HR Professional of the Year**. Robyn is a Clemson University graduate, having earned a Bachelor of Science in Management and a **Master of Human Resource Development (MHRD)**. She also completed a Post-Graduate Diploma in Corporate Sustainability from Furman University. Robyn has been certified as a **Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR)** by HRCI since 2002, and she was recognized by the Society for Human Resource Management as a **SHRM Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP)** in 2014. Robyn also earned her **Registered Corporate Coach™ (RCC™)** accreditation in 2020. She is currently an independent **Certified Coach, Trainer, and Speaker with The John Maxwell Team**, a Certified Partner with The Predictive Index, an independent Five Behaviors™ Authorized Partner, and an Authorized Partner and Certified Trainer with Everything DiSC®. Robyn has held several leadership positions and served on multiple boards within the state, including current **Chair of the Greenville County Workforce Development Board (GCWDB)**; current member and former Secretary of the Greenville Regional Education Center Advisory Board (RECAB); member of the Business Advisory Group for South Carolina's Coordinating Council for Workforce Development (CCWD); a **District Director for the South Carolina SHRM State Council**; Membership Director and Board Member for Anderson Area SHRM (AASHRM); and a Past President of the Greenville Society for Human Resource Management (GSHRM). Robyn lives in Anderson, South Carolina, with her husband of almost 30 years and her daughter, who is a Senior at Clemson. Robyn loves reading, traveling, spending time with family and friends, and playing fetch with her puppy Naga.



PATRICK MICHAELS

In his 29 years with Goodwill, Patrick “Pat” Michaels has had the opportunity to see the “Power of Work” firsthand for thousands of people throughout the United States. He is motivated by seeing people build skills, progress toward their goals, and increase their self-esteem, while achieving financial independence for themselves and their families through employment. Following his graduation from Central Washington University, Pat served four years with the United States Army as Assistant Operations Officer, Company Executive Officer, and Company Commander. His success with increasing productivity and responsiveness, focusing on training, and decreasing involuntary separations foreshadowed the emphasis on workforce development later in his career. After leaving the Army, Pat joined Goodwill as the Director of Goodwill Industries of the Yakima Valley in Washington, a division of Tacoma Goodwill Industries. Pat went on to serve as President of Goodwill Industries of South Central California (Bakersfield) and President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of New Mexico (Albuquerque) before accepting his current position as CEO of Goodwill Industries of Upstate/Midlands South Carolina (GIUMSC) in 2007. Under Pat’s leadership, GIUMSC has implemented a wide variety of new programs, including programs specifically established to help military veterans, returning citizens, and young people find employment. In the last fiscal year (July 2021-June 2022), Goodwill placed 5,698 people into employment, generating a projected economic impact for the Upstate and Midlands of approximately \$94.5 million during the first year of employment. Pat is committed to promoting employment readiness and opportunities for South Carolinians, and to supporting South Carolina businesses with qualified employees. In addition to his leadership at Goodwill, Pat serves on the South Carolina Workforce Development Board, helping to guide the strategy that impacts South Carolina’s workforce immediately and in the decades to come. Pat is also a member of the Greenville County Workforce Development Board and the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce Review Committee. He is a graduate of Furman University’s Diversity Leaders Initiative and the Greenville Chamber’s Leadership Greenville program. Pat and his wife Linda live in the Upstate. They have three adult daughters.



LARRY MILLER, GCWDB VICE CHAIR

Dr. Larry Miller is the Vice President of Learning and Workforce Development at Greenville Technical College. He is the Chief Academic and Continuing Education Officer of the College and is responsible for all credit and non-credit instruction, policymaking, compliance, and development activities. He serves as the official economic development liaison to the Greenville Area Development Corporation and a board member of the Greenville County Workforce Development Board and Greenville Chamber of Commerce. Previously, Dr. Miller was Dean of the School of Education, Charter Schools, and Dual Enrollment at Florida SouthWestern State College. He has taught undergraduate and graduate courses on public and corporate finance, education policy, and management at Rutgers University, Seattle

Community College, SUNY Binghamton, and LeMoyne College. His education finance and policy research has been featured on NPR, and cited by The Economist, Wired magazine, Politico, Ed Week, and the Hechinger Report. Dr. Miller holds a Ph.D. in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University with specializations in public finance, budgeting, and social policy. In 2009, the Association of Education Finance and Policy awarded his dissertation proposal with the New Scholar Award. His BS and MBA were earned from the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he was also a scholar athlete on the football team.

 **JARED MOGAN**

Jared has a passion for business operations that spans back to his early years. In 1999 he and his family moved from the central valley of California to support a family business in Columbia, South Carolina. For several years Jared helped out in the family business and quickly excelled with customers and day to day operations. Jared attended the University of South Carolina where he studied Business Administration with a focus in Insurance and Risk Management. During the summer after his sophomore year, Jared studied and obtained his insurance sales license and began selling insurance. Along with He also pioneered a new business venture with the Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina becoming the inaugural editor-in-chief of their online platform, *Information In Insurance* (i3). After graduation he decided to leave the insurance industry and pursue something new. Jared moved to Greenville, SC and started his career in staffing at MAU Workforce Solutions. With the growth of the business he was provided opportunities to advance in his career. He managed all HR functions as the onsite manager at General Electric and later became MAU's Corporate Training Manager responsible for standardized operational training and process development for the internal recruiting teams. He progressed in leadership roles from Operations Manager to Regional Manager and directly managed the recruiting function for the company's largest customer. Jared sought to further his education while working full time for MAU and obtained his Master of Business Administration degree from Clemson University. After nearly eleven years with MAU, he is now the Director of Recruiting and Staffing and is responsible for the contract industrial staffing across the nation. Jared still lives and works in Greenville, SC with his wife Kimberly of seven years. He enjoys weekend projects, time in the gym, business consulting and supporting his wife's non-profit, GrilUp GVL, on the side.



