



# FL WINS

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EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

# FL WINS EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- **Chair, Katie Crofoot**  
Director  
The REACH Office
- **J. Alex Kelly,**  
Secretary  
FloridaCommerce
- **Casey Penn**  
Deputy Secretary  
Florida Department of Children and Families
- **Adrienne Johnston**  
President & CEO  
CareerSource Florida
- **Edward Rhyne**  
State Chief Data Officer  
Florida Digital Service
- **Kimberly Richey**  
Senior Chancellor  
Florida Department of Education

## SPEAKERS

**Mark Baird**  
Deputy Director  
The REACH Office  
Executive Office of the Governor

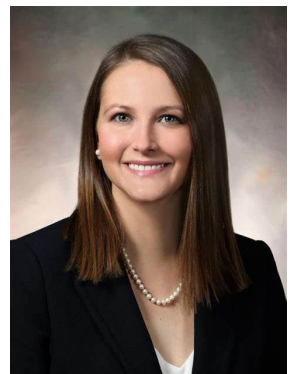
**Lindsay Volpe**  
Deputy Secretary  
Division of Workforce Services  
FloridaCommerce



**Chair, Katie Crofoot**  
Director, The Governor's REACH Office

Katie Crofoot is the Director of the Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) Office. The REACH Office facilitates alignment and coordination of entities responsible for Florida's workforce development system.

Prior to joining the REACH Office, Ms. Crofoot held various positions at the Florida Department of Children and Families, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, and the Florida House of Representatives. She earned her bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Florida and master's degree in Applied American Politics and Policy from Florida State University.



## J. Alex Kelly

Florida Secretary of Commerce

J. Alex Kelly currently leads FloridaCommerce as Florida's Secretary of Commerce. Prior to his appointment, Kelly held the Deputy Chief of Staff role in the Governor's Office since April 2021.

Kelly has an extensive background and expertise in education and economic development having served as the Vice President for the Foundation of Excellence in Education and the Chief of Staff to then-Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran in 2019.

In total, Kelly held roles in the Florida House of Representatives on the three occasions and in the Florida Senate, including Staff Director for the Redistricting Committee in the Florida House of Representatives and Chief Analyst for the House's Select Policy Council on Strategic & Economic Planning. He served as the Chief of Staff for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, and Legislative Affairs Director at the Florida Department of Corrections and the Florida Department of Elder Affairs.

Kelly earned both a bachelor's degree in political science from York University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in political science from the University of Florida.



## Adrienne Johnston

President & CEO, CareerSource Florida

Adrienne Johnston was appointed President and CEO by the CareerSource Florida Board of Directors in February 2023.

Previously, Johnston served as Deputy Secretary of Workforce Services and Chief Economist for the Department of Economic Opportunity. She emphasized a data-driven approach to process improvement and policy development for reemployment assistance and workforce training services.

Prior to serving as Deputy Secretary, Johnston served as Chief of the department's Bureau of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research. With extensive experience in labor market information, she led the Workforce Statistics and

Economic Research team to deliver quality data analysis, informative data visualizations and applied research to better serve the agency and stakeholders across the state. During her tenure in the bureau, Johnston expanded the role of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research to provide effective analytics for the entire agency.

Before joining DEO in 2015, Johnston served as Project Manager for Evergreen Solutions, at which she analyzed local labor markets and developed custom compensation and benefits plans for community colleges and local government organizations. Previously, she served as Labor Market Research Director for Brandt Information Services, expanding the service portfolio of the unit beyond data collection to include data visualization tools, survey design and data analysis.

Johnston holds a master's degree from Florida State University. She lives in Tallahassee with her husband, daughter, and two hound dogs.



# Casey Penn

Deputy Secretary  
Florida Department of Children and Families



Casey Penn currently serves as the Deputy Secretary for the Florida Department of Children and Families. Previous to this role, he served as the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Economic Self Sufficiency where he oversaw the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid determinations, Refugee Services, and the Office of Homelessness. Prior to joining the Department, Casey worked in workforce development, overseeing the administration of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

Originally from Tampa, Florida, Casey holds a Bachelor of Science in Applied Economics from Florida State University and currently resides in Tallahassee, Florida with his wife and two children. After graduating from college, Casey worked in the private sector for 10 years before returning to the public sector in 2017.

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## FL [DIGITAL SERVICE]

### Edward Rhyne

State Chief Data Officer, Florida Digital Service

Over 30 years of experience in emerging technology development management with multi-national stakeholders throughout Europe, South America, Australia, and Southeast Asia. Strategic partner who has driven market change through identification of novel business models, technology adoption and digital skills development across multiple industries; Consumer Products, Space, Defense and Critical Infrastructure. Broad knowledge base in physical and computational sciences.