MICHAEL PANASKO

Mike Panasko is currently the Business Development Manager for the City of Greenville's Economic Development Office. He started his career in economic development working with the regional economic development agency known as the Upstate South Carolina Alliance, and then Innovate Anderson- a public private partnership in Anderson County. Prior to that, he spent several years working in the private sector involved in the specialty technology field with firms Mid-South Data Systems and ScanSource. Mike is an active member of the South Carolina Economic Developers Association (SCEDA), sits on the Greenville County Workforce Development Board, sits on the Small Business Development Advisory Board, and serves as an administrator for the Greenville Local Development Corporation. Mike has been an Upstate resident since 1995 having relocated from Pittsburgh, PA.



JOHN SERPA

John retired from the United States Marine Corps after 21 years of active service. He served two tours in Iraq with 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company and 1st Reconnaissance Battalion and two tours in Afghanistan with Combat Logistics Battalion 6. He led Marines, Sailors, and civilians in every aspect of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force throughout eleven duty stations, and he served two tours on Parris Island as a Senior Drill Instructor, Combat Swim Instructor-Trainer, and Company First Sergeant. His final assignment brought him to Greenville as the senior enlisted advisor for the Upstate Region. After leaving active duty John joined TPM, a leading AEC technology company in the Southeast, as their Director of Human Resources and Chief Culture Officer. His initiatives have led his organization to be named one of the Best Places to Work in South Carolina three years in a row. He serves as a senior mentor with Vantage Point Foundation, a mentor for Greenville's Veteran Treatment Court, and he serves as the Sponsorship Committee Chair of the Greenville chapter of SHRM. John's participation led to GSHRM receiving a SHRM Pinnacle Award in 2021. He's a recipient of GSHRM's HR Rising Star Award, and he holds a B.S. in Management from Park University.



SCOTT SHEINBAUM

Scott Sheinbaum is a Regional Continuous Improvement Manager based in the Grainger Distribution Center in Fountain Inn, SC. Scott is passionate about developing systems that deliver operational excellence in safety, quality, delivery and cost. Prior to supporting Grainger, Scott worked 20+ years in various manufacturing operational leadership roles in the semiconductor and aerospace industries in USA, Asia, and the Middle East. He received his BS in Industrial and Management Engineering from RPI and his MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Scott can be reached at scott.sheinbaum@grainger.com and his cell phone (864) 351-9445.



KELLY SHUMAKER

Kelly Shumaker is a strategic Human Resource Partner with extensive experience in manufacturing across global businesses and functions. She has 30+ years of experience building relationships with individuals and organizations. Kelly's manufacturing experience includes plant management, production supervision, human resources, payroll, environmental health & safety management, information technology management, continuous improvement, quality systems management, and training & development. She worked for many years in the upstate automotive industry and most recently in the pharmaceutical industry with Pharmaceutical Associates, Inc. (PAI) as Vice President of Human Resources reporting to the CEO. Throughout her career Kelly has effectively developed workforce readiness initiatives to drive organizational success. She is a strong believer in getting the right person in the right role at the right time.

Kelly's passion - her "why" - is helping these folks find their why or, at least, help them along their path to do so. She has served as Chair of the Workforce Inclusion Committee (2019) and Director of Workforce Sustainability (2020 – 2021) on the GSHRM Board of Directors. She has been a member of GSHRM for many, many years. In her spare time, Kelly enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, and hiking with her dogs. She is married with two children who now have their own careers. She earned a BS in Management with a second major in Risk Management & Economic Security and a Master of Human Resources from the University of South Carolina. Kelly holds the Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) and SHRM senior certified professional (SHRM-SCP) designations plus various certifications in training and workforce development.



CHARLES SMITH



SHAN SMITH

Shan Smith is COO of Good Sense Automation (GSA), a custom automation firm he founded in 2012 to serve the automation and control needs of businesses throughout the southeast. Prior to starting GSA Shan worked for Tri County Technical College, as a faculty member, and Program Coordinator for Industrial Electronics Technology, where he collaborated within the SC technical college system to develop Mechatronics standards for the technical college system. Through GSA Shan has continued to work with former students by hiring as well as contracting and mentoring former graduates into entrepreneurship. He holds degrees in Business Management, Engineering, and Industrial Electronics and has spent nearly 20 years as a leader in automation and controls. Shan and his team at GSA execute Industry 4.0 solutions using Siemens Control Technology and Allen Bradley Technology in collaboration with robotic and vision systems as they design and build advanced automation projects for clients that include BMW, Electrolux, Rose Acre Farms, Tropical Foods, and others. Shan is passionate about developing the next generation of talent and works with area high schools to provide internships, both at his own firm and at other area businesses.



KATHY STANTON



SCOTT STOLLER



DAVID TURNIPSEED



ROBERT VALENCA



BEN WALDROP

Ben Waldrop is the President and co-owner of Century Printing and Packaging, a label and film printing company located in Greer, SC. He established the company in 1997 with his Dad and brother in a leased building and converted a used bathroom to their first pressroom. The company has grown to 5 presses and 28 employees, and in 2021 shipped over 240 million labels to customers in 40 states. A 1993 graduate of Wofford College, Ben has served on the Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce several times as a board member and in 2021 as Board Chair. He has also served at his church through a variety of leadership roles including as a deacon, Chair of the Children's Ministry Committee and Chair of the Finance Committee. He is currently a member of the Greenville County Workforce Development Board and the steering Committee of the Greater Upstate Manufacturing Sector Partnership. Ben is married to Lindsay, and has two adult children.