- Current State Chief Data Officer for Florida leading efforts to continue the development of and consistently executing against Florida's strategic roadmap as it pertains to data governance, data management, and data interoperability.
- Former Senior Technical Advisor in Department of Energy focusing on cybersecurity for the Operational Technology environment.
- Previously served as a Science Advisor for the Cyber Security Division for the Department of Homeland Security.
- Managed Federated Command and Control, Security for Cloud-based Systems, Active Defense, and Hardware-enabled Trust programs, as well as multiple efforts supporting national level cyber competitions.
- Transitioned efforts in Domain Name System Security, Software Quality Assurance, Internet Measurements and Attack Modeling.
- Led international collaborations with the governments of United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada.



## Kimberly Richey

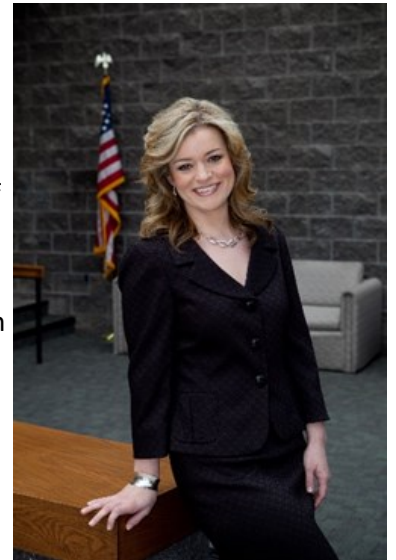
Senior Chancellor, Florida Department of Education

Kimberly M. Richey has served in education leadership positions for over fifteen years, including serving as a national education consultant and providing policy and legal advice to organizations on a range of education policies and legal issues impacting students and families. Ms. Richey currently serves as Senior Chancellor at the Florida Department of Education. In this role, she is responsible for Florida's public and nonpublic institutions of higher education—overseeing the Divisions of Florida Colleges, Career and Adult Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, Blind Services, the Florida Department of Education's Office of Workforce Education and Economic Alignment, and the Commission for Independent Education.

Ms. Richey most recently served as deputy superintendent overseeing the division of School Quality, Instruction, and Performance at the Virginia Department of Education. In this role, she oversaw state policies and all agency functions relating to student assessment, accountability, accreditation, federal programs, special education, special student populations, teacher licensure and education, school support and improvement, standards development, and career and technical education and adult education.

Previously, Ms. Richey served as acting assistant secretary and principal deputy assistant secretary in the Office for Civil Rights at the US Department of Education (2018-2021). From 2017-2018, she served as acting assistant secretary and deputy assistant secretary in the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services at the U.S. Department of Education. Prior to joining the Department, Richey served as the managing director of federal advocacy and public policy at the National School Boards Association. Formerly, she served as the general counsel for the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE), where she represented OSDE, the State Board of Education, and the state superintendent of public instruction.

Prior to her work at OSDE, Richey served as the general counsel and associate director of the Oklahoma Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training, a postsecondary education certification and training agency. From 2004 to 2009, she served at the U.S. Department of Education as the counselor to the assistant secretary in the Office for Civil Rights (2004-2009). During that same time, Richey also served as acting chief of staff in the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs. Richey is a native of Corpus Christi, Texas, and holds a bachelor's degree in education from Southern Nazarene University and a juris doctorate degree from the University of Oklahoma. She is a certified teacher and is a licensed attorney in Oklahoma, Texas, and the District of Columbia.



# SPEAKERS



## Mark Baird

Deputy Director, The Governor's REACH Office



Mark Baird is deputy director of the Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) Office where he oversees projects related to data and systems. The REACH Office facilitates alignment and coordination of entities responsible for Florida's workforce development system.

Prior to joining the REACH office, Dr. Baird was a chief legislative analyst at the Florida Legislature's research office, OPPAGA. He has also worked in the Florida Department of

Education's Division of Career and Adult Education as director of research and evaluation. Dr. Baird's first career was in international education, and he served as assistant director of International Programs at Valdosta State University.

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## FLORIDACOMMERCE

## Lindsay Volpe

Deputy Secretary , Division of Workforce Services  
FloridaCommerce

Lindsay Volpe is the Deputy Secretary of Workforce Services at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). Lindsay has held several leadership positions at DEO, including Deputy Bureau Chief of the Reemployment Assistance Program and the Director of Economic Accountability and Transparency.

She's also served in various leadership roles at the Department of Children and Families to help drive the agency's transformation toward supporting Floridians' economic self-sufficiency through care coordination.

Prior to joining the state of Florida, Lindsay worked in economic development for two Florida counties for nearly 10 years, including launching a new economic development office in Tallahassee-Leon County. She and her husband, Robert, reside in Tallahassee.

